Consultation on setting New Zealand’s post-2020 climate change target

Copy of your submission

Contact information

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Organisation (if applicable)

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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?  It must be a fair and ambitious contribution.

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?

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?  $1800

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?

Summary

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

Other comments

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

Submission on climate change.
I am concerned, as a parent, grandparent and citizen, for the future of this country and of our world if we don’t take action now to prevent climate change making life harder for all those who will come after us. I urge the Government to work with the other political parties to have a united front on policies that will help New Zealand become more sustainable.

Seven years ago, a paper put out by the International Energy Agency, an autonomous body of 27 countries, of which New Zealand and the United States are members, it was proposed energy efficiency is such an important area for countries that Government policies must regulate building codes to produce houses that are much more efficient than the minimum codes now applying.

“Globally, buildings account for close to 40% of total end use of energy,” the paper says. “Given the many possibilities to substantially reduce buildings’ energy requirements, the potential savings of energy efficiency in the building sector would greatly contribute to a society-wide reduction of energy consumption. The implications of such potential reduction should not be underestimated, as the scale of energy efficiency in buildings is large enough to influence security policy, climate preservation and public health on a national and global scale. “
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Though some architects are designing energy efficient houses here with Homestar ratings of 8 and 9, way above the average 3, and there is growing interest in houses that provide all their own energy needs, so much more could be done by regulation to make these houses the norm. I myself helped build my own strawbale house, which is warm in winter, cool in summer and healthy to live in, for very low energy consumption. “Passive Houses and Zero Energy Buildings should be the target for future buildings codes. A path should be set up to reach this target no later than 2030.” The paper says. For now, our building regulations minimum code has much to do with the fact we build poorly performing homes in this country, and pay huge prices for them. Building energy efficient homes and commercial buildings, responsible for much of their own energy requirements, would be one way New Zealand could cut its carbon emissions and provide employment in renewable energy sources and building.

Has the Government done any analysis to assess the cost of not acting on climate change? Such as the impact of drought and floods on our farming sector?
– Has the Government done any analysis to assess the benefits of acting on climate change? Such as more jobs in the green tech sector or health benefits through reduced air pollution?

Please for the sake of our future take action on climate change now, beginning with a programme that would eventually mean all buildings by 2030 have zero energy requirements.

Thank you,

Jillian Sullivan,