

New Zealand's Climate Change Target

Submission by Climate Justice Taranakiⁱ

"The door to reach two degrees is about to close. In 2017 it will be closed forever,"

Fatih Birol of the International Energy Agency, 2011ⁱⁱ.

"Even doubling our rate of decarbonisation, would still lead to emissions consistent with six degrees of warming. To give ourselves a more than 50 chance of avoiding two degrees will require a six-fold improvement in our rate of decarbonisation,"

PricewaterhouseCoopers, 2012ⁱⁱⁱ.

"In the face of an absolutely unprecedented emergency, society has no choice but to take dramatic action to avert a collapse of civilization. Either we will change our ways and build an entirely new kind of global society, or they will be changed for us,"

Gro Harlem Brundtland et al. 2012^{iv}.

Below is Climate Justice Taranaki's views and expectations on *New Zealand's Climate Change Target: Our contribution to the new international climate change agreement*, Ministry for the Environment, 2015^v.

1. The discussion document is biased – in favour of current government economic policies. The document ignores the known costs^{vi,vii,viii} of not acting now on climate change and the substantial financial incentives^{ix,x,xii} given to the fossil fuel industry, while exaggerating the costs on household consumption under meagre reduction targets.
2. New Zealand (NZ) is fully capable of reaching **at least a 40% reduction target by 2030**, within its environmental, technological and socio-economic parameters. We ask for this to be NZ's contribution^{xiii,xiv} – a commitment based on science and ethical grounds.
3. This target or contribution must be supported by **concrete policies and actions**.
4. One of the key policies must be to **stop granting new petroleum exploration and mining permits, ban fracking**^{xv,xvi,xvii,xviii,xix}, **and start incentivising sustainable and renewable energy**^{xx,xxi,xxii,xxiii,xxiv} investments and initiatives.
5. The discussion document offers no vision and no alternatives to unsustainable agriculture. Its claim of NZ being "a highly efficient producer" is unfounded, failing to consider the environmental impacts^{xxv,xxvi} and associated economic costs it is causing. The over-emphases on technological fix (e.g. anti-methane vaccines) and international carbon offsets^{xxvii,xxviii} are NOT solutions to the social and environmental impacts of unsustainable practices.
6. NZ urgently needs a concrete policy on **sustainable agriculture**^{xxix,xxx,xxxi} **and forestry**^{xxxii} (with financial incentives) that will achieve a clear emission reduction target, increase carbon sink, break the dependence on fossil fuels (including natural gas derived urea and nitrogen inhibitors), heal the soil, clean the waterways and benefit small family farmers.
7. NZ urgently needs a comprehensive policy on **sustainable transport**^{xxxiii}, consisting largely of electric public transport, sea, rail and road freight powered by responsible biofuels^{xxxiv}, with clear contribution to emission reduction and energy independence.
8. NZ urgently needs a complete rewrite of our Energy Strategy (2011-2021), ditching the reliance on infinite growth and fossil fuels, and **committing NZ to 100% renewable electricity by 2025**^{xxxv,xxxvi} **and carbon neutral by 2050**^{xxxvii}.

“The challenge, then, is not simply that we need to spend a lot of money and change a lot of polities; it’s that we need to think differently, radically differently, for those changes to be remotely possible. Right now, the triumph of market logic, with its ethos of domination and fierce competition, is paralysing almost all serious efforts to respond to climate change. ... For any of this to change, a worldview will need to rise to the fore that sees nature, other nations, and our own neighbours not as adversaries, but rather as partners in a grand project of mutual reinvention,”
Naomi Klein, 2014^{xxxviii}.

Climate Justice Taranaki is committed to supporting communities and governments in efforts that truly address the root causes of climate change, alleviate social injustice and avert the worst impacts of climate change.

ⁱ Climate Justice Taranaki. www.climatejusticetaranaki.info

ⁱⁱ Energy Agency Warns Governments to Take Action Against Global Warming, The Wall Street Journal, 10 November 2011. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052970204358004577027542955102790>

ⁱⁱⁱ PricewaterhouseCooper, 2012. *Too late for two degrees? Low carbon economy index 2012*. <http://www.pwc.com/gx/en/sustainability/publications/low-carbon-economy-index/index.html>

^{iv} Gro Harlem Brundtland et al. 2012. *Environment and Development Challenges: The Imperative to Act*. Joint paper by the Blue Planet Prize laureates, The Asahi Glass Foundation, 20 February 2012. http://www.af-info.or.jp/bpplaureates/doc/2012jp_fp_en.pdf

^v Ministry for the Environment, 2015. *New Zealand’s Climate Change Target: Our contribution to the new international climate change agreement*. <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate-change/new-zealands-climate-change-target-our-contribution-new-international>

^{vi} Norman, R. 2015. *Question to the Minister for Climate Change issues*. <https://www.greens.org.nz/news/speeches/question-question-minister-climate-change-issues>

^{vii} Stern, 2013. *The structure of economic modelling of the potential impacts of climate change: grafting gross underestimation of risk onto already narrow science models*. Journal of Economic Literature, 51(3) pp. 838-859. <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/53695/>

^{viii} *Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change*, 2010. http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sternreview_index.htm

^{ix} Norman, R. 2015. *Why are we paying climate polluters \$31m to pollute?* <https://www.greens.org.nz/news/press-releases/why-are-we-paying-climate-polluters-31m-pollute>

^x Coady, D., I. Parry, L. Sears and B. Shang, 2015. *How large are global energy subsidies?* <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=42940.0>

