

## Climate Change Reduction Menu

### Political Powers

We elect and pay our Politicians, and they have a mandate to act on our behalf. They should be leaders on climate change both here at home, and also in the international arena. We're a small, remote country and our economy depends on our clean, green image. This means our environmental and climate report card needs to merit an A+.

On the surface, it looks like we're doing a lot. The Labour-led Government and the Green Party recently banned new fossil fuel electricity generation for the next 10 years, and set a 90 per cent renewable energy target for 2025.

It has also introduced an Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) under which polluting sectors must, over time, cover the cost of their greenhouse gas emissions. The idea is that if you charge polluters for their emissions they'll be more likely to take action to reduce them, for example by shifting investment into cleaner technologies.

Sounds good in theory, but, one crucial element is missing and without it this scheme and all other climate policy will fail to make the cuts required before 2020.

**WE NEED A TARGET!** Setting an emissions reduction target is a simple, logical and critical step in preventing dangerous climate change. It means everyone has something to aim for. If we know we need to reduce emissions by a certain amount by a certain time, we can adopt policies which will get us there.

Putting in place climate policies with no associated reduction target is like driving round in a car with no destination in mind.

That's why Greenpeace is asking not only the Labour-led Government but all political parties to set a target of 30 per cent reductions by 2020 for New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions. This target would bring us into line with more progressive nations who have already committed to similar targets and will help ensure we make the cuts that science shows are needed to avoid the worst climate impacts.

Our politicians cannot claim to be serious about tackling climate change without putting in place a strong emission reduction target.

### COUNTRIES ALREADY ON TARGET

**The UK has a target of 20 per cent by 2010. They'll reduce by at least 17 per cent by 2010, and are well on track to achieve 30 per cent cuts by 2020.**

**Germany has a target of 40 per cent by 2020, which it's on track to meet.**

**Sweden recently set an emission reduction target of 75-90 per cent by 2050.**

**And even Australia, a former laggard when it comes to climate, and our main trading partner, has set a long term reduction target.**



### Agriculture's Climate Challenge

Agriculture is important to New Zealand and to our economy. Did you also know that agriculture is our biggest greenhouse gas emitter, responsible for nearly half of New Zealand's total emissions?

And these emissions are rising, yet the government has exempted the sector from the ETS until 2013.

So unlike other sectors that are either in the scheme or soon to be, the agricultural industry have five years with no real pressure to reduce emissions.

New Zealand will have no chance of making the urgent emission cuts that are necessary to fight climate change without agriculture playing its part. We must create a price incentive for the industry to reduce emissions – agriculture must be brought into the emissions trading scheme in the next two years.

There is no doubt that reducing agricultural emissions will be a challenge for New Zealand, but if we act now it can also be an opportunity. Like every other export sector, the farming industry should be itching to get out in front of a new wave of economic opportunity that is fuelled by consumer concern over climate.

Being green and climate friendly is starting to count more and more overseas and all our exporters should be doing everything they can to corner and monopolise that high end of the market. Now is the time for New Zealand to deliver on its clean, green reputation.

### Personal Plan

The inside of this pamphlet is a handy guide to 'what you can do at home' to help reduce your own carbon footprint.

Use this to take the first steps to reduce your own emissions by a third. It may seem a lot, but by focusing on small changes and by starting today you'll see that you can make it.

We all lead busy lives and it's often hard to do that bit extra but if you can spare the time there are plenty of small things you can do to help our climate, check out our website [www.greenpeace.org/new-zealand/only-planet](http://www.greenpeace.org/new-zealand/only-planet). Activities from writing a letter to your local MP to getting your community involved in reducing its carbon footprint.

Most kiwis want real action on climate change. This is why it's crucial that we all play our part in the effort to reduce emissions by 30 per cent. The government and all political parties must commit to a target of cutting at least 30 per cent of New Zealand's climate change emissions by the year 2020. But all of us – individuals, communities, businesses, and agricultural producers – need to contribute to the emission reduction effort.

These are the vital ingredients that we need in New Zealand in order to REALLY tackle climate change.



# Climate Change

## Small Steps to Target a Big Problem

**The bigger the problem, the harder it is to act; we've all experienced that frozen feeling when the problem seems too big.**

**We're facing this challenge with climate change. OK, it's probably a lot bigger than any issue we've had to face before, but in principal it's the same. It's a big problem, and it needs to be broken down so we can start taking the small steps to get our climate under control.**

**There is so much information on climate change out there that instead of absorbing the key facts and solutions we can end up confused. It's for this reason Greenpeace has developed a simple vision of what solutions and steps we can all take to target climate change.**

## Climate Change is Bad but there is some good news!

There's no getting round it, climate change is going to hit us all in a variety of ways. Humankind has pumped so much carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere that we can't stop climate change. But we can lessen the blow, and hopefully avoid some of the worst case consequences by reducing the amount of greenhouse pollution.

