

# Kiwis in Climate Climate Election 2023 Open Letter

## **Dear political candidates of Aotearoa New Zealand,**

**We're writing to you because you have the power and knowledge to act on the climate emergency.** We are running out of time to cut emissions and transition New Zealand to a low-carbon, resilient economy. Across key sectors, New Zealand has the tools and institutions to lead the way. But without your commitment, we will not achieve our goals.

This year, all political parties hold the opportunity to present and live up to ambitious climate strategies across our major sectors (particularly Energy, Transport, Food and Agriculture, Conservation, Tourism and Health & Housing) and uphold kaitiakitanga.

**We need politicians who will listen to scientific consensus and realise the economic incentives in prioritising climate resilience and mitigation.** Politicians can use Election 2023 as a turning point to scale the transformational climate work that leading businesses, tangata whenua and community groups are already taking.

We need to align our economic system with a just transition to a resilient, net zero economy. The costs of inaction are far greater than the investments required to secure our future. Global momentum is building and if we don't act now, New Zealand risks being left behind. New Zealand can use its significant soft power, work collaboratively with our neighbours, and maintain our environmental influence.

**Political candidates of New Zealand, you hold the power and knowledge to prioritise the short- and long-term interests of New Zealanders, including future generations, and uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.** As we did with New Zealand's Zero Carbon Bill, let us continue to demonstrate cross-partisanship on climate policy and action. An equitable and just transition to a resilient, net zero economy is necessary, desirable and achievable.

## **We call for New Zealand's 2023 election to be a Climate Election.**

This means, an election that ensures long-term thinking not short-term 'politicking'. This means an election that demonstrates policies which will achieve a thriving, sustainable and

equitable economy that prioritises people and planet. Let us continue to demonstrate cross-partisanship on climate policy and action, prioritising an equitable and just transition to a resilient, net-zero economy. This is an opportunity that must not be squandered, for it defines not only our future but also our legacy.

## Kiwis in Climate

---

### Signed by members of Kiwis in Climate:

1. John Lang, [Net Zero Tracker](#) Project Lead
2. Tessa Vincent, [Race to Zero](#) Policy & Engagement Lead
3. Nick Morrison, [Go Well Consulting](#) Founding Director
4. Benjamin Bartle, [Rocky Mountain Institute](#), Climate Finance Director
5. Kate Brown, Executive Director, [Global Island Partnership](#)
6. Mitchell Anderson, [Urban Intelligence](#) Director & PhD Candidate
7. Rachel Sanson, Nelson City Councillor & Board Member
8. Georgia Wilcox, Management Consultant
9. Dr. Daniel Price, Glaciologist - University of Canterbury / Chief Scientist - Kea Aerospace
10. Wallis Greenslade, MPA Candidate- Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose
11. Dave Rouse, [Carbonclick](#) CEO
12. Dr. Jonathan Hoogerbrug - GP, Senior Harkness Fellow
13. Isabella Howie, Director of Alliances
14. Saskia Verraes, Director of Impact, [Proxima Consulting](#)
15. Fran Bailey, regenerative food & farming communications consultant
16. Dr. Luke Harrington, Senior Lecturer in Climate Change, University of Waikato
17. Amanda Ellis, Executive Director Asia-Pacific, Global Institute of Sustainability and Innovation & Co-Chair New Carbon Economy Consortium
18. Laurette Siemonek, Chief of Staff, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
19. Qiulae Anthony, Director of Programs & Aotearoa, [B Lab AANZ](#)
20. Ben Mayer, Climate Risk Manager, Accenture
21. Simon Millar, Executive Director, [Pure Advantage](#)
22. Sir Bob Harvey
23. Jaydan Salzke, [Auckland Climate Festival](#)
24. Alice Ritchie, Lead Sustainability Manager, UK food retail
25. Dr. Leo Mercer, Policy Analyst, Grantham Research Institute, London School of Economics
26. Michelle Kennedy, Founder of Six Generations & Auckland Climate Festival
27. Vincent Heeringa, business consultant and host of This Climate Business

