350 Aotearoa Submission - Quick submission

**1. What do you think are the most important things to be considered in the development of the emissions reduction plan?**

350 Aotearoa welcomes the opportunity to engage with the government on its Emissions Reduction Plan to meet our obligations to reduce emissions and contribute to global efforts to tackle climate change. This is a historic moment for Aotearoa as we seek to chart a course to align our actions with our targets and commitments to reduce emissions as it also presents us with an unprecedented opportunity to transform Aotearoa to be more equitable, accessible and inclusive for all.

We are in the midst of a climate crisis, the impacts of which are already affecting us in Aotearoa and around the world. This is particularly so for frontline and structurally oppressed communities who, despite contributing the least to cause climate change, are bearing the brunt of its worst impacts. New Zealand, as a developed country that has benefitted from decades of growth built on high polluting industries, must take into account its historical emissions and accept a fair share of responsibility for tackling climate change. It is imperative that we act ambitiously, and that we act now.

While the situation we are faced with is serious and urgent and should be treated as such, the widespread transformation that is necessitated in our approach to tackle climate change also presents us with an unprecedented opportunity to create a better future for everyone in Aotearoa. By centring the principles of justice and equity, we can ensure that our climate solutions not only contribute our fair share of emissions reductions but that they also actively create a fairer society in which all members of our community are supported to thrive.

We must act rapidly and ambitiously, and seize this opportunity to reduce emissions in ways that have benefits for all parts of our community.

**2. What new initiatives would you include in an emissions reduction plan for Aotearoa?**

**Emissions Pricing**

* Phase out the industrial allocation under the Emissions Trading Scheme much faster than currently planned, with all free allocation gone by 2030 at the latest. Accompany this with R&D funding and just transition planning for hard to abate sectors like steel, in line with Oxfam’s ERP submissions
* Give the Climate Commission independent powers to influence the price of emissions.
* Reform ETS through appropriate regulatory oversight, changes to free allocations and forestry, and strategic use of ETS revenue in line with a just transition.

**Agriculture**

* Price agricultural emissions in the Emissions Trading Scheme at the processor level from 2022, with far less than the planned 95% free allocation
* Phase out of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser by 2030
* Establish transition hubs in line with the recommendations of the Aotearoa Circle’s Fenwick Report and a $1 billion regenerative farming fund, in line with Greenpeace’s policy briefing
* Phase out all imported feed by no later than 2024, by immediately introducing a sinking cap on its use, in line with Greenpeace’s policy briefing
* Shift central and local government plans, policies and bylaws, and banking rules to allow subdivisions and mortgages for smaller rural land blocks by 2022, to enable small-scale agriculture and land use diversification, new housing, forestry and other local needs such as local processing and retail, in line with Greenpeace’s policy briefing

**Transport**

* Set a target to reduce VKT by 20% by 2030
* Fund pedestrian and cycling improvements at a scale similar to England’s Walking and Cycling Plan
* Bring forward the timeframes for constructing light rail in Wellington and Auckland to have them completed within this decade. Choose the most cost-effective options to free up more funding for other public transport improvements
* Provide free public transport for community service card holders, under 25s and tertiary students in line with the calls from the Aotearoa Collective for Public Transport Equity, fully funded by the central government in Budget 2022
* Bring public transport back into public ownership to improve driver pay and conditions, so that services can be easily expanded

**Energy**

* Takeover the running of Tiwai Point Aluminium Smelter in 2024 following Rio Tinto’s exit, running it at half capacity, and using the remaining electricity to help decarbonise food processing, schools, hospitals and small industry in the South Island, as called for by Jeanette Fitzsimons before her passing
* See further policy suggestions in question 3

**Buildings and infrastructure**

* Accelerate the Building for Climate Change Programme by fully adopting the recommendations of the Green Building Council to achieve zero carbon buildings by 2030, and a deep retrofit of existing housing stock, including requirements for improving accessibility of housing at the same time
* Establish a Ministry of Green Works along with accompanying significant funding to iwi, hapū and Māori entities in the tino rangatiratanga sphere, as recommended by First Union, to enable government and Māori to have the levers they need to pull to reduce emissions at the same time a tackling the housing and infrastructure crises

3. What do you see are the main opportunities and impacts of emissions reduction policies in Aotearoa?

Policy interventions are needed across the board to meet the emissions budgets, alongside policies that mitigate the effects on communities in vulnerable situations.

Action to address barriers in our energy sector.

**Powering New Zealand on homegrown clean electricity**

* Provide zero interest loans for household solar and grant funding for community energy schemes.
* Remove barriers to community energy projects and provide a “one-stop-shop” of information on how to develop community energy projects.
* Get energy production, transmission, distribution and pricing back under public control by 2025.
* Install solar panels on government buildings, schools and social housing.
* Extend finance and support for home insulation and heat pumps so that all 600,000 under-insulated homes are insulated in the next 10 years.
* Update the Building Code so that all new homes are net zero, following passive house standards.
* Build all new Kāinga Ora and KiwiBuild homes according to passive house standards, including clean energy generation, rainwater collection and greywater recycling.
* Ban the issuing of new oil and gas prospecting and exploration permits onshore in Taranaki.
* Ban the application for and issuing of permits for coal exploration, prospecting, and mining.
* Revoke all unused fossil fuel (coal, oil, gas) permits and end all fossil fuel (coal, oil, gas) permit extensions.
* Phase out fossil fuel domestic production and imports by 2030 with bans on new exploration, new production and new associated infrastructure by 2023.
* Phase out all fossil-fuel use in agriculture and other industries by 2030 with a ban on new infrastructure by 2022.

350 Aotearoa recommends this mix of policy approaches will enable a fast transition away from fossil fuel energy sources.

It is critical that all ministries apply an equity lens to policy interventions. Indigenous peoples’ management of resources is crucial to equitable emissions reduction and approaches to climate action must reflect this importance. The government can support Māori governance of taonga by:

* Advising the Government to create binding best practices that require at least co-governance of land, water and air with whānau, hapū, iwi.
* Give full effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi by initiating a process to implement the recommendations outlined by the Matike Mai report, in coordination with whānau, hapū and iwi

While disability is mentioned in the discussion paper, this does not go far enough. The government needs to expand on this with a disability-responsive position statement and work group recommendations, to ensure a just transition. Women are only mentioned in the report once; yet climate change disproportionately impacts women and people of diverse genders. It’s vital that the government takes into account research on the gender impacts of climate change and climate action, and include this into their analysis.

350 Aotearoa also echoes calls from public health advocates (OraTaiao) for a greater focus on health and health equity co-benefits.