



# Have your say: A snapshot of the emissions reduction plan

Te hau mārohi ki anamata

Transitioning to a low-emissions and climate-resilient future



Ministry for the  
**Environment**  
*Manatū Mō Te Taiao*



**Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government

# Aotearoa New Zealand is committed to a low-emissions and climate-resilient future

Taking action on climate change is increasingly urgent. In Aotearoa, we are already seeing the effects of climate change. Average temperatures are increasing, sea levels are rising, and extreme weather is becoming more frequent and severe. These impacts are also being felt around the world. It is important that we not only reduce emissions at home, but contribute to global efforts to limit temperature rise.

In 2019, Parliament introduced the Zero Carbon Framework to manage our transition to a low-emissions future, through domestic targets, emissions budgets and an emissions reduction plan that sets out the policies and strategies needed to meet each budget.

Over 10,000 New Zealanders had their say on what this framework should look like. As the Government gets ready to publish the first emissions reduction plan, we need you again.

Our first emissions reduction plan will set out the actions Aotearoa will take to meet our first emissions budget, put us on the path to meet our second and third, and transition to a low-emissions future in a way that is achievable and affordable.

We want to hear your views on what should be included in the plan.

## Setting the first emissions reduction plan

In May 2021, the Climate Change Commission gave the Government its recommendations for the first three emissions budgets and the policies needed to meet them.

### The Commission's recommended budgets (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e)

Budget period	2022 -25	2026 -30	2031 -35
All gases, net (AR5)	290	312	253
Annual average	72.4	62.4	50.6

The Government has agreed in principle to amend the Commission's recommended budgets to recognise changes in projected forestry emissions that were not available when the Commission prepared its advice.

The proposed amendment would increase emissions allowed in the first emissions budget period by 0.7% (2 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e). But the combined effect over the three budget periods will reduce emissions by a total of 14 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e – 1.6% lower than the Commission's recommended total for the three budgets.

### The Government's proposed budgets (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e)

Budget period	2022 -25	2026 -30	2031 -35
All gases, net (AR5)	292	307	242
Annual average	73	61.4	48.4

Final decisions on the first three budgets will be made and published alongside the first emissions reduction plan in May 2022. This plan will set out how we will achieve the first budget and manage the impacts policies may have on employers and employees, regions, iwi and Māori, and wider communities.

Government has been working on a wide range of proposals that may form Aotearoa New Zealand's first emission reduction plan. The plan is not yet fully developed. We know there is still work to do to make sure we meet our emissions budgets.

This snapshot shows our strategy for getting to our zero carbon goal.



# Getting to Carbon Zero

## Vision

Thriving, sustainable communities that are good for people and function within planetary limits

## Purpose

To contribute to the global effort to limit warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels

## Targets

Net zero long-lived gases by 2050 and 24–47% reduction in biogenic methane by 2050

## Our current reality

Gross emissions: 82.3 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e

Net emissions: 54.9 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e

Since 1990: 26% increase in gross emissions

*To get started, we need to*

## Empower central and local government, iwi/Māori, communities and business to

collaborate on a multi-sector approach to reducing emissions

embed Te Tiriti o Waitangi and te ao Māori in all planning

ensure inclusive and effective public engagement

continuously seek consensus and support for the transition

improve the ability of sectors to adapt

*These leaders must then work to*

### Align system settings and use cross-sector tools

- ensure every government decision is consistent with climate goals
- amend and continuously improve the NZ ETS
- mobilise public and private finance and the financial system
- change the ways cities and towns are planned and designed
- drive low-emission innovation
- make it easier for people to make low-emission choices
- move to a circular economy and develop the bioeconomy

### Design tailored packages of measures across sectors

- transport
- energy and industry
- building and construction
- agriculture
- waste (and industry gases)
- forestry

## Deliver an equitable transition that is fair and inclusive

proactive transition planning with regional communities, economies and stakeholders

strengthen skills training and education system

support workers in transition

factor distributional impacts on household cost of living, health and access to transportation into plans

*These actions inform*

## Emissions budgets and emissions reduction plans

Plan 1: 2022–25 budget\*

292 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e

Plan 4: 2036–40 budget

Due 2024

Plan 2: 2026–30 budget\*

307 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e

Plan 5: 2041–45 budget

Due 2029

Plan 3: 2031–35 budget\*

242 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e

Plan 6: 2046–50 budget

Due 2034

\*An in-principle decision has been taken but final decisions are yet to be made.

*which will result in*

## Reaching Carbon Zero

*and creating*

better jobs

new industries

sustainable business models

resilient communities

a healthy environment

*contributing to the Government's vision to*

lift the wellbeing of New Zealanders through a productive, sustainable and inclusive economy

## A carbon zero Aotearoa

The emissions reduction plan will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase forestry removals, while improving the wellbeing of our people and regional economies, fostering industry, innovation and investment, and supporting nature-based solutions that are good for both the climate and biodiversity.

### Features of the plan:

#### **A circular economy**

Designing out waste, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems.

#### **Science and innovation**

New Zealand being a world-class generator of ideas and solutions.

#### **Skills and knowledge**

Helping people acquire the new skills they need to drive and adapt to change.