^{xi} *Fossil fuels subsidised by \$10m a minute, says IMF*. <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/may/18/fossil-fuel-companies-getting-10m-a-minute-in-subsidies-says-imf>

^{xii} WWF, 2013. *Fossil fuel finance in New Zealand – Part 1: Government support*. http://awsassets.wwfnz.panda.org/downloads/wwf_fossil_fuel_finance_nz_subsidies_report.pdf

^{xiii} Intended Nationally Determined Contribution of the EU and its Member States. <http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Latvia/1/LV-03-06-EU%20INDC.pdf>

^{xiv} Norway’s Intended Nationally Determined Contribution. <http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Norway/1/Norway%20INDC%2026MAR2015.pdf>

^{xv} New York State Department of Health, 2014. *A public health review of high volume hydraulic fracturing for shale gas development*. https://www.health.ny.gov/press/reports/docs/high_volume_hydraulic_fracturing.pdf

^{xvi} Grear, A., E. Grant, T. Kerns, K. Morrow and D. Short, 2014. *A human rights assessment of hydraulic fracturing and other unconventional gas development in the United Kingdom*. <http://www.sas.ac.uk/sites/default/files/files/UK%20HRIA%20w%20appdx-hi%20res.pdf>

^{xvii} Oil and gas drilling triggers man-made earthquakes in eight states, USGS finds, 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/23/oil-gas-drilling-triggers-man-made-earthquakes-usgs>

^{xviii} List of Bans [fracking] Worldwide. <http://keepapwatersafe.org/global-bans-on-fracking/>

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- ^{xix} Community Joint Statement – a call to ban fracking in New Zealand, 2015. <https://climatejusticetaraki.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/community-joint-statement-on-fracking-2015-v2-11march2015.pdf>
- ^{xx} Royal Society of New Zealand, 2014. *Facing the future: Towards a green economy for New Zealand*. <http://www.royalsociety.org.nz/expert-advice/papers/yr2014/greeneconomy/>
- ^{xxi} Norway to pull \$900bn oil fund out of coal, 2015. <http://www.thelocal.no/20150527/norways-900bn-oil-fund-to-divest-from-coal>
- ^{xxii} Axa to divest from high-risk coal funds due to threat of climate change, 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/may/22/axa-divest-high-risk-coal-funds-due-threat-climate-change>
- ^{xxiii} Global renewable jobs grow 7.7 million –IRENA, 2015. <http://www.rechargenews.com/wind/1400365/global-renewables-jobs-grow-18-percent-to-77-million-irena>
- ^{xxiv} How renewable are pushing coal and gas out of energy markets, 2015. <http://reneweconomy.com.au/2015/how-renewables-are-pushing-coal-and-gas-out-of-energy-markets-85133>
- ^{xxv} Mike Joy, 2014. *Paradise squandered - New Zealand's environmental asset stripping*. The 2014 Bruce Jesson Memorial Lecture. <http://www.nzfishingclubs.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/2014-Bruce-Jesson-Mike-Joy-Lecture.pdf>
- ^{xxvi} *Rivers of gold – Water is creating lots of dairy millionaires, but at what cost to our environment?* (Listener, June 2014) <http://www.listener.co.nz/current-affairs/ecologic/rivers-of-gold/>
- ^{xxvii} Carbon Offsets 101. <http://www.worldwatch.org/node/5134>
- ^{xxviii} Carbon Offsets. <http://www.carbonradewatch.org/issues/carbon-offsets.html>
- ^{xxix} PCE, 2004. *Growing for good – Intensive farming, sustainability and New Zealand's environment*. <http://www.pce.parliament.nz/assets/Uploads/Growing-for-Good.pdf>
- ^{xxx} Smart farming. <http://www.greenpeace.org/new-zealand/en/campaigns/climate-change/smart-farming/>
- ^{xxxi} Sustainable agriculture workshop points toward change, 2015. <http://www.stuff.co.nz/timaru-herald/68963515/sustainable-agriculture-workshop-points-toward-change>
- ^{xxxii} MPI, 2015. *Indigenous Forestry – Sustainable Management of Private Indigenous Forests*. <http://archive.mpi.govt.nz/forestry/forestry-in-nz/indigenous-forestry.aspx>
- ^{xxxiii} WWF Have your say. http://www.wwf.org.nz/take_action/haveyoursay/
- ^{xxxiv} Scion, 2007. *Bioenergy Options for New Zealand : Situation analysis*. http://www.niwa.co.nz/sites/niwa.co.nz/files/import/attachments/Situation_Analysis_-_Bioenergy_Options.pdf
- ^{xxxv} Greenpeace, 2013. *The future is here – New jobs, new prosperity and a new clean economy*. <http://www.greenpeace.org/new-zealand/en/campaigns/climate-change/The-Future-is-Here/>
- ^{xxxvi} Mason, I.G., S.C. Page and A.G. Williamson, 2013. *Security of supply, energy spillage control and peaking options within a 100% renewable electricity system for New Zealand*. Energy Policy 60(2013) 324-333. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301421513003649>
- ^{xxxvii} Generation Zero, 2014. *A Challenge to Our Leaders – Why New Zealand needs a Clean Energy Plan*. http://www.generationzero.org/report_a_challenge_to_our_leaders
- ^{xxxviii} Klein, Naomi, 2014. *This Changes Everything*. The Penguin Group. Pp.566. <http://thischangeseverything.org/>