

Process Heat in NZ. Submission.

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Submission:

Change to our fossil fuel burning practices is of critical importance. Like me, many New Zealanders are dismayed at the miserable speed of change towards using sustainable energy sources. This is a matter for all NZers to address- whether through industry or through the everyday use of fossil fuel burning vehicles. I do not support the past practise (and legislation) that excused some industries. We are all in this together, and good legislation has the ability to be a uniting thing rather than divisive. Industries which drag the chain on this one and plead economic ruin if they have to move to sustainable energy sources are a burden on me and the state, and should be considered uneconomical - which they are- if they cannot change-.

1. Fossil fuels are cheap relative to many other fuels- i.e. if the cost of dealing with their pollution is ignored. There must be a sufficient carbon charge to pressure businesses to change to sustainable energy sources. There must be charges which pressure polluting businesses to look at product change, or face going out of business on the grounds that they are unsustainable. If Fonterra e.g. can't be profitable using sustainable fuels, it must either change the product of its business or go out of business. The carbon charge at its best would then become an incentive charge towards innovative business development.
2. There should be no further investment in fossil fuel plant allowed. Full stop!!!
All new and replacement process heat plant must use renewable energy sources.
A phase out date for fossil fuel powered process plant should be set.
Government plants should lead the way.
3. Fossil fuels must be replaced by renewable energy power. Natural gas must be considered a fossil fuel rather than an alternative to it.
4. Transport is probably outside the scope of these submissions, but should also be considered urgently.
5. Greater publicity should be given to innovative companies and local bodies which are making changes. Some councils are doing great work,

and dairy companies like Synlait have established strict requirements of themselves and their suppliers. We need to create an aura of change, where people see that moving to renewable energy sources is possible, it is necessary, and a lot of good is happening. A sense of “Join the sea of change!” (even if it is a gentle ebb at the moment!!)

R. Neil Sutherland.