

# 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?

Our country has a moral obligation to act quickly to make progress on limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

All sections of the community should bear the cost of mitigating the effects of climate change.

We strongly support an ambitious goal of reducing emissions by 40% by 2030 - if we set this target we've got a chance to make a real difference. Lower expectations will result in less 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 are recently retired dairy farmers and are well aware how difficult it is to reduce agricultural emissions. However there is promising research to reduce methane emissions being carried out and a greater will by farmers to protect and enhance their environment.

The IPCC says long term warming is driven mainly by CO2 emissions. We need to encourage clean technology that enables us to use less fossil fuel, and accelerate progress by promoting reforestation to absorb carbon. Increasing forest sinks is a simple and proven technology which removes CO2 from the atmosphere.

## 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?

We understand that a 40% reduction in emissions would cost each New Zealand household \$530 per year more than the present cost of a 5% reduction. This is slightly more than \$10 per week per household, which is affordable. In practice, some householders contributions would mitigate the cost to those less able to afford it - for example, our household uses solar power, and this is an increasingly popular option as the price of installation has fallen substantially and is a good return on our investment. Electric vehicles are becoming an affordable option. In fact the \$50/tonne price of carbon used by the Ministry as a basis for their estimates is quite high compared to today's price, and the costs may not be as great as forecast.

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?

Promoting energy efficiency will give an immediate benefit and payoff.

Using electric vehicles in public transport will ultimately pay off once the infrastructure is in place.

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The biggest difference for the least cost will be to increase forest sinks and the mechanism to encourage this activity is already in place, but it is important that we make a commitment to an ETS scheme which promotes and rewards afforestation and uses high integrity credits, preferably sourced from within New Zealand.

## Summary

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

Of course the future is uncertain, but the outcome of doing nothing is quite predictable.

We should set the bar high and we might find technology moves forward more quickly than anticipated.

A target of minus 40% may seem unattainable to some, but only by striving to achieve it will we succeed in actually arriving at it.

## Other comments

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

The document seems not to have taken into account the possible benefits of a low carbon economy, such as our credibility as a global trader. A clean economy will become more important than ever in today's world, and translate into financial benefits.

We know that extreme climatic events are increasing due to global warming causing loss of property and infrastructure. Acting on reducing emissions will also reduce the chances of climate extremes such as flooding and drought occurring within our own country.

Travel overseas has brought home to us how lucky we are to live in New Zealand and how truly awful the environment for much of the world really is. We don't want to be part of that and we are very concerned that the world our grandchildren will live in is sustainable. We must do our part to help reduce emissions all over the world and show that we have a credible, ambitious and equitable climate change policy.