

A BETTER CLIMATE DEAL:

Leave Paris, if Paris won't change

Paris needs to change, or we need to leave

The Paris Agreement demands targets that are disconnected from science and blind to New Zealand's realities. Net zero targets for carbon dioxide and aggressive methane reduction goals have been set without regard for their economic or social consequences.

This approach is doing real harm in New Zealand. It's forcing farmers off the land, threatening rural communities, and shifting production overseas to countries with much higher emissions. That's not climate action – it's economic sabotage.

ACT believes New Zealand should remain engaged with the international community, but only on terms that make sense for us. That means pushing for fundamental reform of the Paris framework.

If these reforms cannot be achieved, New Zealand should be prepared to walk away. We should not continue down a path that undermines our economy for no environmental gain.

No emissions pricing for agriculture

ACT will continue to oppose emissions pricing for agriculture. Our farmers are among the most emissions-efficient in the world. Taxing them for being good at what they do makes no sense, especially when that production would simply move offshore to less efficient countries.

This isn't climate policy, it's a food tax. It raises prices for consumers, forces farmers off the land, and achieves nothing for global emissions.

Every dollar must deliver

Too many climate policies in New Zealand impose big costs with little benefit. From local council regulations to costly climate disclosure rules, we've seen a growing wave of red tape justified in the name of the environment, but delivering no real reductions in emissions.

For example, Labour's zero-emissions bus mandate for councils has placed immense financial costs on local authorities. For example, the Waikato Regional Council faces a projected \$330 million cost to comply. This mandate will push up rates but will be environmentally ineffective given that transport is already in the Emissions Trading Scheme.

ACT believes climate spending must pass the same test as any other public policy: does it work, and is it worth the cost? If the answer is no, we won't support it.

Revisiting New Zealand's Emissions Reduction Plans

ACT opposed Labour's Emissions Reduction Plans because they were driven by ideology, not evidence. These plans rely on unrealistic assumptions and impose growing costs on households and businesses. They require a continual ratcheting down of allowable emissions, without regard for cost or feasibility.

ACT will revisit the Emissions Reduction Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions with a view to setting more realistic, affordable targets. These targets will reflect scientific realities such as the split-gas approach, safeguard our productive economy, and deliver genuine climate outcomes.

ACT alone

Our record shows that we are the only party offering a clear, principled alternative that protects New Zealand's economy while taking climate change seriously.

Our plan supports rural communities, defends households and manufacturers, and ensures every climate dollar works as hard as the people who earn it. It's time for climate policy that makes sense – for the environment, for the economy, and for New Zealanders.

Our record

ACT's record proves we can be trusted to support sensible climate policy when it matters.

We've stood on principle, even when it's not popular. ACT was the only party to vote against the Labour-NZ First-Green Zero Carbon Act which implements the Paris Agreement domestically. Every other party supported the bill.

We've consistently opposed disastrous mandates, like the Labour-NZ First-Green oil and gas ban, corporate welfare like the New Zealand Green Investment Finance, and nonsensical regulations like the Clean Car Discount and the Clean Vehicle Standard.

As ACT has consistently pointed out, most of these policies waste taxpayer money without improving the environment because they meddle in industries that are already covered by the Emissions Trading Scheme.

We've also put forward our own ideas, like tying New Zealand's emissions cap to that of our trading partners so businesses don't pay more to reduce their emissions than overseas competitors and to combat carbon leakage, where economic activity moves to countries with lower carbon prices.



Authorised by
David Seymour MP,
Parliament Buildings,
Wellington.