

Setting New Zealand's post-2020 climate change target

Submission form

The Government is seeking views on New Zealand's post-2020 climate change contribution under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

You can have your say by making a submission using this form or using the online tool available at www.mfe.govt.nz/more/consultations.

For more information about this consultation:

- Read our [Consultation on New Zealand's post-2020 international climate change contribution web page](#)
- Read our discussion document: [New Zealand's Climate Change Target: Our contribution to the new international climate change agreement](#)

Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.

Publishing and releasing submissions

All or part of any written submission (including names of submitters), may be published on the Ministry for the Environment's website www.mfe.govt.nz. Unless you clearly specify otherwise in your submission, we will consider that you have consented to website posting of both your submission and your name.

Contents of submissions may be released to the public under the Official Information Act 1982 following requests to the Ministry for the Environment (including via email). Please advise if you have any objection to the release of any information contained in a submission and, in particular, which part(s) you consider should be withheld, together with the reason(s) for withholding the information. We will take into account all such objections when responding to requests for copies of, and information on, submissions to this consultation under the Official Information Act.

The Privacy Act 1993 applies certain principles about the collection, use and disclosure of information about individuals by various agencies, including the Ministry for the Environment. It governs access by individuals to information about themselves held by agencies. Any personal information you supply to the Ministry in the course of making a submission will be used by the Ministry only in relation to the matters covered by this consultation. Please clearly indicate in your submission if you do not wish your name to be included in any summary of submissions that the Ministry may publish.

We can readily reduce our carbon footprint (sufficient to reach a target making New Zealanders emissions at the global average per-person level), and should also implement a carbon tax regime to reduce the financial imperatives contributing to unsustainable farming practices eg dairy conversion, feedlot farming, fossil fuel based supplementation.

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 do you think would be a reasonable impact on annual household consumption?

We currently have a 15% tax on household consumption (GST). The scenarios outlined in the discussion document indicated that even the most ambitious target (40% below 1990 level) incurs only a slight penalty on anticipated household income; and takes no account of the health and environmental benefits of lowered emissions which if monetised would almost certainly more than cancel the penalty.

A higher emission reduction target should be considered, say 60% below 1990 levels, which would require a greater contribution from agriculture either by a reduction in intensive production, a switch to less methane producing farming activity, or by genetic modification of dairy herds.

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?

a) Electrification of transport is a major and relatively easy target: eg complete electrification of all main rail lines (and stop Kiwirail from de-electrifying the main line south of Auckland); all public passenger transport; private vehicles.

b) Incentivise photovoltaic and solar hot water installations on all business and residential buildings and legislate to require electrical suppliers to accept feed back to grid all power not used locally; extend hydro capacity and use it primarily as 'battery backup' to local solar generation

c) Use biofuel production mainly as substitution for fossil fuel based lubricants, etc, rather than as a primary transport industry fuel.

d) Require all new construction to comply with Living Building Challenge, Greenstar and similar sustainability indexes.

Summary

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

We should aim for the highest possible target, and achieve a better than world average per person co2 as soon as possible. We should embrace the developing technologies, invest in them, and and profit from them.

Other comments

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

Writing from Christchurch, which will be under 10m of water within the next couple of centuries (even if the world contains global warming to a few degrees increase), I strongly recommend that the Government takes the strongest measures to make NZ a leader in the reduction of emissions contributing to global warming, that it takes full advantage of the opportunities deriving therefrom, and that it does not hesitate to curb any expansion of 'high emitter' industries.

When your submission is complete

Email your completed submission to climate.contribution@mfe.govt.nz or post to Climate Change Contribution Consultation, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143.

Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.