

Sustainable Dunedin City Inc. was established over 8 years ago after a public meeting in the Museum's Hutton Theatre. The theatre was packed with people interested in the issues of: 1) climate change; 2) declining energy security; and 3) sustainability, as they affect Dunedin City.

Of the many activities carried out by Sustainable Dunedin City – submissions, student education programmes, public talks, the Big Green Challenge, and its fortnightly newsletter – the single biggest event organised to date was a Resilience Summit in 2011. This was a day long event with approximately 100 people – people involved business, education, iwi, local government, community groups, health services, and more.

Future scenarios were discussed - climate change and transport, food supply, sea-level rise, energy price rises, downside of reliance on coal, ideas for creating self-sufficient communities.

Actions to reduce carbon emissions and means of adaptation to climate change were documented under the headings of:

- Climate Change Impacts & Sea-Level Rise
- South Dunedin
- Wider community
- Energy and the Economy
- Transport to and within Dunedin
- Resilience in Food Supply
- Transition to low levels of consumerism & waste
- Need for community participation

The actions identified remain applicable, and increasingly so.

The MfE discussion document starts with statement that *Climate change is a truly global problem and all countries need to contribute to reducing emissions.*

The third objective states that NZ's contribution *must guide New Zealand over long term in global transition to a low emissions world.*

But where does NZ focus on transiting to a low emissions world, **now** and in the long term?

Some guidance is given in the document, yet doubt about the level of our commitment is seeded by:

- raising uncertainty about technologies to assist in reducing emissions levels, and
- the costs to households by reducing emission levels.

Of many important unanswered questions, we raise three.

1. The document states that our key policy tool for reducing emissions is the NZ Emissions Trading Scheme. What has NZ achieved with in reducing emissions with the ETS to date? What are the implications for continuing with the ETS in a global market?
2. How do we redress our diminishing forestry carbon sink
3. What is the basis of determining costs to society both in terms of:
  - Costs and risks of not acting, and
  - Costs and risks and opportunities of acting to achieve a low carbon NZ.

John Cocks  
Co-chair  
Sustainable Dunedin City

Other points noted during the meeting.

Other key risks

- health impacts
- ocean acidification impacts – on our fishing industry for example, on biodiversity, on ocean ecology
- diminishing overseas marketing security
- global conflicts.

Need public engagement at an emotional level

In contrast to other movements involving others (eg Save Manapouri, Anti-Apartheid), reducing emissions will affect each of us and dramatically so.

What personal action can we take to reduce emissions – a guide.

We need government leadership.

Zero emissions by 2050. Reduction targets need to be set on a year by year basis

Think of / invest in our younger generations and their future.

A national forum on Climate Change and Zero carbon is needed.

A umbrella organisation to coordinate the many environmental groups petitioning for a low carbon NZ..

Need climate change awareness promoted through our education system.

Focus groups in Auckland have having success in influencing change to the housing market.