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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<th>Name</th>
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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?

1. That the general population of NZ is not unfairly financially burdened by the target.

2. Because a large proportion of our target will be initially met through the purchase of overseas carbon credits, we need complete transparency and accountability as to where this money is going. Ideally, these purchases should be able to double as a form of foreign aid.

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?

Obviously in the short term (i.e. before 2020) there is nothing we can do about the half of our emissions which come from agriculture. Our agricultural products are largely consumed by the highest carbon ‘offenders’ (China, US, EU), meaning we are producing the methane on their behalf. We also already have one of the lowest domestic carbon outputs in the developed world.

Technically speaking, it seems that for NZ to meet the target, the general population has to take an extra hit on behalf of the agriculture industry and our trading partners. Therefore, it would seem reasonable that we actually have a separate target for agriculture.

How will our contribution affect New Zealanders?

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

As above, if we keep agriculture separate, New Zealand should be able to meet and even exceed the target with minimal impact on end consumption. Although, to be fair, the current projected impact of around 1.5% for a 5% reduction doesn’t sound unreasonable.

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?

Realistically, the use of bio-fuels or electric vehicles will only have a tangible long term impact if they prove to be cheaper than ‘old fashioned’ cars naturally and not through government incentives. Similarly, an increase in walking/cycling/public transport will only be effective if urban centres are designed to make these the most efficient means of transportation (as in Amsterdam or Stockholm).

Incentivising the creation of forest ‘sink-holes’ however, does seem to be an exciting and realistic opportunity that could have added benefits for our tourism and forestry industries and ideally allow us to become a supplier in the global carbon credit market.

Summary

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

As above, new technologies should only be taken into consideration when they are naturally an economically comparable option to existing technologies.

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

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.