



The
Aotearoa
Circle

Mā te
Kaitiakitanga
ko te
Tōnuitanga
Prosperity
Through
Guardianship

Climate
Change



Climate Change

“Limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C is projected to lower the impacts on terrestrial, freshwater, and coastal ecosystems and to retain more of their services to humans.”

IPCC special report 2018

Current State

Globally, GHG emissions are causing climate instability. New Zealand's challenges are high and increasing agriculture and transport emissions; driven by population and economic growth. The Productivity Commission and PCE have released reports on the implications for transitioning to a low emissions society. The Sustainable Business Council's Climate Leaders Coalition and Generation Zero are bringing people together to take action on reducing emissions. The Government is developing a Zero Carbon Bill and reviewing the Emissions Trading Scheme, setting the foundations of our response to climate change out to 2050.



Current Trend

The effects of climate change are already being felt through changes in long-term averages and in the frequency and intensity of extreme events (such as heavy rainfall and drought). The architecture and institutions to drive New Zealand's response will emerge in 2019, with a target for 2050 and the development of carbon budgets to achieve it. Business and society are becoming more engaged with their role in addressing climate change. The difficult but necessary conversations are starting. Action is beginning and momentum is strong.



A Future Vision

New Zealand has an innovative, competitive and productive economy with low emissions and is resilient to the physical and economic impacts of climate change. New Zealand society is prepared and resilient for climactic events and our domestic and global finance flows have been transformed in support of the transition and the new low emissions,-resilient economy.

What's already happening?

- Sixty businesses representing nearly fifty percent of New Zealand's emissions have joined forces to tackle the issue of climate change. Many businesses and organisations are also building climate change risk assessments into their business planning
- Westpac commissioned EY to look at the costs of climate action, with the results showing that faster action will lead to a \$30 billion benefit
- The insurance and banking industries are beginning to factor in the implications of climate change into their decision making
- The NZ Agricultural Greenhouse Gas (GHGs) Research Centre is developing agricultural emissions reducing technologies and practices for emissions generated by agriculture
- Agribusiness leaders initiative Te Hono is setting out to transform the primary sector, and promote Aotearoa globally for its natural environment, products, and as world leaders in innovation. Other programmes like the Dairy Action for Climate Change and Farmer Leaders Coalition are also focussed on reducing emissions from on-farm activities
- Auckland Council is developing an integrated mitigation and adaptation strategy, and have issued green bonds in support of the strategy
- The Office of the Māori Climate Commissioner has been established to provide independent Māori-focused research and advice on our commitments under the Paris Agreement
- Consumers and householders are more aware of how their actions impact the climate and are increasingly demanding more sustainable alternatives across products, food and investments
- The New Zealand Climate Action Network and Generation Zero are bringing together civil society groups and young Kiwis to take action and advocate for New Zealand to respond to climate change

Key data

New Zealand is the largest emitter of nitrous oxide in the OECD (per capita)

Source: OECD

68%

of Kiwis agree that climate change is the biggest problem the world is facing today

Source: Colmar Brunton, 2018

32%

of New Zealanders are very or extremely worried about climate change

Source: Colmar Brunton, 2018

75%

of Kiwis think that combatting climate change is the responsibility of all New Zealanders

Source: Colmar Brunton, 2018

14-22cm

In the past 100 years, seas have risen around 14 to 22 centimeters in New Zealand ports

Source: Ministry for the Environment

Why act now?

- Urgent, collective action is required if New Zealand is to meet its Paris Agreement commitments and transition New Zealand to a low emissions economy
- The Productivity Commission released a report in August 2018 outlining the three key shifts they think we need to make to reach our Paris Agreement commitments and transition to a low emissions economy:
 1. Stop burning fossil fuels and switch to using electricity and other low-emission energy sources
 2. Undertake substantial levels of afforestation
 3. Make changes to the structure and methods of agricultural production
- The GLOBE NZ cross-party working group on climate change, and independent voices such as the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment have challenged New Zealand to raise the bar on climate change
- The Zero Carbon Bill and a strengthened Emissions Trading Scheme will set out the policy architecture needed to mitigate and adapt
- It offers an opportunity for us to lead the world in defining how to make a prosperous society that works in harmony with nature
- Business is recognising that the impacts of climate change will have a real impact on their ability to operate and that 'business-as-usual' is not an option for the future

Opportunities for collective action

- There are significant changes underway that will set the foundations for New Zealand's response to climate change, particularly the Zero Carbon Bill. The Aotearoa Circle will align its activities to support the goals set out in this Bill, therefore detailed work on this workstream will begin in 2019
- Work currently being developed by The Aotearoa Circle in sustainable finance, biodiversity and marine will also address climate change, enabling action to start immediately through this initiative

Key data

\$90M

The costs we face are continuing to rise. As an example, in the past 10 years, the cost of weather events to our transport network has risen from about \$20 million per year to over \$90 million per year. The 2013 drought in the North Island cost the economy around \$1.5 billion, and climate change will make droughts like this more likely

Source: Ministry for the Environment



New Zealand's gross greenhouse gas emissions have risen 19.6% since 1990.

While agriculture makes up nearly half of New Zealand's emissions, road transport has had one of the largest increases in emissions, with an 82.1 per cent increase since 1990

Source: Ministry for the Environment

These snapshots are designed to be living documents. They will be updated regularly to incorporate activities and insights that highlight progress towards the desired future state.

If you have feedback please email: info@aotearoacircle.nz