



one point zero

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

'Zero Carbon': A Flawed Basis of Accounting

Fix the Flaws and Lead the World.

It should be noted that the author of this submission is totally opposed to the '**Zero Carbon**' approach, and the reasons for this stance are presented in other submissions.

Should the Government still choose to adopt the '**Zero Carbon**' approach in some form, this submission makes public, the serious concerns regarding inherent accounting flaws in '**Zero Carbon**' Accounting. (Flaws that should preclude it from being appropriate for NZ's 2050 stated, Climate Change purpose.)

The Government is no doubt fully aware of the reasons behind its chosen basis of accounting for carbon, in its '**Zero Carbon**' Bill. In the void of knowing these specifics, this submission assumes the chosen basis for accounting is the UNFCCC, 'Territorial' / 'Production', basis of accounting?

Given the original intent the UNFCCC, and its 'narrow' 'Emission Only' accounting', it serious flaws when trying to link it at a nation accountability level, in the context of a '**The Real Problem**': The chronic **Global Biocapacity Deficit**, crisis of today.

The Flaws

Some of the more critical flaws of the UNFCCC systems use for NZ's purpose are:

1. The 'Territorial' or 'Production' (vs Consumption), basis of nation accounting.
2. The exclusion of all Imported inputs, and their embedded footprints.
3. The exclusion of foreign based emissions, that are linked to a nation's residents overseas living emissions while 'off Territory'.
4. The exclusion of all / most International air and sea transport emissions.
5. The inclusion of the emission footprint of foreign tourists to NZ's NZ based emission footprint under NZ's national footprint.

The new Government are to be congratulated on seeking to find a consistent, robust, and defensible long-term metric and associated targets, appropriate for the long haul: *The unfolding Climate Change journey 'through to 2050'.*

As 'we' all know: This journey, in its intensity, has hardly begun!

Selecting this 2050 framework, goals, and basis of accounting, must be done in the context of the envisaged / likely future, international Climate Change arena.

The huge, and possibly traumatic, changes many nations will required to make, will make for a global environment of degenerating co-operativity, and declining openness and integrity. This, amongst many, if not most national players.

The ever-rising stakes and the temptation to seek strategies that can deflect emission responsibility, will increase exponentially. This means often with the end of attaining 'optically noble' results, that are designed to maximise perception of performance, while minimising national disruption, and by accomplice lack authentic account. This increasingly 'hostile' environment will demand a robust, and 'best for purpose' accounting system.

It is a well know management wisdom: “When managing a scarce resource, accountability should ultimately rest with the consumer and their decision to consume the scarce resource, not the producer. “

The 'Territorial', basis of account goes against this wisdom, and in doing so 'frees' the consumer from responsibility for their consumption decisions on imported products and services. The Leakage issues in points 1 to 5 above also circumvent this management wisdom.

With more than a 70% reduction in 'Consumption' related biocapacity demands being required, the pressure on, 'understanding and managing' who consumes What, Where and How, will increase exponentially toward 2050 and beyond.

If this doesn't happen, it is almost a certainty, that the world will won't make the serious changes, 'Climate Change' demands.

Accounting and Systems of the Future

The world needs to prepare and proactively embrace an ever-tightening accountability net. In seemingly a dichotomy, this is the route to greatest empowerment, for nations right through to individual consumers. This, because of our 'yet to be accepted', eternal Nature based, 'Biocapacity Constraint'.

Ultimately emissions are all linked to humans, not territories, cities, infrastructure, or goods and services. Emissions only result from the plans, decisions, and actions, emanating from people, individuals. Ultimately if the chronic Biocapacity Deficit crisis is going to be solved, the ultimate responsibility for individual humans' emission-based actions will have to lie with the nation where the consuming entity is resident.

While emission accounting and management is currently managed way above the individual level, it should be envisaged that in this pursuit of the level of emission reduction required globally, accountability will have to be progressively moved down to both empower and manage the individual at the point of decision.

In this regard, Governments will be increasing needing to be able to account collectively and individually for the emission footprints of their nation's residents. A situation not to dissimilar to the very effective modus operandi of nations within Antarctica.

This will require high integrity, emission footprint accounting systems, that have minimal leakage, and correctly allocate emission responsibility. The UNFCCC basis is not that by any close measure.

Finally, the basis of Nation account, and the extent that accountability is pushed down to the emission decision point, will be key in the speed and ability to 'hit' the increasingly challenging targets that will be required.

Correctly accounting for Biocapacity and then managing these accounts, will invoke the single most pervasive technology enabler for change. This is still to come, but NZ, with its new Government's 'legacy opportunity' to get things right for 2050, should be proactive in seeking this goal.

Conclusion

Clearly in setting a 'far off' 2050 goal and desiring of a consistent basis of metric through the long journey, it is vital to start 'The Mission', with the right 'Basis of Accounting', inferred above.

Today's FPCCC was not designed for this vision nor the unfolding environment and requirements laid out above, and together with all the reasons above is unsuitable for the longer term, noble purpose, NZ intends.

NZ's Carbon emission, Basis of Accounting, should be designed for NZ's purpose above, and any UN reporting requirement basis should be of secondary importance.

Furthermore, beyond these flaws, '**Zero Carbon**' and its associated, UNFCCC Basis of Accounting, is a flawed 'packaged agenda' for NZ if the nation desires to step up to an almost obligatory global, Climate Change contribution:

*To lead the nations of the world to the '**Metric**' and '**Basis of Accounting**' that best enables the most urgent solution of the chronic, **Global Biocapacity Deficit**, humanity crisis of today.*

'Zero Carbon' is NOT the 'Metric' for 2050 'Success'
UNFCCC is NOT the 'Basis of Accounting' for 2050 'Success'.

Post Scriptum

Transparency and Marketing Deception

In the context of the government soliciting agreement and buy in to a 'Zero Carbon' Goal, **One Point Zero** feels strongly that the NZ public should be made fully aware of the FPCCC Basis of Accounting for Carbon Emissions and the 'virtual' flaws and leakages for its intended use, laid out in points 1-5 higher up in this submission.

One Point Zero believes that failing to do so amounts to misleading the public into perceiving that 'Zero Carbon' goal is a Pure, Noble and Moral Ideal, when it falls long short.

Lastly, in aspiring for and achieving a 'Zero Carbon' goal in the falsities of points 1-5 above, **One Point Zero** believes strongly that this should necessarily exclude NZ from using 'Zero Carbon' as a NZ brand / marketing ploy.

Climate Change / Sustainability is a serious issue. NZ is a high integrity, morally responsible nation, and devious, self-serving, perception building, that only fits with other, low integrity nations, and is one of the very traits that has put The World in this Sustainability dilemma. The world needs the highest levels of **Moral Courage**, and **High Integrity** leadership, **NOW!**

Howard Fairbank

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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