



Press Release  
The Sustainable Energy Forum Inc  
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## **Sustainable Energy Forum: Petrol Price Rises Just the Beginning**

Recent petrol price rises are just the beginning of a turbulent new era, according to the Sustainable Energy Forum (SEF). SEF Convenor Tim Jones says "We don't know which way the price of fuel will go tomorrow or the next day, but we do know that the overall trend is up."

"There's a whole lot of reasons for this, but the basic reason is that world oil demand has outstripped the world's capacity to produce more oil. That leads to price rises, and in the future, it's going to lead to shortages."

"Oil producing countries are now recognising that oil is more valuable to them if it's left in the ground. King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia recently [announced](#) that the Saudis would leave some new oil discoveries in the ground to be exploited by future generations, and Kuwait is taking a similar stance," Mr Jones said.

"Opinions differ on how much oil is left to be discovered, in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere. But as oil exporting nations use more oil within their borders, and as they seek to maximise their oil income over time, there's less available for the outside world - and that means us."

"That's why SEF is urging political parties to rethink their policies on transport, oil and climate change in the lead-up to the 2008 General Election. SEF has released a paper called 'Transport, Oil and Climate Change: Agenda 2008' which calls on politicians to abandon plans for massive spending on roads and focus instead on public transport, promoting walking and cycling, and moving people out of fossil-fuel powered cars and into more efficient and environmentally friendly alternatives. The paper is available at [http://www.sef.org.nz/papers/political\\_parties\\_brf\\_2008.pdf](http://www.sef.org.nz/papers/political_parties_brf_2008.pdf)."

"The current world fuel crisis shows that oil prices affect everything, not just transport. So we're also calling on whoever forms the next Government to initiate an urgent review of where New Zealand stands as we enter the new era of oil prices that go beyond anything we've experienced before. The world is changing radically, and business as usual is no longer an option," Tim Jones concluded.

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