

Business Policy

The Green Party will deepen business relationships with communities, encourage innovation, and regulate business to prevent both environmental and social harm. It will do this by reforming regulatory agencies, requiring accessibility, supporting the Māori economy, supporting new business models, promoting local business, co-investing in skills, and increasing access to academic research and local institutions of learning.

Vision

Our businesses are locally celebrated, nationally valued, and internationally renowned for their economically successful, environmentally sustainable, and socially responsible practices.

Values and Principles

Policy decisions relating to business must be consistent with the following values and principles:

- *Honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi*: Te Tiriti o Waitangi and He Whakaputanga should actively shape the practices of all businesses operating in Aotearoa New Zealand, including their products, their practices, and their use of resources.
- *Ecological Wisdom*: Environmental sustainability is integral to business success and economic stability. Short-term profit must not be prioritised over long-term environmental health. Businesses and investors must prioritise accessible, regenerative, and circular activity across all sectors.
- *Social Responsibility*: Businesses should be active participants in positively shaping and supporting society. Businesses create value beyond profit and must focus on stakeholders beyond shareholders.
- *Appropriate Decision-Making*: Staff and business owners flourish in a collaborative, safe, accessible, and respectful environment.
- *Non-Violence*: Businesses should protect the wellbeing of their employees, customers, and supply-chain, and prevent harm to affected communities and ecosystems.
- *Fair Competition*: Local businesses should be protected from threats from unfair economic activity, including overseas activity.
- *Collaboration*: Businesses are vital in tackling complex challenges but cannot do it alone. Working with others, including other businesses within a competitive environment, can help address them.
- *Innovation*: Businesses should actively develop accessible, efficient, and sustainable practices and technologies. Businesses should be adaptable and build resilience to a changing business environment.

- *Shared Benefits:* The benefits derived from resource use should not be concentrated, but shared across society.
- *Responsibility for Harm:* Businesses are responsible for fairly compensating for any harm they cause or resources they use.

Strategic Priorities

The Green Party's strategic goals include:

"Aotearoa will be in transition, creating green work and broad prosperity while moving Aotearoa away from carbon-dependent, extractive, and resource-intensive industries."

"All people will be empowered to shape the systems that affect them through community engagement enabled by good evidence, co-design, and adequate resourcing."

Actions in this policy that will help achieve this include:

- Reforming market structures in industries that are consistently dominated by a few large firms, making excessive profits, overcharging consumers, exploiting workers, or having adverse social and environmental impacts. (1.1.2)
- Regulating businesses operating in Aotearoa New Zealand to be socially and environmentally responsible throughout the lifecycle of their operations, including the whole supply chain, repair and resource recovery, and remediations after close of business. (2.1)
- Regulating and penalising marketing practices that misrepresent a company's social, ethical, environmental, or economic commitments and practices. (2.4.1)
- Implementing strategies to connect specific industries with educational institutions, technologies, and international expertise. (3.1.3)
- Supporting relationships between Māori businesses and non-Māori businesses as suppliers and partners. (4.1.2)

Connected Policies

The Government makes many decisions in other policy areas that affect businesses. See, for example, our [Government in the Economy](#), [Workforce](#), [Trade and Foreign Investment](#), and [Research, Science, and Technology](#) Policies.

Policy Positions

1. Market dominance

Issues

Markets are increasingly dominated by just a few large firms, at home and overseas.

Actions

- 1.1. Regulate markets to enable wide-ranging and full participation of local businesses and social enterprises, including by:
 - 1.1.1. Increasing the resources and powers of regulatory agencies to investigate anti-competitive practices and take actions to address them; and
 - 1.1.2. Reforming market structures in industries that are consistently dominated by a few large firms, making excessive profits, overcharging consumers, exploiting workers, or having adverse social and environmental impacts.
- 1.2. Enable local businesses to better support wider community vitality and resilience, including by:
 - 1.2.1. Prioritising locally owned, community-focused businesses in contract design, procurement, and other relevant governance practices;
 - 1.2.2. Providing microfinancing and entrepreneurship and small business training, targeted to marginalised groups; and
 - 1.2.3. Changing commercial law to remove barriers to alternative business models, such as kaupapa Māori and social enterprises.

2. Environmental and social damage

Issues

Environmental and social damage occurs because businesses neither recognise nor respond to these costs. Businesses seeking to minimise their environmental and/or social impacts may incur higher costs than competitors (including overseas competitors) in a deregulated system.

Actions

- 2.1. Regulate businesses operating in Aotearoa New Zealand to be socially and environmentally responsible throughout the lifecycle of their operations, including the whole supply chain, repair and resource recovery, and remediations after close of business.
- 2.2. Incentivise socially and environmentally responsible business practices, including by:
 - 2.2.1. Establishing financial charges, such as levies and penalties, for specific harmful business practices;
 - 2.2.2. Requiring contracted or publicly funded service providers to provide high-quality, accessible services, including making accessibility part of procurement requirements;
 - 2.2.3. Restricting the advertising and marketing of products and activities that are strongly linked to broad social and/or environmental risks; and
 - 2.2.4. Phasing in full externality pricing across all industries.
- 2.3. Support businesses to transition to socially and environmentally responsible practices, including by:
 - 2.3.1. Establishing sustainable business advisory services; and

- 2.3.2. Supporting and encouraging businesses to share innovative systems and new technologies whenever appropriate.
- 2.4. Ensure business reporting on social and environmental impacts is transparent and accurate, including by:
 - 2.4.1. Regulating and penalising marketing practices that misrepresent a company's social, environmental, ethical or economic commitments and practices.

3. Low productivity

Issues

Many Aotearoa New Zealand businesses struggle to raise their labour and capital productivity.

Actions

- 3.1. Stimulate productivity-enhancing innovations and relevant capacity of local businesses, including by:
 - 3.1.1. Shifting partnerships between the government and businesses, and between businesses, to ensure that market practices support achievement of collective goals;
 - 3.1.2. Facilitating shared and cooperative ownership of business resources that support productivity; and
 - 3.1.3. Implementing strategies to connect specific industries with educational institutions, technologies, and international expertise.

4. Equity for Kaupapa Māori business

Issues

Lack of *ōritetanga* | equity is a living remnant of historical injustices that leave Māori businesses systematically disadvantaged, facing barriers like limited capital, systemic bias, and inadequate access to resources needed to start or grow a business.

Actions

- 4.1. Enable Māori resources to be distributed and regulated by Māori, including by:
 - 4.1.1. Enhancing legal protections of Māori resources, including intellectual property and plant variety rights; and
 - 4.1.2. Supporting relationships between Māori businesses and non-Māori businesses as suppliers and partners.