

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



Copy of your submission

Contact information

Name Andreas Jobst

Organisation (if applicable) Otago University

Address [REDACTED]

Telephone [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Objectives for the contribution

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution? No

1b. What is most important to you?

New Zealand with a relatively small population size in relation to its land area and great potential for renewable energies has an obligation to aim for more ambitious ways in regard to reducing emissions than just buying carbon offsets.

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?

The fact that a high percentage of power production is generated via renewable resources does not justify that hardly any effort is made to reduce existing emissions. New Zealand has a massive potential in restructuring the transportation sector and invest in better public transport options as well as cycle lanes.

Quality of housing regarding efficiency and insulation is extremely poor considering that NZ has the status of a first world nation. Making significant changes here could substantially reduce electricity units consumed per household and thus reduce the need for existing non renewable power plants.

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?

While buying carbon offsets will clearly bring no stimulation of any sort to New Zealand's economy, investing in public transport and more efficient construction technologies in the housing sector would generate new jobs and potential for economic growth. It also needs to be understood that the economic value of such decisions/contributions can't be assessed on a per annum basis. As some of the measures required to move NZ to a more sustainable future will start to pay off in the long term (decades). The immediate costs of further reducing NZ's emissions will be minor compared to some of the costs related to the climate change impacts this country would face in a high carbon world.

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?

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



Copy of your submission

Summary

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

NZ should see this as a chance and seek to become a pioneer in the development of green technologies.

Other comments

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