



ZWN Cheat sheet

- Revised 6 March 2021

New date for submissions to close is 28 March 2021 (been extended by 2 weeks)

One big thing

Reduce Waste to Reduce Emissions

Waste and emissions are intrinsically connected. This is because all of our stuff contains both materials and embodied energy, so acting to reduce one will also reduce the other.

Two main types of waste related activities that can reduce emissions:

1. Reduction: don't make it in the first place
2. Slow it down: reuse, closed loop recycling, composting

The Six big issues

1. Do you agree that the emissions budgets we have proposed would put Aotearoa on course to meet the 2050 emissions targets?

Disagree

To meet the 2050 emissions targets, the Commission should expand its advice to consider all waste streams, and build consumption-based measurements into its analysis.

The Commission's waste advice focuses on reducing methane emissions from organics that end up in landfills. However, long-lived GHG emissions are also generated from the extraction, production, transport and consumption of packaging and goods, which is intrinsic to our current, unsustainable 'take-make-throw' linear economy.

2. Do you agree we have struck a fair balance between requiring the current generation to take action, and leaving future generations to do more work to meet the 2050 target and beyond?

Disagree

No specific waste statement in the list adapt some to create a para

3. Do you agree the changes we have suggested are compatible with the 1.5 degreeC goal?

Disagree

No specific waste statement in the list adapt some to create a para

4. Do you agree with our approach to meet the 2050 target that prioritises growing new native forests to provide a long term store of carbon?

Agree

5. What are the most urgent policy interventions needed to help meet our emissions budgets?

The Climate Change Commission should make the following recommendations.

Advise that products that cannot be effectively reused, repaired, recycled or composted should be designed out of the economy

Multiple, urgent policy interventions are required. These should be determined by referring to the waste hierarchy and the perspective of local communities. Aotearoa can make a just transition from a throwaway culture to a low waste, low carbon circular economy by strengthening and resourcing local communities to produce locally grown kai and locally made goods, and to develop innovative, brave new solutions to prevent and reduce waste. Achieving this requires comprehensive education programmes and a balance of multiple, urgent policy interventions. The waste hierarchy, which prioritises prevention, reduction and reuse, can be used as a climate lens that highlights what these urgent policy interventions are.

Provide more detail on the interventions needed to reduce organic waste to landfill

The Commission should provide more detail on the interventions needed to reduce organic waste to landfill. For example, mandating separate collection of organics (first emissions budget) and ban organic waste from landfill (second emissions budget) to halve food waste at source by 2030 (in line with the NZ Food Waste Champions 12.3 goal), and divert more organic waste to local and regional composting. The Commission should also recognise the preference for local communities to build soil and sequester carbon through decentralised local composting systems, rather than centralised anaerobic digestion.

Recommend binding reduction targets for all waste streams

The advice should recommend binding reduction targets for all waste streams. When we reduce waste, we reduce emissions - policy interventions are needed to reduce waste across the board. The Commission's advice focuses on methane generated by organics in landfill. Government needs to set binding waste reduction targets in the Waste Strategy and the Waste Minimisation Act for all waste streams, organic and inorganic. This includes single use plastics and packaging, e-waste, textile, and construction and demolition waste.

Recommend waste levy revenue is invested in community-scale solutions at the top of the waste hierarchy

Invest waste levy revenue in community-scale solutions at the top of the waste hierarchy: Waste Levy revenue must be invested in systems and infrastructure that support local communities to work at the top of the waste hierarchy to prevent and reduce waste in the first place and grow the reuse economy. To ensure a just transition, the Government needs to invest in local, community-scale solutions and SME innovators who are driving change.

Advise that measuring and increasing circularity in our economy is urgent

Measuring and increasing circularity in our economy is urgent: accounting for the emissions reduction potential of a circular economy requires a greater role for the consumption-based approach to calculating emissions. Consumption-based emissions data follows the lifecycle of products and materials, exposing both embodied emissions generated offshore and the upstream emissions cost of short lived consumer goods.

Advise the government to strengthen its approach to product stewardship to ensure materials are kept in circulation and product lifespans are extended

The government's approach to product stewardship must be strengthened to ensure schemes create reuse, repair and resource recovery systems that keep materials in circulation and extend product lifespans. Products that cannot be effectively reused, repaired, recycled or composted should be designed out of the economy. Targeting single use disposable products and right to repair should be prioritised.

6. Do you think our proposed emissions budgets and path to 2035 are both ambitious and achievable considering the potential for future behaviour and technology changes in the next 15 years?

Disagree

The Commission's advice on waste takes us in the right direction but the recommendations need to be more specific, holistic, and ambitious, recognising that our current system is broken. Waste is a product of a system that does not recognise our interconnectedness with other species nor the natural systems of Papatūānuku.

The Commission's advice must harness the power of reduction and reuse strategies to reduce our emissions. The Commission's organic waste reduction targets can aim much higher than

23% by 2030. The Commission should also recommend that the Waste Strategy and the Waste Minimisation Act set binding reduction targets for all waste streams, whether organic or inorganic.