



# one point zero

Mankind's Greatest Challenge: A Good Life within our ONE Planet's Means

## **NZ: The 'Climate Change' *Activist Nation***

Punching Way Above its Weight.

**'Zero Carbon'** blinding the path to that *Urgent Global Imperative*

Today 'The World' is 70% in Biocapacity deficit! 1970 was the last time the world was in biocapacity balance, and even with all the 'good work' and promises, going on around the world, this deficit continues to grow every day. From the recent, 2018 BP World Energy report: "Primary energy consumption growth averaged 2.2% in 2017, up from 1.2% last year and the fastest since 2013. Carbon emissions from energy consumption also increased by 1.6%.

Trump has long taken USA out of IPCC, and China in its race to topple the USA is now fully engaged with a heavy footprint, growth competition. The average per capita demand for Biocapacity by the world's nations developed nations is more than three times that needed to eliminate our deficit, yet these numbers are also not trending the right way.

## **The Three Priority Climate Change Problems**

1. **'The Ultimate Goal'** is unclear at the global level, and as a result the devolution of 'Clear and Congruent Accountability down to the nation level is void.
2. Neither the **Magnitude** nor the **Urgency** of the Global Change required is reflected in the Visions, Strategies, Plans nor Actions of the Nations of The World.
3. The **Collective International Cohesion** falls far short of what is imperative for 'The Global solution, of this Global Problem'.

In pursuing a Zero Carbon agenda, NZ is continuing to enable point 1. above. As pointed out in other **One Point Zero** submissions, NZ's '**Zero Carbon**' proposal and national agenda, fall far short on point 2.

In its choice of '**Zero Carbon**' it could be argued that this move could potentially assist with point 3, however given the USA and China positions above, a Zero Carbon pursuit is at best destined to place NZ in a small group of Nations who in pursuing the wrong Goal would miss the critical performance attributes needed to play an effective, 'Activist Nation' role.

### **A New Breed of 'Activist Nations'**

This chronic situation described above, desperately needs a new breed of effective, 'Activist Nations', who can 'confront' the nations of the world to collectively address the three critical issues above.

Being part of an *effective* activism force, that urgently enables this shift to happen, is the greatest contribution any nation (or group of Nations) can make to resolution of the 'Climate Change' challenge. This in the context of NZ, way beyond any individual 'Emission reduction' or Biocapacity demand reducing contribution. Further, given the counter productive roles of the two biggest players, it is vital that Activist Nations can punch way above their fighting weight.

Surely the number one criteria in being able to step up to the enormous challenge of the role above, is that a nation should be 'Exemplary' in 'Walking the Talk' with regard specifically to points 1, 2 above?

New Zealand with about 0.02% of the world's population, 'owns' some 0.04 % of the world's Biocapacity, and when it comes to demand for biocapacity, NZ makes up about 0.20% of the total Global Biocapacity demand. All very small numbers, however, in these numbers, is a hard reality that NZ cannot claim 'Exemplary' performance, neither 'Fair' performance, nor a basis for 'Moral Indemnity': NZ demands 10 times its population share, and 5 times its share of its contribution to the global Biocapacity, total.

With its Carbon focus, as '**The Ultimate Goal**' for the nation (in a Climate Change context) it is very likely that little impact will be made in the significant change required in these figures for NZ to pass the test of 'Exemplary' Performance.

Maybe the Government's Climate Change team is caught in the 'confusion of goal', referred to in the quote below:

*"At an IPCC level, when it comes to actual environmental strategies and policies, are decision-makers asking the right questions to lead us towards this goal? Over the last decades, the global sustainable development debate has been unfocused. Definitions abound, and long agendas are drawn up in international forums that lack specificity and consistency with the reality of planetary limits. This lack of clarity is surprising, since the much earlier 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm ran under the theme 'Only one Earth'"*

NZ has a proud 'activism reputation for 'punching above its weight' in 'driving' change on various global issues. This chronic, **Global Biocapacity Deficit** crisis is without doubt the most challenging yet, and given NZ's 'accomplice status' outlined above, and risk to the nation's welfare, an activist role is supremely challenging.

### **'Walk the Talk' Activism: A Strategy too Risky for NZ?**

In the questioning conclusions above maybe the government has another strategy that will enable NZ to punch above its fighting weight, and in that context, I offer below some thoughts on potential 'Activist Nation' strategies?

- Forming a Coalition with 'Similar Biocapacity Balance Sheet', Nations, maybe even moving to 'The OPEC' for 'Biocapacity Management'.
- Forming trading / economic alliances with similar balance sheet nations so as to be more collectively economically self-reliant and thereby increase collective 'sanctions and embargo' power over 'non-conforming' nations.
- Lobbying for a more effective (replacement) body for the global UN / IPCC structure. One that has power closer to Executive Power over nations. Similar to The Carbon Committee, 'almost executive' responsibility option being proposed.
- Increasingly looking to tax nations on their lack of progress
- NZ becoming less dependent on imports from non-complying, high biocapacity per capita demand nations, so NZ has the option to cut off supply.

## Conclusion

The 'Activist Nation' tenet is 'THE single biggest' contribution NZ can make to solving 'Climate Change'.

*A Transformation Agenda* is its necessary foundation.

NZ needs to choose a new 2050 'Ultimate Goal' and design a Transformational strategy that can deliver that Goal.

This will simultaneously get NZ's 'own 'Footprint' in order, while building a robust, world class Nation, for the 2050 world it would have helped shape.

AND

In the process, be able to play the vital 'Activist Nation' role above.

'Carbon Zero', Fails in its ability to deliver this Outcome.

**Howard Fairbank**

[www.one-point-zero.com](http://www.one-point-zero.com)

Tel.: UK: +44-777-1357-199 NZ +64-212090486

skype:howard.fairbank

**Without Nature We are Nothing..!**

  
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