

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



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## Contact information

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## Objectives for the contribution

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution? Yes

1b. What is most important to you?

We should be planning and implementing a path to a low or zero carbon emission economy, and not on the basis of a round number in the far future, but on goals for immediate reporting periods - quarterly and annually from now.

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?

We should be guided by the science, and at least be on the track we need to be to fit with the international goal of staying below 2 degrees C. Again, I think this should be on the basis of quarterly and annual reductions from now, not based on a far distant goal.

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?

We should be very aware that the transition to a low carbon future has many gains as well as costs, and we should of course plan to maximise the gains as well as minimise the costs. Benefits include keeping more of payments for energy in New Zealand, health benefits from less pollution and more active lifestyles and perhaps lifestyles planned around working locally rather than commuting.

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?

Achieving real changes in carbon emissions will require significant lifestyle changes, which need to be anticipated by planning, and probably support for model communities and developments. It won't happen if we take a business as usual approach to solving problems caused by population pressure, especially in Auckland. We need to be prepared to experiment with models, and scale what works.

## Summary

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

The targets should be quarterly and annual, with an implementation plan starting from now, using approaches and

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technologies to hand. We should also be willing to experiment and demonstrate new technologies before they are mainstream, so they are ready for scaling in later periods.

Other comments

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

My prime concern is that we need to start now, and plan, implement and report on short cycles so we don't fall into the trap of a lofty goal in the far future that is too far out to be accessible and achievable. The best way to make something either very small or very big is an exponential process, which depends on achieving a constant percent change in each sub period. We should develop a plan that both gets us on, and keeps us on an exponential reduction track consistent with achieving an international performance consistent with staying below a 2 C change.