28. Rosa Winter, Solicitor
29. Carolyn Mortland, Director & Futureful co-founder
30. Izzy Fenwick, co-founder Futureful and Fenwick Group.
31. Karl Check, Director, Foreseeable.
32. Amy Spitzer, Programme & Communications Manager, [Pure Advantage](#).
33. Nick Butcher, Co-founder and CTO, CarbonCrop
34. Simon Watt, Barrister (climate change specialist)
35. Jolyon Swinburn, public policy specialist
36. Dr Samuel McGlennon, corporate climate adviser and educator
37. Elizabeth Rine, Senior Climate Change Consultant
38. Arlo Heynes, Sustainable building specialist
39. Bryce Groves, Creative Director, Mud Hut Films
40. Tom Logan, Climate Finance
41. Jade Ansted, Sustainability Analyst and urban planner
42. Jack Brown, Climate Change Consultant
43. Josephine Cutfield, Senior Policy Advisor WWF-UK
44. Matt Gray, Climate and Energy Finance Expert
45. Amy Macdonald, Founder & Principal, Ripple Resilience
46. Suzan Craig, Founder & CEO, Tahī
47. Sophie Handford, Kāpiti Coast District Councillor and School Strike 4 Climate NZ Founder
48. Dr. David Hall, Climate Policy Director at Toha and Adjunct Lecturer, AUT
49. Chloe Van Dyke, Co-Founder Chia Sisters, Co-Founder Businesses for Climate Action
50. Adrien Taylor, Co-Founder Not Another™
51. Alison Snellen, Climate Change Consultant
52. Lucy Edwards, Statutory Planner
53. Tom White, RMI, Manager
54. Chris Morey, PhD candidate, University of Waikato
55. Kyoko Locussol, Senior Experience Designer
56. Dr Hercules Konstantopoulos, astrophysicist and energy technologist
57. Dr Christina Hood, Compass Climate
58. Frankie McKeefry, Director - [Près Strategy](#)
59. Ben Naylor, Analytics Manager, Accenture
60. Suzan Craig, Founder, CEO, Tahī
61. Chris Spence, International Climate Change Consultant
62. Carlos Chambers, CEO, CarbonInvoice
63. Nathalie Whitaker, Co-Founder, Toha
64. Tasman Gillies, Programme Director, Takiwā and Toha
65. Scott Jacobs, Director, [The Bridge](#)
66. Emily Mabin Sutton, Co-Founder, [Climate Club](#)
67. Brian Johnston, Chief Impact Officer @ [Cogo](#)
68. James Hughes, Climate change and resilience specialist

69. Lydia Hascott, Economic systems change specialist
70. Joel Benjamin, Communications Manager, Carbon Tracker Initiative
71. Lee Stewart, CEO, [ESG Strategy](#)
72. Melanie Hutton, Head of Resilience, Emergency Management specialist
73. Dr Damon Lynch, Postdoctoral Researcher
74. Cameron Hawkins, Head of Energy and Environment
75. Lance Wiggs, Venture Capitalist, 2040 Ventures
76. Terry Goodall - community environment project leader
77. Ali Goodall- as above
78. Tim McCreanor, social scientist, Massey University
79. Julie Andrews, Community volunteer
80. Christopher Hawkins, Student, University of Otago
81. Sophie McInnes, Selwyn district councillor, postgrad student, mum
82. Kristin Gillies, Director, [For Purpose](#)
83. Joanne Winquist Menon, Engagement Consultant
84. Stefan Rüegg, Co-Founder, [Proxima Consulting](#)
85. Bruce Gilkison, Zero Carbon Nelson Tasman
86. Sam Hewlett, Engineer, TRT

### Other signatories:

1. Ian Wroe, CEO, Sustainable Strategy Ltd
2. Amanda Howe Future Talent Manager, Comms Council
3. Adam Grant, IoT Engineer, WayBeyond
4. Justin Connolly, Director, Deliberate
5. Allison Rokke, Mother of 2 children who will still be alive in 2100
6. Matt Halliday, Lecturer, AUT
7. Harriet Callard, Sustainability Advisor
8. Jenny Sahng, Co-Founder, [Climate Club](#)
9. Dhanya Herath, Co-Founder, [Climate Club](#)
10. Shanae Trumper, Environmental Management student at University of Otago
11. Ewan Briggs, Carbon Impact Specialist, [Cogo](#)
12. Lewis Foster, Carbon Measurement Specialist, The Lever Room
13. Jane Bornholdt, Acting Head of Customer Success and Implementation, [Cogo](#)
14. Tania Rowland, Chief Reinvention Officer, Divergent Consulting
15. Joanne Fair, Co-Founder FutureWork Studio
16. Mitchell Diggs, Concerned Generation
17. Kate Gunthorp, Director, ESG Advisory, Banking
18. Cathy Breed, Writer [Climate Club](#)
19. Mark Christensen, lawyer and director, Natural Resources Law Limited
20. Ben Preston, consultant and business owner
21. Alexia Coulombe-Leveque, PhD candidate in clinical health sciences

