

Submission in response to

Climate Change Contribution Consultation

The Sustainable Dunedin City Society was established in 2007. It is made up of persons who are interested in the issues of: 1) climate change; 2) declining energy security; and 3) sustainability, as they affect Dunedin City. The Society is not affiliated with any political party and aims to facilitate a positive, secure and sustainable future for Dunedin City in the face of challenges posed by climate change, declining energy security, and unsustainable resource use.

The Society conducts research and disseminates information on climate change, declining energy security, and sustainability, and promotes awareness of these issues to the wider community. It aims to influence individuals, businesses and governments to adapt their behaviours and policies to reflect the importance of these issues.

Of the many activities carried out by Sustainable Dunedin City – submissions, student education programmes, public talks, the Big Green Challenge, and its fortnightly newsletter – the single biggest event organised to date was a Resilience Summit in 2011. This was a daylong event with approximately 100 people – people involved business, education, iwi, local government, community groups, health services, and more.

Future scenarios were discussed - climate change and transport, food supply, sea-level rise, energy price rises, downside of reliance on coal, ideas for creating self-sufficient communities.

Actions to reduce carbon emissions and means of adaption to climate change were documented under the headings of:

- Climate Change Impacts & Sea-Level Rise
- South Dunedin
- Wider community
- Energy and the Economy
- Transport to and within Dunedin
- Resilience in Food Supply
- Transition to low levels of consumerism & waste
- Need for community participation

The actions identified remain applicable, and increasingly so.

The MfE discussion document starts with statement that *Climate change is a truly global problem and all countries need to contribute to reducing emissions.*

The third objective states that NZ's contribution *must guide New Zealand over long term in global transition to a low emissions world.*

But where does NZ focus on transiting to a low emissions world, **now** and in the long term?

Some guidance is given in the document, yet doubt about the level of our commitment is seeded by the document:

- Raising uncertainty about the ability of technologies to assist in reducing emissions levels, and
- Focussing only on the costs to households by reducing emission levels and not the much bigger costs of doing nothing.

Of many important unanswered questions, we raise three.

1. The document states that our key policy tool for reducing emissions is the NZ Emissions Trading Scheme. What has NZ achieved with in reducing emissions with the ETS to date? What are the implications for continuing with the ETS in a global market?
2. How do we redress our diminishing forestry carbon sink?
3. What is the basis of determining costs to society both in terms of:
 - Costs and risks of not acting, and
 - Costs and risks and opportunities of acting to achieve a low carbon NZ.

Change in our behaviour is inevitable, delay is becoming increasingly costly, and the risks of not acting are enormous (both to the planet, and to our global reputation). This is an opportunity for us to embrace this inevitable change, as a nation. We can do much more to reduce our emissions, and so we ask that you adopt a **minimum target of a 40% emissions reduction** in net emissions below 1990 levels by 2030 – the minimum contribution required to keep us under 2 degrees global warming.

Jenny Neilson and John Cocks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jenny Neilson'.

Co-chairs

Sustainable Dunedin City Inc.

3 June 2015.