

Setting New Zealand's post-2020 climate change target

Submission form

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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?

- This is a leading question and comes from a perspective that we will pay for reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.
- MY perspective is that we will have no jobs, no food security, no economy, and an anarchic society if we do NOT act boldly and immediately to mitigate climate change and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.
- We have no choice but to act boldly and urgently to reduce GHG emissions, if we want to continue to LIVE.
- Taxes need to be allocated fairly so that the rich pay more than the poor (i.e. a flat tax would be totally unfair).

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?

AGRICULTURE:

- We urgently need to change our farming systems for multiple reasons, and climate change is the big one.
- Organic and biological systems have fewer GHG emissions and higher sequestration of carbon. They are also more resilient in the face of climate change (e.g. better able to withstand droughts, floods).
- The Government must encourage truly sustainable agriculture, such as organic, biodynamic, biological and low-impact farming, that will reduce GHG emissions.
- The Government must put money into helping farmers convert to organics. With organic agriculture, dairy farmers for example can halve their stock numbers and retain their

income. Soils and waterways will be improved, methane and nitrous oxide emissions reduced.

- I cannot emphasise this point enough. Agriculture is the single biggest GHG emitter in NZ and we MUST change our farming practices for our health, the health of our soils, waterways and atmosphere – in order for us to survive.
- There is much expertise already among farmers, and many farmers are already making positive changes.
- Much more diversity must be encouraged in farming – we have too many eggs in the dairy basket at present.
- Farming must be appropriate for the land – e.g. a moratorium on dairy conversions in areas where water is scarce and/or waterways are polluted.

TRANSPORT:

- All trains should be electric. The Government must instruct KiwiRail to continue with, or change to, electric trains.
- The Government must spend more money on public transport and less money on roads and subsidising fossil fuel.
- The Government should encourage the use of electric vehicles (including cars and bicycles) and facilitate the transition from fossil fuel vehicles to electric.
- The Government should provide a model by progressively buying electric vehicles for its fleets.

EMISSIONS TAX vs EMISSIONS TRADING

- The Government should change to an emissions tax, rather than emissions trading, because it's much fairer. Emissions trading only means there's an extra layer of people trying to make money out of it.

OIL DRILLING AND FRACKING

- The Government must stop subsidising and encouraging fossil fuel companies.
- Instead, this Government money should go into renewable energy.
- No more new deep sea oil drilling or prospecting should happen.
- All fracking must stop.

ELECTRICITY GENERATION

- The Government must encourage renewable energy generation, especially solar and wind, and distributed generation schemes for small and rural communities particularly.

Other comments

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

TARGET

- The government must set the target of 90% reduction in CO2 emissions from 1990 levels by 2050 (level required by IPCC findings).