

[Environment and Conservation Organizations of Aotearoa New Zealand](#) published the following:

Climate Change: Car import standards to be introduced

The Government is to introduce a range of measures to reduce the carbon footprint of the vehicle fleet. The announcement was made just prior to the release of the Climate Commission report but the measures are consistent with the direction of that report in reducing greenhouse emissions.

The Government intends to introduce legislation to establish a Clean Car Import Standard. The standard is designed to stop New Zealand becoming a dumping ground for vehicles with high carbon emissions per km travelled. The standard is proposed to begin in 2022, with a target in 2025 of 105 grams of CO₂/km being phased in through annual targets that get progressively lower to give importers time to adjust. This standard is about 4.6 litres per 100km for petrol engines. The Government proposed standard is not overly onerous as it was met by Japan in 2014 and Europe in 2020.

The Government's [Right Cars website](#) has information on the emissions profiles of different vehicles. According to this information the 2025 target is about the rate of the 2021 Suzuki Swift and is met by Toyota Corolla. The 2021 model RAV4 SUV is only 5 percent above the standard. All electric vehicles will meet this standard.

The Minister of Transport, Michael Wood said the Import Standard will prevent up to 3 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions by 2040 and mean more climate-friendly cars are available. The Government said this should produce average lifetime fuel savings of nearly \$7000 per vehicle. The Minister said the government was also considering options for an "incentive scheme to help Kiwis make the switch to clean cars". Further announcements are likely in the coming months.

In the last government moves by Green Ministers to propose a "feebate" scheme was vetoed by New Zealand First. How any incentive system supports low income vehicle buyers must be a key aspect of any scheme to rapidly expand the electric vehicle fleet. Other measures include more at-home charging and wider public charging.

The government plans to only purchase zero emissions public transport buses from 2025, and gave a \$50 million commitment to help councils fully decarbonise the public transport bus fleet by 2035. The target to decarbonise the bus fleet would prevent up to 4.5 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions. The government has also agreed in principle to mandate a lower-emitting biofuel blend across the transport sector. Minister of Transport said over time this will prevent hundreds of thousands of tonnes of emissions from cars, trucks, trains, ships and planes. The Government intends to consult on a biofuels requirement later in 2021.