22. David Bryant, Professor of Mathematical Modelling, University of Otago
  23. Caitlyn Prince, A Concerned 24-year-old
  24. George Lamb, mechanical engineer
  25. Dr Jevon Wright, Stormcloak Games
  26. Stacey Wilson, mother & Chartered Accountant
  27. Tyler Watson, Mathematics Teacher, Rangī Ruru Girls' School
  28. Alex Drummond, Client Delivery Director, [Cogo](#)
  29. Poppy Barran, Sustainability & Climate Change Advisor
  30. Karen Swainson, Operations Manager, Mindful Money
  31. Carolynn Gubb, Community & Social Impact Manager
  32. Tom Hadley, Doctor of Clinical Psychology Student, Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa
  33. Robert Sutherland, Low Carbon Specialist
  34. Tom Brown, Forestry Student, University of Canterbury
  35. Peta Joyce, Sociologist, grandmother
  36. Sarah Naidu, Senior Communication Advisor
  37. Heidi O'Callahan, Engineer and Climate Advocate, All Aboard Aotearoa
  38. Lucy Ruck, Ebike Evangelist, Electric Bike Team
  39. Annie Hill: 68 years old and would like the rest of the animals on the planet to continue to enjoy it.
  40. Prudence Vincent, retired GP Trustee Puffin Charitable Trust
  41. Clare Travaglia, parent of 2 children
  42. Charlotte Catmur, Sustainability and Climate Change Manager
  43. Cheryl Reynolds, Climate Change Partnerships Lead
- 



## Appendix

---

### Climate policies to consider across key sectors going forward, include:

*Note: These have been written by our Kiwis in Climate community but there are more policies and actions that can be taken. We welcome the elected New Zealand government and future politicians to engage directly with our Kiwis in Climate community, alongside leading climate business and NGO initiatives to build off existing ideas and initiatives, and align our economy with a just, resilient transition to net zero.*

#### ENERGY

- Transform New Zealand's energy system to renewables, including electrifying our transport system.
- Remove any incentives for coal, oil and gas e.g., subsidies and be a world leader on this front.
- No new oil and gas permits, and continue acting on 100% renewable electricity by 2030 target, including increased investment through [EECA](#).

#### TRANSPORT

- Provide funding for fast, frequent, affordable and reliable all-day public transport in all our towns and cities.
- Support a long-term revival of intercity passenger rail, and bus, across main corridors.
- Extend clean car discount to bikes and ramp up investment of infrastructure for active mode transport.
- Consider non renewable powered transport levies.
- Introduce policies to deliver dense, mixed use and walkable urban environments.

#### BUSINESS

- Align policy and regulation to support businesses and financial institutions to adopt net zero targets, issue transition plans and disclose progress in order to halve emissions by 2030 (since 2020).

#### FOOD

- Introduce National Food Strategy by 2024 (see this [petition](#)).
- Boost Research and Development e.g., [Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures Fund](#).
- Increase programmes, investment and campaigns on sustainable and healthy diets.

#### AGRICULTURE

- Introduce policies that support regenerative agriculture e.g., a farm payment scheme.

- Hold firm on the 2025 deadline for the levy on agricultural emissions proposed by He Waka Eke Noa and commit to ratcheting up ambition by 2030.
- Scale the current sustainable and productive land use package in our highest risk catchments.

## **CONSERVATION**

- Increase protection of marine protected areas to at least 30% by 2030.
- Introduce policies on land-use that protect and restore our native forests, and biodiversity outcomes.
- Establish high integrity markets to leverage private finance for nature.
- Extend the 'Jobs for Nature' programme.

## **TOURISM**

- Execute the Tourism Industry Transformation Plan

## **HEALTH & HOUSING**

- Introduce a net zero health system by 2040 by including a net zero commitment into Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act (following WHO advice to “advance models of low-carbon healthcare”).
  - Amend the Building Code to introduce an upper limit for allowable indoor temperatures in early childcare and centres and aged care facilities.
  - Completely align the Building Code to a resilient, net zero transition.
  - Introduce healthy and sustainable housing standards e.g., [NZGBC's call](#).
- 

