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

Copy of your submission

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?
What is most important (in terms of objectives for our contribution) is that those who set these new targets for New Zealand's post 2020 emissions think globally (as responsible global citizens acting for the greater good) and that they think about the long-term benefits (and costs) of their decision.

What is most important in terms of the changes our country needs to make, is that we reduce our dependence on fossil fuels as a source of energy - particularly for transport.

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 need to find effective solutions for emissions from agriculture and transport (these should be the priorities). There must be more we can do to reduce emissions from these sectors. I don't think it is acceptable to set weak targets just because finding solutions is currently very challenging.

I don't agree with the use of international carbon trading to meet our targets. I believe the more ethical approach is for us to take responsibility for our own emissions.

I am happy with the idea of establishing new forests as carbon sinks, as long as other environmental impacts associated with forestry are minimised (e.g. impacts on water quality).

How will our contribution affect New Zealanders?

3. What level of cost is appropriate for New Zealand to reduce it's greenhouse gas emissions? For example, what would be a reasonable reduction in annual household consumption?
I accept that more ambitious targets will have a higher cost for the country which will ultimately be passed on to households, but I still think a reduction of 30% is more appropriate. Impacts on poorer households should be managed through domestic policies, such as a "user pays" system.

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?
The priority should be to find ways to reduce emissions from agriculture. This will require significant investment in
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research, strategies for mitigation, regulation and possibly incentives for best practice.

The transport sector is still dominated by fossil fuels. There must be some way to make public transport (e.g. rail and buses) more effective, efficient and affordable. Promoting electric vehicles will also help to reduce consumption of fossil fuels. Government bodies and Crown agencies should be actively encouraged to include electric vehicles and fuel efficient vehicles in their fleets.

A large part of household and business budgets (in terms of dollars and carbon emissions) is spent on heating. I believe that annual household consumption can be reduced by continuing to promote home and business energy efficiency.

Continue to increase renewable energy generation. Find ways to make it easier for households to set up solar power and feed electricity into the grid.

Summary

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?
  - Invest in research and development
  - Support innovation
  - Create business opportunities around mitigation and alternative technologies
  - Provide safety nets for the poor

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
New Zealand can be proud of the fact that we have one of the highest levels of renewable electricity in the world. But we should not overlook the fact that our greenhouse gas emissions are still increasing. There is little value in coming first in the ‘race’, if at the end of the race the ‘competitors’ still exceed their global carbon budget.