

Introduction

SCAN (Seniors' Climate Action Network) is a Dunedin community organization of more than 50 members, formed in 2014. As the name suggests the members are senior citizens who are concerned about climate change. The group is committed to increasing awareness in the wider community of the implications of climate change on our way of life and on biodiversity, and to facilitating community action to mitigate the effects by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building community resilience.

We believe the Commission's advice to Government must emphasise the urgency required in addressing climate change, and the magnitude of the required action.

Key Messages

In order to make urgent progress on Emissions reductions NZ Government must have public 'buy-in'. **Citizens must understand the scientifically based facts** together with the personal social and emotional effects of climate change and the danger of unknown climate tipping points. It is impossible to imagine creating a new society without fundamentally changing the picture of reality that the public regularly receives.

We believe that alongside addressing the immediate drivers of rising greenhouse gas emissions the underlying problems have to be fixed. Reduction of emissions is a community and national effort and must be built on a fair and just transition, and on planetary boundaries as described in **Kate Raworth's Doughnut Economics approach**. We are pleased to note that Dunedin City Council is committed to using this approach to guide Dunedin's action on climate change. SCAN believes it is very important that human and environmental well-being, as opposed to economic growth, directs our future development. We are concerned that we must not fall back into a business as usual approach, but rather take opportunities to support a way of life that is within planetary limits.

We are acutely aware of the urgent need to act immediately, and with strong determination, to reach targets as soon as possible, following an aggressive timetable. All governments have a huge responsibility to coming generations not to work with a business as usual, GDP growth economic model, but with a well-being guided model that promotes a low carbon economy that supports biodiversity and heals our planet.

The UN says that globally, to limit temperature change to 1.5°C, new or updated NDCs (nationally determined contributions) need to cut 2030 emissions by around 55% below the initial pledges. However, if the countries that submitted NDCs to date continue to fall short of that benchmark, the countries that haven't yet submitted NDCs would have to make even deeper cuts in order to make up lost ground. In our view all countries, and especially richer economies like ours, must summon all the ambition they can muster and act much more urgently.

We urge the Commission therefore to advise Government to **'go fast and hard' and aim for net zero emissions by 2031**. We ask for a response on equal footing with a war like effort, as our Government demonstrated admirably with the pandemic. We are facing a global existential threat like we have never seen before. We must pull out all stops to prevent untold suffering and the destruction of the world as we know it. It does not mean our quality of life will be lower. On the contrary, we will have a healthy, thriving nation.

Strategies for Transition

We need strong determination to reach targets especially in the areas of energy, transport, biodiversity and agriculture as soon as possible. Here we recommend the following strategies:

Energy

- Subsidies for national and local renewable energy research and production – solar, wind, geothermal, tidal.
- Incentives and subsidies for energy conservation
- Regulations and subsidies for energy efficient buildings
- Levy on electricity transportation (25% energy is lost transporting to North Island)

Transport

Public funding for investment in emission free public transport and active transport infrastructure

- Nationwide electric public transportation network (buses, trains)
- Nationwide cycling and walking networks
- Subsidies for emission free transport
- Taxes on transport emissions, including aviation and shipping

Biodiversity

- Immediate protection of, and higher land valuation given all existing native forests, wetlands, rivers, subalpine and alpine areas
- Immediate protection of NZ's nautical miles
- Subsidies for regeneration of all public and private areas of marginal, erodible land
- Subsidies for large and small scale native tree planting
- Pest control funding
- National and international visitor levies for biodiversity conservation

Food and Agriculture

- Protection of water, waterways, lakes, rivers, streams, aquifers as Common Good
- Laws for safe upper limits of nitrogen runoff
- Immediate protection of, and higher land valuation given to all prime fertile soils
- Subsidies for transition to regenerative farming
- Subsidies and incentives for small scale local food production and markets
- Sinking cap on synthetic fertilizers – ban by 2024

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- Sinking cap on imported fed by 2024
- Prohibit further land conversion to dairy
- Set maximum dairy stocking rate limits - at least halved by 2031
- Apply ETS to the agriculture sector by 2022, with no free allocation
- Tax on food imports
- Zero green and food waste to landfill

Attached to this submission we are presenting a strategic plan with a timeline for an emissions free, resilient and thriving New Zealand by 2031, based on the Doughnut Economy approach.

Nga mihinui
Sincerely

Members of Seniors' Climate Action Network (SCAN)
Active:

Affiliated:
50 members