

Vote for the Environment Survey 2008

Political Party: Progressive Party

Contact Person:

Phone:

Email

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1: Please indicate whether you support the policies below with a yes or no. Space is provided for comments, if required.

Note: For each of the policies below, please indicate yes/no. Space is provided for comments.		
WILL YOUR PARTY...?		
POLICY	Y/N	COMMENT
<i>Goal 1: Tackle climate change by reducing GHG emissions by 30% on 1990 levels by 2020</i>		
Bring all sectors and gases into the emissions trading scheme by January 2011	Yes	Agriculture in 2013.
Ban all new large scale thermal electricity generation	No	Thermal capacity is needed as stand-by generation.
Spend \$4 billion over five years to 2013 on public and active transport, including rail	Yes	In fact substantially more is already committed.
Ban new coal mines and fully protect the upper Waimangaroa Valley including Happy Valley	No.	
Retain the \$1 billion energy efficiency and conservation fund	Yes.	

<i>Goal 2: Clean up all New Zealand streams and rivers by 2020</i>		
Introduce a significant charge on nitrogenous fertilisers by 2010 to reduce water pollution	No.	The ETS will introduce a carbon charge in 2013 if new technology exists by then.
Implement a National Policy Statement by 2010 to clean up New Zealand's rivers, lakes and small waterways and reverse the decline of our freshwater biodiversity by 2020	Yes	Already being done.
Implement a moratorium on new water takes for irrigation, including Central Plains Water, until environmental flows are set	No.	Moratoriums create worse problems.
Protect all wild and scenic rivers from hydroelectric development by 2011 including the Mohikini River	No.	Hydro is renewable.
Establish national environmental standards by 2010 to clean up all freshwater to swimmable water standard by 2020 and drinking water and food collecting standard by 2030	Yes*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • * As soon as practical. • We support the aspiration but the time line suggested by the question appears impractical – that is, we would support this if it was possible, but our advice is that it is simply not achievable. Therefore we support establishing these standards <i>as soon as possible</i>. This means some rivers could be achieved earlier.
<i>Goal 3: Reform oceans management by 2010 to preserve and protect the marine environment</i>		
Create a new oceans agency by January 2011 charged with implementing New Zealand's international obligation to preserve and protect the EEZ and continental shelf	Yes	
Reform the Fisheries Act by January 2010 to better protect the marine	Yes	The Progressive Party holds the Fisheries portfolio and this is our top priority within it.

environment and maintain healthy fisheries.		
Adopt measures by 2010 to reduce bycatch of seabirds, marine mammals and other fish to near zero levels.	Yes.	Already being done.
Protect 10% of each of New Zealand's marine ecological types in marine reserves by 2010 and at least 30% by 2020.	No.	
Implement Population Management Plans to recover New Zealand sea lion and Hector's and Maui's dolphin populations.	Yes.	Progressive Party is already doing this within the Fisheries portfolio.
<i>Goal 4: Save New Zealand's natural heritage</i>		
Double regular pest control on public conservation estate by 2011 including the marine environment	Yes	As fiscal conditions permit.
Keep DOC as a core Government department doing integrated conservation management, including coastal and marine conservation and increase baseline funding by at least \$100 million per annum	Yes.	As fiscal conditions permit.
Maintain DoC's conservation advocacy function and ensure that hunting groups do not get control over public conservation land	Yes.	
Increase funding for DOC and community group advocacy under the	Yes.	

Resource Management Act and other environmental decision making		
Implement a National Policy Statement by 2011 that protects indigenous biodiversity.	Yes.	This is already provided for in the ETS.
<i>Goal 5: Show leadership for the Environment</i>		
Commit to 30% emission reductions by 2020 at the international climate change negotiations and encourage all other developed countries to do the same		In the absence of technology breakthroughs this goal is not feasible and cannot be credibly promised by anyone. We support heavy investment in science to achieve the necessary emissions-limiting technology. We championed the \$700 million Fast Forward fund – the largest ever investment in science in New Zealand’s history, to increase research into sustainable production in the primary sector.
Ban the import of products from illegally logged forests by January 2010	Yes	Progressives hold the Forestry portfolio and we are strongly championing this aspiration. The main issue is the difficulty of identifying products made from illegally logged sources. The government, with our strong urging, is developing new measures to identify illegally sourced wood.
Require MFE to lead the development of a Sustainable Development Strategy for New Zealand and to monitor performance through a ‘Genuine Progress Indicator’, environmental indicators and regular reporting	Yes.	
Keep GE in the lab	Yes	We support <i>contained</i> GE experiments – no commercial release.
Promote the protection of the Ross Sea as an Antarctic Specially Protected Area	Yes.	

