



Working in partnership for a thriving New Zealand

PRIORITIES FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT

July 2020

**Sustainable
Business Council** 

 wbcSD Global Network Partner

1. Climate action

SBC will work in partnership with the Climate Change Commission and Government to shape carbon budgets, the shared plan, and policies to fast-track progress to transition New Zealand to a zero-carbon economy leading out on the ambition set out in the Zero Carbon Act.

Climate action
is SBC members' top priority¹.

46% of New Zealanders
want to see government leadership on climate change. Of that, 76% say environmental policies influence how they vote².

57% of businesses
say climate change is impacting their business³.

New Zealand's commitment to the Paris Agreement and transition to a zero-carbon economy require urgent action and enablers across industry sectors. This includes transport, industrial heat, electricity, agriculture, forestry, housing, infrastructure, and waste - all underpinned by the finance sector.

Leading businesses have transition plans underway. They need to be able to invest in low emission technologies and fuels now, which would be encouraged by incentives until such technologies reach price parity. Factors outside of business control will also heavily impact their ability to transition at speed. This includes opportunities for onsite energy generation, and how close New Zealand will be to having 100% renewable energy supply by 2030.



SBC is facilitating a collaboration between TOLL, New Zealand Post, Swire Shipping, Countdown, The Warehouse, Fonterra, TIL Logistics, Ports of Auckland and Lyttelton Port Company to develop a low emissions solutions pathway for the heavy transport sector. This project will demonstrate how the sector can deliver net zero emissions by 2050 and a 50% reduction by 2030.

Key actions for Government:

- Provide policy clarity and certainty to enable businesses to make the investment and innovation decisions needed to transition to carbon zero;
- Work with business to develop and implement a series of projects, policies, partnerships and R&D for the short and long-term, including:
 - facilitating access to low emissions technologies, fuels and lower emissions energy supply;
 - developing transport and energy priority roadmaps for the next decade, both supply and demand side;
 - prioritising actions that attract cross-party support by building off the bipartisanship of the Zero Carbon Act; and
 - investing in sustainable, future-focused projects that leverage positive climate outcomes in the Covid-19 economic recovery.

¹ Member engagement for SBC's new five-year strategy, June 2020

² Colmar Brunton Better Futures Report, 2020

³ Deloitte-Chapman Tripp Election Survey, 2020

2. Backing business to be leaders in sustainability

In partnership with Government, SBC will support, inspire and champion businesses to be at the leading-edge of economic, social and environmental sustainability. We will build ambition for more businesses to take action.

65% of businesses

say customer expectations are why sustainability is important for their business⁴.

More than 33%

of sustainability professionals say their organisation has had a sustainability focus for more than 10 years, with the majority using sustainability to transform their business⁵.

76% of sustainability professionals

are in New Zealand owned organisations⁶.

Research and real-world results show that businesses that integrate sustainability thinking at their core perform significantly better than those that do not.

Embedding sustainability is good for business and good for the economy, with lower cost of capital, improved reputation, improved performance, and positively influencing share market value.



A Sustainability Leadership Programme participant from Auckland Transport said that the programme was helpful to learn about tools for collaborating on complex sustainability issues, and to network with others facing similar challenges. "Sustainability is a leadership function and we are operating in a very complex environment, and collaboration is key to advancing sustainability at the urgency that is required."

2020 participants from the public sector include NZ Post, Otago Polytechnic, Auckland Council, Plant and Food Research and the Reserve Bank of New Zealand.

Key actions for Government:

- Develop a strategic approach to Government procurement that takes into account the total lifetime cost of goods and services, including their environmental and social value (Government procurement spend \$42 billion);
- Collaborate with business to identify opportunities, barriers and support needed to scale-up investment and capability in sustainable business solutions; and
- Mobilise action on New Zealand's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals to grow New Zealand's reputation as leading out on sustainability, and to inform New Zealand's progress report to the United Nations by 2030.

⁴ Deloitte-Chapman Tripp Election Survey, 2020

⁵ Insights on Sustainability Professionals Report 2020

⁶ Insights on Sustainability Professionals Report 2020

3. A future that works for everyone

SBC will work in partnership with Government to enable businesses to support the wellbeing of their employees and positively impact their communities and society.

72% of youth

say it's important their future employer is socially and environmentally responsible⁷.

Successful businesses are supported by thriving people. Businesses that focus on the wellbeing and development of their people boost productivity and help to build resilient families and communities.

The principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi are integral to this, as is business fostering diversity and inclusion and ensuring no one is left behind.

Key actions for Government:

- Invest in learning and opportunities for skills development at all levels to ensure New Zealanders are equipped to thrive in New Zealand's rapidly changing workforce;
- Ensure that the skills system is responsive to, and anchored in, the needs of business and learners;
- Build strong foundations to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes for all young people;
- Increase digital skills to equip business and employees to engage with new technologies; and
- Enable businesses to embrace diversity, inclusivity and equality.



The SBC Future of Work innovation programme, using a rapid co-design process and working with ATEED, has generated a micro-credential currently in use by Sanford to boost financial literacy with less-qualified workers. It is part of the wider Auckland Pacific Skills Shift initiative which has secured MBIE funding to scale-up more widely.



⁷ Colmar Brunton Better Futures Report, 2020

Our priorities

We have before us a brief window of opportunity to address both the economic crisis resulting from Covid-19, and the looming climate crisis. This will take courage, vision, and tenacity.

This brief outlines our members' three priorities to work in partnership with Government to achieve this.

We need bold leadership from Government and business to unlock opportunities and tackle challenges at their root causes, to create new and innovative solutions.

About us

The Sustainable Business Council (SBC) is a CEO-led membership organisation with over 100 businesses from all sectors, ambitious for a sustainable New Zealand. SBC connects member businesses, partners, and sectors to create impact to go further, faster. SBC is New Zealand's global network partner to the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

Our members represent
\$87 billion of collective turnover,
28% of GDP , and nearly
160,000 full-time jobs.

What we do

SBC connects member businesses, partners, and sectors to create impact that no single business could achieve alone. We work with executives and sustainability professionals to maximise their positive impact for shareholders, communities and the environment. We hold our members to account by asking them to fulfil member commitments. These will be reviewed to reflect this new five-year strategy.

We deliver impact by championing our members to be at the leading-edge of sustainability and in doing so inspire other businesses to take action. On behalf of our members, we also work to create an enabling environment for positive action by collaborating with government and other key partners.



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Members



Associate members

