

# 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?

The third objective is the most important. While it is cool if our contribution is ambitious, as this will give New Zealand leverage to encourage other countries to agree to more ambitious goals (particularly China, India and the U.S) it is important to not let us slack in our goal towards a low carbon future if the rest of the world is slacking. Therefore simply judging our contribution based on what others are doing is only effective if they are also being ambitious.

Also while a large portion of the population will not be willing to make much of a sacrifice in order to achieve more ambitious goals, it is actually from a social perspective more advantageous to take drastic action now, as the longer we wait and the less we do now the greater the cost for society in the long term. The less action taken now the higher the cost is for the economy to fix or adapt to the consequences of lack of action. Therefore I believe it is important that we remember to take into account costs and impacts on society and the economy, not just from over the next 15 years, but also the costs that we pass onto New Zealanders for hundreds of years.

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 really need to lower our greenhouse emissions by at least 20% below 1990 levels by 2030. I personally believe that we should aim for an even more ambitious goal of reducing our carbon emissions to zero by 2050. However while I believe it is technically possible I recognise that such drastic change would never be implemented. So I would be happy if our goal to reduce them below 1990 levels by 10% or more by 2030. The more ambitious the better, although I must concede ambitious goals are more difficult for New Zealand since almost half of our emissions come from agriculture.

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?

I believe a cost of \$1400 is not very different to \$1270 per annum for an extra 15% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions. Personally I think it is worth it. In fact an even greater cost to New Zealand households I believe could be tolerated. Although those are lower-social economic groups would need more help.

4. Of the opportunities for New Zealand to reduce its emissions (as outlined on page 15 of the discussion

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document), which do you think are the most likely to occur, or be most important for New Zealand? We should most certainly aim to having 90% of our energy supply form renewable sources. We should fully exacerbate our potential for wind and hydrological power whilst also investing in research for other sustainable power sources. Also investing in some liquid thorium reactors would be awesome. Another small scale thing we could do is bring about awareness of cool power generating ideas like Lucid pipe power systems (<http://www.lucidenergy.com/lucid-pipe/>) which we could encourage industrial organisations to implement. Also preserving our forests which act as awesome carbon sinks would be very beneficial. Continuing to invest in research into more sustainable farming is also very necessary and also possibly encouraging different kinds of farming practices that already exist which are more sustainable is an option. Another big area we can focus on is transportation. Push for more bike lanes and better public transport. Stop building new roads to ease congestion and start making public transport awesome! Teach our younger population how to commute sustainably and the importance of it.

## Summary

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

We can't rely on technology reducing our emissions from agriculture by a great extent. So if we really get our emissions down in all other areas and encourage possibly less efficient but more sustainable farming techniques we can ensure that if technology doesn't help us out too much with reducing emissions in the agriculture sector we are still capable of reaching our goal.

## Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.  
Please don't put off dealing with the elephant in the room. If we do it will just get fatter and fatter and one day we won't be able to move it out of the room because it is too fat and we will have to just learn to live with it and it's terrifying consequences.