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?   No

1b. What is most important to you?
Climate change is of most vital importance and urgency. Each day we do not act we are contributing to a more extreme climactic future for further generations.

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?
New Zealand's very high per-capita emissions means our fair share is a larger reduction New Zealand should have a future target of zero emissions and practice moving toward a more resilient and equitable society.

Our emissions could be greatly reduced by placing a moratorium on the expansion of extractive industries and placing a bottom value on carbon. Smart dense town planning and a strong, integrated public transport system. New Zealand's reliance on cars is a large barrier.

Our strong economic position (and growth) is a tool that the government could wield much more effectively.

A more progressive taxation system coupled with better public services will foster a more equal society.

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?
A strong public sector should be employed to lessen the impact of those most vulnerable. The upper working class and very wealthy, as well as businesses with high emissions, should foot the bill.

Consumption as we know it (international, energy-inefficient, wasteful) is inherently unsustainable.

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?
Transition to a low carbon economy to avoid fluctuations in petroleum commodity and carbon prices would be preferable...
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Summary

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target? Renewable technology and high-tech sustainability technologies have high embodied energy, their deployment currently dependent on the high-energy density of fossil fuels.

Theoretical high-efficiency technologies such as nuclear fusion may contain hidden obstacles which are impossible to know.

As well as a transition to a low-carbon society, we should focus on moving to a low-energy society.

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain. In a neo-liberal society facing the perils of climate change, the lower classes will suffer the most. This also applies in an international sense. Our high level of development is a product of our exploitation of "developing" economies and people and thus our "fair share" is much larger than theirs.