

THE ZERO CARBON ACT



We're calling for all political parties to come together and pass this Act.

The Zero Carbon Act is a powerful new law to get Aotearoa New Zealand on track to a safe, thriving, carbon-neutral future.

Climate change is bigger than politics. We need politicians to work together and look beyond election cycles.

www.zerocarbonact.nz

CLIMATE CHANGE IS ALREADY IMPACTING OUR HOMES AND OUR LIVELIHOODS.

We're getting hit with more extreme floods, droughts and wildfires, and things will only get worse unless we act.

We need to stop dumping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

This won't be easy and it won't happen overnight - we need a plan.

We can create a better future for all. Moving beyond fossil fuels will promote sustainability, technological development, and better public health.

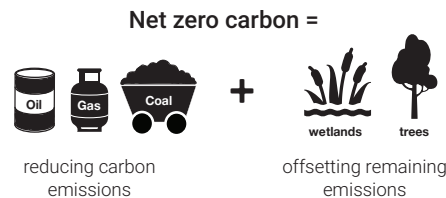
AIM: NET ZERO CARBON BY 2050

Under the Paris Agreement, the world has agreed to stabilise the climate and limit global warming to well below 2°C.

This means worldwide emissions must be 'carbon neutral' or 'net zero' by early in the second half of the century. Developed countries - like us - have committed to lead this global transition.

The Zero Carbon Act will put us on track to net zero carbon by 2050 or sooner.

While many other countries are taking action, New Zealand doesn't have an emissions reduction plan. In fact, our net emissions are forecast to continue rising (see the graph below).



WHAT WILL THE ZERO CARBON ACT DO?

- 1) Set New Zealand on a pathway to net zero carbon emissions by 2050, with bite-sized, 5-yearly targets called 'carbon budgets'.
- 2) Require the government of the day to have a plan to achieve these targets.
- 3) Establish an independent climate commission to advise the government, and keep the public in the loop.
- 4) Ensure a comprehensive response to the effects of climate change, which includes doing our bit to support our low-lying Pacific neighbours.

A PROVEN MODEL

The Zero Carbon Act is based on the UK's 2008 Climate Change Act, which was passed with full cross-party support. The UK model has now been adopted by nine other countries. In July 2017, our Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment formally recommended that New Zealand should adopt the UK model too.

TAILORED FOR NEW ZEALAND

The Zero Carbon Act has two features tailored for New Zealand's circumstances:

The Firewall Principle:

Targets in the Zero Carbon Act must be met by reducing New Zealand's emissions. They cannot be met by buying international carbon credits.

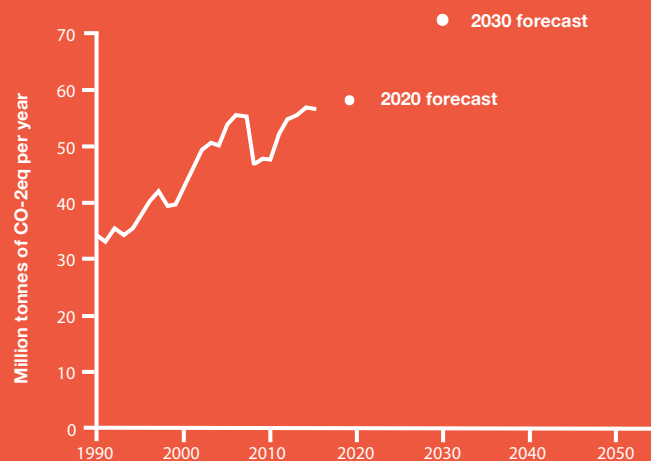
This domestic 'firewall' will ensure our own zero carbon transition stays on track.

The Two Baskets Approach:

The Zero Carbon Act will set different targets for long-lived greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide) and short-lived gases (methane).

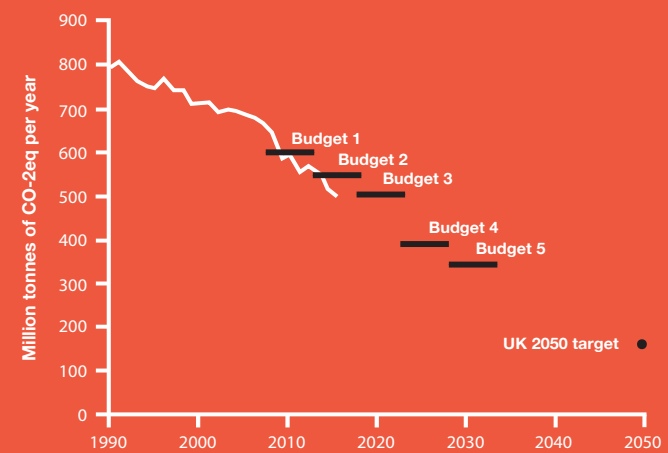
Long-lived gases must reduce to net zero by 2050 or sooner. Short-lived gases must be significantly reduced to sustainable levels but not to zero.

NZ net emissions



Adapted from *Stepping stones to Paris and beyond: Climate change, progress, and predictability* (Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, July 2017)

UK net emissions



Adapted from *Stepping stones to Paris and beyond: Climate change, progress, and predictability* (Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, July 2017)

A FEW TALKING POINTS...

What New Zealand does matters

There are over a hundred 'small emitter' countries that collectively emit around 27% of global emissions. We are also amongst the highest per capita emitters in the world.

Our size has not stopped us from being leaders in the past, such as by giving women the right to vote, and going nuclear-free. We should be joining other countries to lead the global transition to carbon-neutrality.

New Zealand's current climate laws are inadequate

We do have some existing climate laws, but these aren't working. New Zealand's emissions are forecast to continue increasing through to 2030 and beyond. We need a Zero Carbon Act to put us on the right track to a safe, thriving, carbon-neutral future.

Acting on climate change is in New Zealand's best interests

The effects of runaway climate change will damage the economy much more than taking steps to reduce emissions.

Acting on climate change will also lead to co-benefits in environmental sustainability, technological development, and public health. Furthermore, the UK has reduced its emissions by 42% since 1990, while its economy has grown by 60%.

Getting to net zero carbon is totally possible

Many studies, including by Vivid Economics and the Royal Society of New Zealand, have outlined pathways for New Zealand to transition away from carbon-intensive fossil fuels by 2050 or sooner.

What's required is political commitment, immediate action, and long-term planning. In other words, we need a Zero Carbon Act!

YOU CAN JOIN US!

Sign the petition: www.zerocarbonact.nz/signon
Sign up to volunteer: www.zerocarbonact.nz/volunteer

For more information and Zero Carbon Act resources:
www.zerocarbonact.nz

Email us at zca@generationzero.org.nz



Generation Zero

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