Setting New Zealand’s post-2020 climate change target

Submission form

The Government is seeking views on New Zealand’s post-2020 climate change contribution under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

You can have your say by making a submission using this form or using the online tool available at www.mfe.govt.nz/more/consultations.

For more information about this consultation:

- Read our Consultation on New Zealand’s post-2020 international climate change contribution web page
- Read our discussion document: New Zealand’s Climate Change Target: Our contribution to the new international climate change agreement

Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.

Publishing and releasing submissions

All or part of any written submission (including names of submitters), may be published on the Ministry for the Environment’s website www.mfe.govt.nz. Unless you clearly specify otherwise in your submission, we will consider that you have consented to website posting of both your submission and your name.

Contents of submissions may be released to the public under the Official Information Act 1982 following requests to the Ministry for the Environment (including via email). Please advise if you have any objection to the release of any information contained in a submission and, in particular, which part(s) you consider should be withheld, together with the reason(s) for withholding the information. We will take into account all such objections when responding to requests for copies of, and information on, submissions to this consultation under the Official Information Act.

The Privacy Act 1993 applies certain principles about the collection, use and disclosure of information about individuals by various agencies, including the Ministry for the Environment. It governs access by individuals to information about themselves held by agencies. Any personal information you supply to the Ministry in the course of making a submission will be used by the Ministry only in relation to the matters covered by this consultation. Please clearly indicate in your submission if you do not wish your name to be included in any summary of submissions that the Ministry may publish.
Questions to guide your feedback

Your submission may address any aspect of the discussion document, but we would appreciate you paying particular attention to the questions posed throughout and listed in this form. You may answer some or all of the questions. To ensure your point of view is clearly understood, you should explain your rationale and provide supporting evidence where appropriate.

Contact information

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Objectives for the contribution

1a. We have set the following three objectives for our contribution:

- it is seen as a fair and ambitious contribution – both by international and domestic audiences
- costs and impacts on society are managed appropriately
- it must guide New Zealand over the long term in the global transition to a low emissions world.

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution?

☐ Yes
☐ No

1b. What is most important to you?

New Zealand should do the best that it can, as fast as it can, regardless of what other countries do,
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?

Emissions of carbon dioxide should be the object for reduction by gradually phasing out all burning of fossil fuels.

Emissions of methane cannot be reduced as quickly, but the number of ruminant animals could be capped to prevent increased emission initially. Hopefully, some remedies will be implemented as soon as they are available to reduce these.

How will our contribution affect New Zealanders?

3. What level of cost is appropriate for New Zealand to reduce it greenhouse gas emissions? For example, what do you think would be a reasonable impact on annual household consumption?

Firstly, we have to be convinced that an impact is necessary. A very careful long-term plan for implementation and alternatives to burning fossil fuel must be put in place with annual targets. The poorest must be the ones who do not suffer the most. New Zealand's Pacific Islands need help.

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?

1. Use of electric vehicles for transport, and public transport.
2. Massive tree plantings. (can use lots of labor)
3. Solar power used for domestic generation.
4. Alternatives to gas and oil products for energy must be phased in, and production and exploration reduced.
5. New enterprises will manufacture bio-gas.
6. Importing less, especially food that can be grown here.
Summary

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

New Zealand should be prepared to assist the major changes required by setting annual goals, monitoring progress, and encouraging setting up the production of bio-gas, for example.

Electric vehicles should be promoted, rechargeable from home supplies, produced by solar power.

Realistic information campaigns to encourage change and provide information to business and the public are needed.

Other comments

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

New Zealand ratified the Kyoto protocol and aimed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 5% below the 1990 levels. Despite several passionate and committed Ministries for the Environment, the current emission levels are 91% above 1990 levels.

If political parties accept donations from industry and/or fumes to fund their political campaigns, the donors expect to be given special consideration. How can this be prevented? An erst while term plan is required, with a campaign to educate business and the public on their options.

When your submission is complete

Email your completed submission to climate.contribution@mfe.govt.nz or post to Climate Change Contribution Consultation, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143.

Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.
SUBMISSION. (extra comments)

From Joan Skurr.

1. I am aware that the philosophy of the current government would not permit them to regulate or organise a campaign to bring about unwelcome changes which are for the good of all. Already some Pacific Islanders, New Zealand citizens, are suffering the effects of Climate Change, whether man-made or not. They need assistance. Also poorest families in New Zealand could be the hardest hit unless there is careful planning.

2. Imagine that someone is bleeding to death. Would we only reduce the blood flow by 10%? No. We would try our best to do whatever we could to staunch the flow. This may require unwelcome regulation and planning on behalf of the world population.

3. I don’t doubt that there will be nay-sayers and deniers. Farmers and, more particularly industrialists will need to be convinced that change is necessary. The doubters and deniers have to be countered. In the States there is big money behind campaigns to discredit climate change based on skewed information.

4. We have to enter the Fuel Revolution, which like the Industrial Revolution can have huge impacts. This means that there have to be long-term strategies and policies to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in an ordered way with targets at intervals, preferably each year.

I understand that, of course, there is a need for some coal and oil products to continue to be available for plastics and pharmaceuticals, steel-making etc. but these uses do not lead to release of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere as burning them would. However, oil and gas production needs to slow and exploration cease.

5. Currently anyone can purchase a forest lot and convert it into a dairy farm. The number of ruminant animals should be capped now, and forestry should be promoted.