

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



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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?

Developing legislation that forces New Zealand businesses to adopt more efficient technology that reduces emissions. This also means providing cash incentives for businesses to do so such as subsidies to purchase equipment. Business support and advice is also important. Providing business support to change organisational focuses so that businesses make sustainable choices part of their every day operations and a standard part of their budgets is a key part of solving the problem. The Government should utilise local government bodies to carry out free consultation to advise companies on what changes they can make to reduce their emissions and environmental impact.

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?

There are two primary avenues for reducing emissions; transport and agriculture. Stronger direction needs to come from national government to improve the walkability of cities and raise public transport standards, including the provision of multiple transport modes. Reduced dependence on individual vehicle transport will reduce emissions. Agriculture is more difficult to tackle as it is a market driven economy. Switching from a primarily dairy export economy to crops will help reduce emissions as well as improve waterways. But more government funded research would be useful to explore pathways to reducing animal emissions and explore other economically viable agricultural options. Offsetting carbon emissions with forestry is also useful and should be supported.

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 would be a reasonable reduction in annual household consumption?

20% reduction below 1990. It's not about what is fair, it's about what is right for the future of our children. They need an economic future too and they won't have one if climate change wrecks too much havoc on global weather patterns. A 20% reduction may have larger costs for households on a per annum basis but this is likely to be cheaper than providing international aid every time a drought induced famine or Hurricane Katrina occurs affecting a low lying country/island/town/continent.

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?

Biofuels, low-carbon economy and forestry are all viable options that should be pursued as we already have the

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resources to do them. It just requires greater leadership and policy direction from National Government. Incentives should include subsidies, business advisors, tax credits and industry awards and standards; publicise the industries who adopt best practices!

Summary

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

Start diversifying investments and moving away from fossil fuel intensive technologies. Increase tax on inefficient technologies and use the increased revenue to either:; reduce the cost for lower emission technologies; provide education about global warming and the environmental costs of consumption; or business consulting services to educate businesses to change their financial structures to include lower emission and environmentally responsible business choices. Research grants should also be provided to fund new agricultural business models suitable for NZ natural resources with lower emissions. Or provide incentives for agriculture to move away from dairy and into cropping; cows aren't the only food type the world needs.

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
We need to do all that we can with all that we have. There is no other greater global issue facing us and our children. Setting meaningful targets not only shows global leadership but a solid commitment to the future of New Zealanders. But none of this will be useful if we don't provide legislation to ratify the promises made at the Paris climate conference and if we don't provide the support for businesses at the grass roots level to educate and assist in making changes. It needs to be a concerted effort on all fronts; Globally, nationally, locally, individually. Make the commitment and then bring home the change.