



Climate Change Contribution Consultation
Ministry for the Environment
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2 June 2015

Submission on Climate Change Contribution Consultation

I have been reading about climate change for many years. I believe it is the most important issue facing humankind, as the consequences of insufficient action will be truly devastating.

I think New Zealand should do everything possible to decrease its carbon emissions. I do not believe we should limit our actions to what our relative “contribution” should be compared to other countries.

I think the cost of action now would be well worth any possible slow-down in economic activity. I personally would be willing to suffer a loss in household income to achieve a target of 40% below 1990 levels. I believe that climate change will cost us in the future in a myriad of ways anyway, from the cost of adverse weather events to health problems and global security issues.

I agree that New Zealand should:

- set up a progressive carbon tax at source with the carbon fee paid back to households, as advocated by James Hansen
- commit to 100% renewable electricity within 10 years
- decommission coal and gas fired power stations by 2020
- phase out subsidies for fossil fuels
- stop deep sea drilling and fracking for oil and gas in New Zealand
- commit to a global and NZ zero carbon target by 2050 or sooner
- reform the electricity markets by guaranteeing priority access to the grid for renewable power generators
- invest in smart rail and public transport infrastructure
- includes credible, transparent, cross-party plans, with a legislated, independent Climate Commission to ensure NZ meets its targets and stays within the global carbon budget
- includes health, fairness, and the true costs of inaction on climate change in the assessment of costs and benefits
- follows a transparent decision-making process after the consultation process ends

Vicky Stark

