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?
The most important issue is to reverse the amount of green house gases we are putting into the atmosphere, not just having a target of a 40% reduction, but actually not putting out any greenhouse gases at all.
As a young medical student I want to grow up and live the rest of my life in a country that enables the health and well-being of all of its citizens, and the current track that we are on will lead to poorer health outcomes for all New Zealanders creating extra stress on an already stressed health system.

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?
I think we need to have a split level approach, both at a national systemic level with aims to reduce the amount of dairy farming in New Zealand, diversify our economy and invest in more sustainable business, as well as campaigning on a personal level to the individual citizens of New Zealand through education and support in converting to a carbon neutral lifestyle.
Both areas need to be targeted equally to enable a nationwide response to saving our future. Without thorough education of the real issue as a primary measure it will be very difficult to gain support of both the general population and large industries, therefore I believe that education about where our future is headed, the cost of inaction and strategies that can be implemented should be the first priority.

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?
Any level of cost is appropriate. The cost should not even be considered because if we don't throw everything we have toward become carbon neutral and reversing the process of climate change the cost to our environment, our health and our lives will be immeasurable.

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?   Decrease intensification of dairy farming,

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

New Zealand should not be taking 'uncertainties' or 'cost' into account when setting its target. What we need to take into account is what target is going to enable our country to become carbon neutral in the fastest possible time frame to stop devastating rises in temperature.

Other comments

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

There are many opportunities to take steps to both cut greenhouse emissions and improve the health of New Zealanders which would have double the cost savings for very limited cost input. These include decreasing the amount of red meat consumption, which would lead to a decreased rate of bowel cancers, encouraging active transport such as walking and cycling which would help reverse the obesity epidemic and improve the cardiovascular health of people in our country, and adequately insulating houses decreases energy usage whilst decreasing the rates of asthma, bronchiolitis in our children and exacerbations of COPD in the elderly. By promoting such measures the government would be not only decreasing carbon emissions, which have potentially disastrous effects on the health of our country, whilst vastly improving the short term health of our nation.