

**The Sustainable Energy Forum Inc.**

The Sustainable Energy Forum Inc  
PO Box 11-152  
Wellington 6142  
Email: [office@sef.org.nz](mailto:office@sef.org.nz)

Contact for this submission: Ian Shearer  
Phone: 021 184 8915

Date 16 July 2019

**To: Committee Secretariat  
Environmental Committee**  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

Via email: [zerocarbon@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:zerocarbon@parliament.govt.nz)

**Submission on the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon)  
Amendment Bill**

This submission is from The Sustainable Energy Forum Inc.

If the opportunity arises, we wish to speak to support this submission.

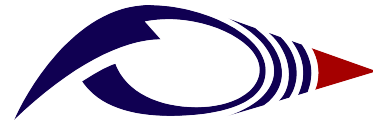
The Sustainable Energy Forum is an Incorporated Society with approximately 100 members that support the adoption of sustainable energy systems, practices and technologies within New Zealand.

SEF and our members are active in educating, assisting and adopting mechanisms that will increase the efficient use of sustainable energy sources and particularly where they will help reduce our society's contributions to climate change.

**Introduction**

The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill ("ZCB") is a great start toward assisting the citizens of New Zealand to start reducing emissions.

- SEF agrees that the proposed goal must be to align New Zealand's climate policies with the internationally agreed target of limiting global warming to a maximum of 1.5°C.
- The Bill must ensure that New Zealand's carbon emissions start falling rapidly. Actions are required so that by 2030 emissions have fallen sufficiently to meet the projected requirements of the recent IPCC report (Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C, October 2018).
- We note that the Interim Climate Change Committee (ICCC) has only just released its report today. The draft report viewed the last 2% of renewable



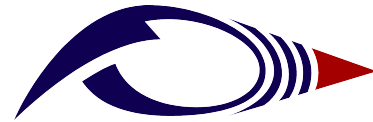
## The Sustainable Energy Forum Inc.

electricity as not worth pursuing. This confused its mandate to provide recommendations on how to achieve 100% renewable electricity with the electrical industry views on how best to achieve net zero carbon emissions. We want the Committee to release the reports in a more timely manner.

- SEF supports the following targets in this Bill:
  - The separate treatment of methane and CO<sub>2</sub>.
  - CO<sub>2</sub> emissions must reach a net zero level by or before 2050.
  - The initial interim target for CO<sub>2</sub> must be a 50% reduction on 2017 levels by 2030.
  - Mechanisms must ensure major reductions in agriculturally-related emissions such as methane and nitrous oxide.
  - The 2050 methane target must be consistent with the 1.5°C target.
  - Emissions of other minor greenhouse gases should be addressed in accordance with the principles of pollution control under the RMA.
  - The Act and any promulgated mechanisms should be legally enforceable.
  - Allow targets to be revised, but only if there is a strong case for this action.
  - Ensure a rapid reduction and stop trade-exposed free or reduced price emissions.
  
- SEF supports the establishment of the Climate Change Commission (CCC)
  - The CCC should be reconstituted as soon as possible and new members appointed to ensure the committee is not biased by the electricity industry.
  - The CCC should establish five-yearly carbon budgets.
  - The CCC must recommend or mandate mechanisms that take regard of the recommendations of the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports. These reports are accepted as the most authoritative climate science available to us.
  - Ensure that “energy efficiency first” is prioritised in the promotion of measures, with a strong focus on eradicating fuel poverty, and reducing domestic energy bills.
  - Improving energy efficiency is by far the cheapest way of cutting our emissions and must be a key plank of any credible strategy to deliver net zero by 2050.
  - There are clear economic, health and societal benefits from improving energy efficiency and reducing cold, damp, leaky homes.
  - Significantly improve the building energy efficiency standards.

Other aspects supported by SEF:

- Actions and mechanisms must increase local and global equity, support climate justice, and particularly support intergenerational equity.
  
- Timeframes in the Bill which require government to make policy plans to meet future budgets should be improved. The Bill should include strict time frames for the government to prepare and publish policy plans, at least 5 years before each budget period begins.



## **The Sustainable Energy Forum Inc.**

- All government bodies must be bound by the Act and be required to take strong actions to help meet targets and budgets.
- The Act must override or change the current provisions in the RMA and EEZ legislation. Climate change impacts must be considered in all resource consent applications.
- The Climate Change Commission should be independent from government so that it provides independent advice and has powers to hold the government to account. The Commission should report to Parliament, not the Minister.
- The government should be responsible for preparing the National Climate Risk Assessment rather than the Climate Commission. The government has the resources to work with councils, to coordinate data across government and agencies, and to take on the public relations and legal risk of informing citizens.
- Restrict forestry offsets by having a gross emissions target, or a forestry offset cap, to reduce the risk of too much reliance on trees. Planting permanent native forests must be a priority. Native species should be used for riparian planting in waterways, creating a permanent sink, while improving biodiversity and native habitat.
- Prohibit the use of international credits to promote long-term certainty and accountability. We need to drive domestic action and innovation from local communities and businesses, and paying other countries will not help our shift to a sustainable economy.
- SEF supports the shift to include international aviation and shipping in emission control initiatives.

## **Regards**

**Ian Shearer**  
**Office Manager**