

Working People Need a Just Transition



Working people around the world are being affected by climate change now, in their homes, their jobs and their communities. Not everyone will be affected by climate change equally. It is working people and the least well-off who will feel the brunt of climate change, here in Aotearoa, the Pacific, and around the world.

A ZERO CARBON ACT FOR A JUST TRANSITION

The New Zealand Government is consulting now on a Zero Carbon Act to establish a Climate Commission and set targets for net-zero emissions by 2050. This will mean a radical overhaul of our economy. We need to make sure that this transition is fair for working people - a Just Transition.

A JUST TRANSITION MEANS REAL ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

For the sake of working people's lives and livelihoods, we need action now to reduce all Greenhouse Gas emissions to net-zero by 2050.

This means the Climate Commission needs to set budgets for maximum emissions well in advance, at least 15 years ahead, and create solid plans for renewable industries with good jobs.

It means the Climate Commission mapping the impact of transition on all industries.

It means putting the voice of working people at the heart of the Commission.

It means making sure that our low-carbon future provides decent incomes for everyone.

It means a fair transition plan and social support for the people whose costs will rise with the move to a low-carbon economy, and the people whose jobs will inevitably be lost.

TAKE ACTION NOW

We need people with strong connections to working communities, Māori and Pasifika, and people with industry and workforce planning experience to be at the table. Unions are the voice of working people, and union members need to have their say to the Climate Commission.

ATTEND A MEETING AND MAKE A SUBMISSION

See the schedule of meetings and make a plan with other union members and colleagues to attend, find out how the Zero Carbon Act will affect your community, and have your say here: ourclimateyoursay.nz

A JUST TRANSITION FOR NEW ZEALAND

Get ready for your local meeting and get informed by reading up on Just Transition here: union.org.nz/justtransition

We need your voice for a Just Transition

Climate change is a working people's issue. Right now, the Government is asking the public what they want out of zero-carbon legislation - the laws that will move our country to a sustainable future. The Council of Trade Unions wants a Just Transition that is fair to working people and protects us from the worst effects of climate change. We want it to be easy for you to have your say. Complete these questions and we will send your answers to the Climate Commission, to help them make good law.

1) How important do you think it is that working people, and their unions as representatives, are a central part of the transition to a sustainable economy?

Important Not Important

2) The Government talks briefly about the impact on working people, costs, income and jobs in this round of consultation. How important do you think it is that these ideas and impacts are specifically included in the law that sets out how we will make the transition?

Important Not Important

3) Do you support government actively kickstarting sustainable industries that have good jobs alongside limiting damaging emissions, through things like the Provincial Growth Fund?

Yes, it's a central part of the process, we need a plan to create new jobs.

No, just leave it for the market to decide, the jobs will sort themselves out.

Don't know.

4) Do you think that any government support for renewable industries should come hand-in-hand with some minimum guarantees of the kind of employment they will offer (for example, wages, hours of work, health and safety and training)?

Important Not Important

5) What support do you think should be available to people working in 'sunset' industries which will be impacted by the climate change plan? Tick all that apply.

Forums and workshops to understand the change.

Redeployment schemes which directly transition workers into new roles in similar industries.

Supported industry training/retraining, while still in current job.

Relocation payments if necessary to take up new work.

Dedicated income support or supported early retirement options in the case of job loss.

A 'Just Transitions' unit that provides wrap-around services and advice.

Other.

6) The Government wants to know whether we should include all harmful greenhouse gases in our climate plan to reach zero emissions. Another option is looser rules, or leaving out some gasses like methane and nitrogen which are mainly from farming. Do you think this is fair?

It's not fair, climate change is happening now. If your business is causing climate change, the impact should be taken into account, whether it's by a car or a cow.

Leave agriculture out of it and limit the amount of gases mostly produced by people's transport like daily commutes.

Don't know.

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Industry:

This law is going to go through a parliamentary process where we will have another chance to have our say. Would you be willing to write something that talks about how you, your family or community might be impacted by climate change?

Yes No, that's enough for me.