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?
That New Zealand takes responsibility and hold itself accountable for climate change issues, both on a global and national scale.

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?
Economy should be dictated by environment, not the other way around. Both can thrive simultaneously, but priority lies in geological integrity.

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?
GHG reduction of 10% per year. It will take a while for systems to catch on, and retrofitting is preferred to creating all new systems. Environmentalism is a part of our cultural identity and we need to act upon it.

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 focus should be two fold.
1) Lower carbon economy. The focus is on sustainable restrictions for new infrastructure/buildings/companies. Existing systems must be retrofitted to reflect lower carbon goals. Eg. Corporations that are emitting large amounts must be forced to rethink their business model.
2) Altering lifestyle. Creating more sustainably minded communities and centres. The social and cognitive benefits of a healthy environment. Encouraging New Zealand society to understand themselves in relation to, rather than as dominators of the environment.

Summary

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?
We should be cautionary and avoid sweeping claims. Flexibility and forward thinking is the key. If we can make
flexible plans, which allow for back up/divergent strategies in the face of an unforeseen problem we will be resilient and sustainable.

Other comments

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