

Climate change is expected to pose significant hazards to New Zealand as a small island nation. As we move into the 21st century, changes in our climate are likely to lead to more intense rain and wind events during storms, and more frequent serious droughts as well as general changes in temperature and rainfall patterns.

The Emissions Trading Scheme

The Emissions Trading Scheme is the cornerstone of a responsible and balanced plan to tackle climate change. Over time, the scheme will encompass every sector of the economy from forestry to farming. This is sensible because it avoids distortions within the economy and shares responsibility for emissions fairly.

Labour will ensure the speedy and effective implementation of the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme.

Transport

Investment in public transport has surged 15-fold in this decade. The buy-back of our railway system and the establishment of KiwiRail present a real opportunity to build a sustainable nationwide transport network.

Our ambition to be among the leading countries to widely deploy electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids marks the beginnings of a new era of energy independence and low emissions in transport.

Labour will plan for the introduction of a nationwide infrastructure to recharge electric vehicles.

Energy Efficiency

Labour is prioritising the insulation of state houses so that the remaining homes without insulation are retrofitted within 5 years.

Labour is prepared to bring forward the current spending programme on home retrofitting, upgrading the State Housing stock, and planned development on Housing New Zealand land, as part of the economic stimulus package to be presented to Parliament in December.

Labour will bring forward access to the \$1 billion home energy efficiency fund so that schemes for retrofitting older houses can be expanded in those areas where unemployment is emerging.

Labour will provide support for the installation of 15,000 - 20,000 additional **solar water heating** systems by 2010.

Assistance to Households

Labour will deliver to all households in 2010 a **one-off electricity rebate** to assist with power bills, with those receiving benefits, superannuation and Working for Families tax credits also receiving a **targeted one-off cash payment**.

Economic Transition

Labour will develop practical policies to assist New Zealanders in the move to a more sustainable, less fossil fuel-dependent economy.

Labour will support **world leading research** into new agricultural solutions, in particular through New Zealand: Fast Forward.

Labour will encourage research on, and experimentation with, a range of **alternative technologies and farming practices**, including low intensity farming.

Labour is providing for a **free allocation of emission units** for the fishing sector, to ease the sector's entry into the Emissions Trading Scheme.

Labour will **encourage landowners to plant forests** to act as carbon sinks, and provide incentives and information on suitable trees to plant.

Labour has established a **contestable innovation fund** of 150,000 emission units a year, under the Emissions Trading Scheme.

Assisting Local Communities

Labour will carry out a plan of action for **sustainable land management and climate change** in partnership with land management sectors, Maori, and local government.

Labour will ensure that local authorities are provided with reliable and up-to-date information so they can properly **take into account climate change risks** in their infrastructure and planning decisions.

International Opportunities

Labour will work to ensure that New Zealand can **export our expertise** in renewable energy technologies.

Labour will work with the private sector to maximise the brand value of our environmental credentials in both **tourism and agricultural exports**.