### Facts For Action

- The world's leading climate scientists agree that we only have a window of 8 -10 years left to make big greenhouse gas reductions if we want to prevent dramatic and unpredictable changes to our climate.
- The same top climate scientists have agreed that emission reductions of between 25 to 40 per cent are needed in countries like New Zealand by 2020 to prevent the worst climate impacts.

### Impacts At Home

- We are at risk of losing a third of all animals and plants, not just polar bears but also our own irreplaceable native flora and fauna, including the tuatara.
- Our economy is reliant on a healthy environment and a stable climate. Our agriculture, horticulture, tourism and forestry industries are already feeling the impacts of climate change and face big challenges ahead. Recent Waikato droughts were the worst in over a century and 100 year storms, floods, droughts and rising sea levels are on the increase. Fonterra has estimated that the cost of this year's drought to dairy farmers alone will be over \$500 million.
- We face losing our cultural heritage and quality of life as the things we value - our beaches, our land, our homes - are put under increased pressure from climate change. Landslides, storms, rising seas and even tornados have hit New Zealand recently hurting many kiwis financially, physically and emotionally.

The window for change is still open, but we have to act now to significantly reduce our emissions. It's a challenge, but also an opportunity to clean up our country and secure our quality of life for future generations.

# Your Guide to Climate Friendly Living

Insulate your ceiling. This can stop a third of your heat escaping and save you up to \$400 per year.

Avoid buying genetically engineered foods. Consult Greenpeace's GE Free Food Guide at [www.gefreefood.org.nz](http://www.gefreefood.org.nz)

Turn the hot water cylinder thermostat down, so that the tap water temperature is 55°C. It's safer and saves energy.

Use only appliances with high-energy efficiency ratings. Keep your fridge at 3 – 5 °C and your freezer at -15 – -17 °C.

Avoid products made from PVC. PVC produces harmful toxic chemicals during its manufacture and disposal.

Install an energy saving showerhead. They can cut the amount of water used in your shower by half.

Check your hot water cylinder. If it's warm to touch it probably needs insulation wrap. The cost of installing this will be paid back in energy savings within a year.

Installing a solar water heater could provide you with a plentiful supply of hot water and save a massive 75% off your hot water bill.

Install energy efficient, compact fluorescent (CFL) light bulbs. CFL bulbs use five times less power than standard bulbs, and last up to nine years.

Buy your fruit and veges locally and organically. Reducing your meat and dairy consumption will cut your carbon footprint significantly.

Use cold water washes when washing clothes. A warm wash uses as much energy as drying the clothes in a dryer.

By double-glazing a window with clear glass, you can halve the heat loss compared to a single-glazed window of the same size and shape.

Compost your organic waste – it's great for the garden. Organic waste in the landfill creates climate-changing methane emissions.

Grow your own veges. They'll be the freshest and most environmentally friendly food you'll ever eat.

Turn your appliances off at the wall when not in use. Appliances left on standby use up to 10% of household electricity. Choose an electricity supplier that is committed to clean, renewable energy. Check out [www.CleanEnergyGuide.co.nz](http://www.CleanEnergyGuide.co.nz)

Use Greenpeace's Green Electronics Guide at [www.greenpeace.org/greenelectronics](http://www.greenpeace.org/greenelectronics) to avoid buying from companies with poor policies on toxic chemicals and recycling.

Buy recycled paper (check for a high 'post-consumer' waste content) that has not been chlorine bleached (labelled TCF or PCF). Print double-sided.

Cycle or walk for short trips – it will keep you fit and reduce your environmental impact. Take public transport for longer trips.

Dry your clothes outdoors where possible. Clothes dryers are among our most energy hungry appliances.

Ensure any wood products you buy are not illegally or unsustainably produced by using Greenpeace's Good Wood Guide at [www.greenpeace.org.nz/goodwoodguide](http://www.greenpeace.org.nz/goodwoodguide) Check for Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) certification.

When you do drive, make sure it is in a fuel-efficient car. Keep your tires properly inflated and your engine tuned to maximize efficiency.

Recycle as much of your household waste as possible. Check with your local council as to what types of things can be recycled.

