

Consultation on setting New Zealand's post-2020 climate change target



Copy of your submission

Contact information

Name Suzanne Croft

Organisation (if applicable)

Address [REDACTED]

Telephone [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Objectives for the contribution

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution? Yes

1b. What is most important to you?

New Zealand, as part of the world, must play a fair, just role in the overall world reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. It is how this fair, just role is delineated that is important to me. The contribution should be fair and ambitious and in keeping with the EU's contribution of 40% reduction in emissions.

What would be a fair contribution for New Zealand?

2. What do you think the nature of New Zealand's emissions and economy means for the level of target that we set?

New Zealand's highest area of emissions, 48% of all total emissions, comes from the dairying sector. This is an area that has been rewarded financially by the government. Large areas of New Zealand have been changed to make it possible to support dairy cattle. This is being done at an enormous cost to the land, the trees that are removed, the effluent directed into streams and rivers, and at cost to the care of the animals where by they are treated not as animals but purely as a convenience to provide the most milk. A very small percentage of farmers are beginning to clean the streams and replant trees and a smaller percentage again, have never bought into the large scale inhumane ways most cows have to abide by.

This area of New Zealand has potential for change and diversity in ways of making income and also caring for the land and the animals and thereby decrease GHG emissions.

How will our contribution affect New Zealanders?

3. What level of cost is appropriate for New Zealand to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions? For example, what would be a reasonable reduction in annual household consumption?

There are many ways for the cost to households to be mitigated and to still be improving our carbon footprint. Some steps have been made already with installing insulation, the building of more efficient low cost housing, solar panels, improving public transport instead of building more highways, supporting rail transport of large loads as opposed to lorries.

4. Of the opportunities for New Zealand to reduce its emissions (as outlined on page 15 of the discussion document), which do you think are the most likely to occur, or be most important for New Zealand?

Change the way cows are used solely for milk powder production. This area of major GHG emissions needs to be altered completely over time. Money spent now, by the Government trying to prop up and keep this industry in its present form, would be better spent on seeking new ways to reinvent this industry. Ways which a very small percentage of dairy farmers are already pursuing.

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Solar energy, wind power, long distance transport options, low cost efficient housing with insulation, electric vehicles.

Reducing public dependency on plastic, programmes to reduce and improve waste systems.

Summary

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?

To take note of what is already working in countries overseas, for example Denmark.

To use this information in New Zealand. To begin, is the first step, in certain areas and slowly increase the breadth of what is possible.

There are many people in New Zealand doing their own part to help GHG emissions and these people should be encouraged to share their expertise.

Hold open meetings at different locations throughout New Zealand to discuss options and gather ideas of what is working in various different communities

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.