

# 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?

There is no uncertainty about one aspect of global warming and climate change. There is no uncertainty that the extraction of fossil carbon from the Earth's crust and the burning of that carbon is causing the Earth's ecosphere to warm to a dangerous degree. For that reason, the extraction of fossil carbon must be eliminated from human activity. We must find our energy sources elsewhere. I am a strong advocate of 'keeping it in the ground'. To me we should wean our society of energy from fossil carbon within the next 25 years if we are to have any chance of avoiding the worst consequences of global warming and climate change.

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 must do our utmost. For that reason I would support the highest level of fossil carbon emissions reduction possible as soon as possible. To me a 40% reduction of all carbon emission and a 100% reduction of fossil carbon emissions by 2040 would be a 'bottom line'.

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?

Any level of cost is appropriate. We'll have to redesign our society and the way we live and relate to each other. I think the Government has the question back to front. It should not be about current costs but about future costs. The question should be "What level of cost is appropriate for New Zealand to commit itself to when it tries in the future to help its population protect itself and adapt to the challenges of climate change?"

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?

I think none are likely to occur. I expect that the New Zealand Government will sidestep the issue and leave it to future governments to live with the consequences of its current inadequate action. I am extremely frustrated and pessimistic, specifically because New Zealand is not providing the world with a role model for others to follow.

Summary

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

Technology will not assist the world to cope with climate change. Technology does not create energy. It uses energy. In fact, the more modern the technology, the more dependent on energy it is. There is currently no source of energy as plentiful as fossil carbon. There is no potential source of energy in sight. Even if there were one in sight, it would be decades before any viable technology to convert it to electricity or liquid energy could be scaled up to be useful. So New Zealand should ignore future possible technologies, uncertain or otherwise, when setting its target. It should consider the energy technologies which already exist, such as wind turbines and solar panels, and nothing else.

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.  
Wean New Zealand from the use of fossil carbon for energy. Keep it in the ground. Work towards the elimination of the fossil carbon extraction industries by 2040, if not sooner.

**WE MUST ACT BOLDLY. WE MUST ACT NOW. TO DO LITTLE OR NOTHING IS TO CONDEMN FUTURE POPULATIONS TO A UNCERTAIN LIFE OF UNIMAGINABLE DIFFICULTIES.**