



PRESS RELEASE

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NELSON TASMAN CLIMATE GROUP OUTLINES PATH TO RAPIDLY LOWER EMISSIONS

NELSON Tasman Climate Forum, a large volunteer group taking action on climate change, has recommended several actions that Nelson City Council could take across all of its areas of influence to speed up emission reductions and asked the Council's Climate Change Taskforce to create an "emissions dashboard" to help people visualise and monitor progress in meeting regional targets.

Clear information about carbon dioxide emissions levels will support people to reduce emissions in a similar way that fire risk signs and water use information encourage more fire safety and water conservation behaviour.

Expanding public and active transport, reducing single occupancy of cars, prioritising buses and creating workplace and school travel plans are among the group's recommendations.

Lindsay Wood, of the Forum's emissions targets group, stressed "Nelson can't address emissions without addressing transport. We're global arch-villains in extreme private car use, and reducing cars must be a key strategy."

The group has calculated the rate at which Aotearoa New Zealand must cut emissions of long-lived greenhouse gases (i.e. excluding biogenic methane) – at least 7% each year from 2024 to 2030.

The group was addressing the question, "How fast do we need to cut emissions between now and 2030?" National carbon budgets exist to reach net zero by 2050, but no figures have been developed for annual targets.

The Climate Forum group discussed its findings with the Nelson City Council Climate Change Taskforce and the climate staff of Nelson City Council and is working to do the same with Tasman District Council.

The emissions targets group is made up of four people with science, policy and technical backgrounds. They based their calculations on data from the Intergovernmental Panel on

Climate Change (IPCC), which has shown that we need to reduce global net emissions by 43% by 2030 to have a 50% chance of remaining under 1.5 degrees of warming, a key IPCC milestone.

The Forum sees the 7% rate of reduction as the minimum the region should aim for, because a 50% probability is an unacceptably low chance of avoiding the climate change danger zone of irreversible tipping points into more rapid heating, more severe weather and faster sea level rise.

Population growth means more people producing emissions, leaving a smaller “budget” of allowable emissions for each person. Economic growth will have a similar effect.

David Ayre, one of the group working on the calculations, explained, “Global warming by these powerful forces is very dangerous. We know that, but we are very slow to change, because we have become completely dependent on the easy energy we get from fossil fuels. Fixing this needs a major change in our relationship with energy.”

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For enquiries, contact Joanna Santa Barbara, ‘phone 022 459 0650, email Joanna.santabarbara43@gmail.com

Note to editors:

Formal qualifications of the group working on this matter:

David Ayre, B.Sc. Physics (Sp. Hons.)

Lindsay Wood, MNZM, B.Arch (Hons.) ANZIA, LCA NZ

Jim Sinner, M.Sc. (Agricultural Economics)

Joanna Santa Barbara, MBBS, FRANZCP, FRCP(C), O.Ont.

The group discussed earlier versions of its findings with Climate Change Commissioner James Renwick and the Commission’s principal scientist Grant Blackwell, who endorsed the group's broad approach and methodology.