The plan will help us achieve our vision for 2050: a productive, sustainable and inclusive economy where:

- ▶ Economic activity is nature enhancing, carbon neutral and climate resilient.
- ▶ Energy and transport systems are accessible, affordable and sustainable.
- ▶ Production systems are regenerative, providing a way to innovate and invest to meet future challenges.
- ▶ Every household can meet its material needs, in turn reducing child poverty.
- ▶ Te Tiriti partners work together to realise mutually beneficial economic opportunities and respective kaitiaki obligations.
- ▶ Our natural environment is thriving.
- ▶ Every New Zealander has a safe, warm, dry and affordable home.

# What we are doing now

The emissions reduction plan will build on action that we are taking now:

Pricing emissions through the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme and working collaboratively to start pricing agricultural emissions

Aligning procurement with low emissions and promoting investment

Supporting nature-based employment through the \$1.2 billion Jobs for Nature programme

Reducing our use of imported hydrofluorocarbons that are inserted in equipment

Reforming resource management legislation so that land-use planning and investments support our emissions targets

Funding research to reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions

Working to make many public organisations carbon neutral by 2025

Supporting New Zealanders to buy cleaner vehicles through Clean Car Discount incentives

Reducing emissions and improving efficiency in buildings through the New Zealand Building Code's energy efficiency requirements

Assisting farmers and food growers to measure, manage and reduce their emissions, while sustainably producing quality products

Helping businesses improve energy efficiency through the \$70m Government Investment in Decarbonising Industry fund

Enhancing regulations for energy efficiency of appliances and equipment

Reducing construction and demolition waste through the Kāinga Ora waste minimisation scheme

Amending the waste disposal levy to provide an economic incentive to reduce waste to landfill

Revising the New Zealand Waste Strategy and developing a national infrastructure plan for waste



## What the emissions reduction plan will look like

The policies that form the first emissions reduction plan will span every sector of the economy and include changes to our funding and finance system, the way we organise our urban areas, and a shift to a circular economy. While the details of the plan are still taking shape, this is the direction we're moving in:



**Transport** – improving our passenger vehicles, promoting a more efficient freight system and powering our vehicle fleet with clean, renewable electricity



**Energy and industry** – preparing our electricity sector to power the low-emissions economy, moving away from fossil fuels, and speeding up industrial decarbonisation



**Agriculture** – improving the technology and practices that keep this sector on track to meet biogenic methane targets and reduce long-lived emissions



**Waste** – reducing and diverting waste from landfill and reducing hydrofluorocarbons



**Building and construction** – reducing building-related emissions, and bringing health benefits at the same time



**Forestry** – establishing forest sinks that remove carbon from the atmosphere and also improve biodiversity



**Research and innovation** – prioritising research that will help New Zealand transition to a low-emissions economy



**Circular economy** – developing a strategy to move to a circular economy with a thriving bioeconomy

## A collective effort

Responding to a challenge like climate change requires a collective effort: Government agencies develop policy for their sectors and local government and the private sector will also need to take action and mobilise resources. Strong leadership from businesses and community leaders will be critical to reaching our climate targets.

Setting the emissions reduction plan is just the first step. From June 2022 Government will be held accountable for achieving what the plan sets out. The Climate Change Commission will monitor and report on our progress.

### **We will strive for an equitable and well-managed transition:**

- ▶ driving ambitious action while also allowing communities, households and businesses time to prepare to reduce their emissions
- ▶ enabling iwi/Māori to drive the transition so that climate change mitigation does not worsen existing disadvantages
- ▶ providing training and helping workers develop skills for quality, low-emissions employment
- ▶ encouraging innovation and the uptake of new technology
- ▶ empowering communities to transition in line with their local objectives and aspirations
- ▶ building capability to monitor progress against our targets
- ▶ making sure social, economic and environmental policies support one another

## Working with our Tiriti partners

The Government is committed to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi) and applying Māori values and mātauranga Māori to the transition. The emissions reduction plan proposes a transition strategy to work with Māori to respond to the priorities and needs of the Māori economy and people and to maximise opportunities arising from the transition. We are developing policies that will influence our low-emission pathways and partnership with Māori, including reforming our resource management system, creating local government climate strategies, co-designing mechanisms with Māori to assist Māori start-ups and necessary policy and funding work.

## Make your voice count

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## Help shape the emissions reduction plan

Help shape the policies we are considering to meet emissions reduction targets. We would like to know if you think these are the right types of policies, if they go far enough and what you think should be changed. You can find the full discussion document, list of consultation questions, and more information about the consultation process at <https://environment.govt.nz/emissions-reduction-plan>

**Submissions close at 11.59pm on Wednesday 24 November 2021.**

**You can make a submission in two ways:**

- Use Citizen Space, our consultation hub, available at: <https://consult.environment.govt.nz/climate/emissions-reduction-plan>

This is our preferred way to receive submissions.

- Write your own submission by answering the questions in the discussion document.

Upload your written submission to Citizen Space, or email it (as a PDF or Word document) to: [climateconsultation2021@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:climateconsultation2021@mfe.govt.nz)

Post your submission to:

Emissions reduction plan consultation  
Ministry for the Environment  
PO Box 10362  
Wellington 6143

Send any queries to:

[climateconsultation2021@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:climateconsultation2021@mfe.govt.nz)

## What happens next

**This consultation starts on 13 October and ends on 24 November 2021.**

After that, the government agencies working on the emissions reduction plan will evaluate your submissions and include them in advice to Ministers. A summary of submissions will support Cabinet decisions on the final emission reduction plan, which will be published by the end of May 2022.