

## Vote for the Environment Survey 2008

**Political Party: United Future**

**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.		
<b>WILL YOUR PARTY...?</b>		
<b>POLICY</b>	<b>Y/N</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>
<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	N	The current time-table is acceptable to us, although the current ETS does not meet our criteria of having support of both major parties, thus giving long-term certainty to the industries affected, or including a compensation package for \$40 per week it will cost NZ households already facing financial hardship.
Ban all new large scale thermal electricity generation	N	To make sure of security of supply while NZs electricity network is still vulnerable requires clean coal technology to remain on the table. However UnitedFuture wishes to use renewable options as the primary means for increasing electricity production including wind, solar and hydro.
Spend \$4 billion over five years to 2013 on public and active transport, including rail	N	While we support the continued upgrade of public transport services it is critical that the strategic roading networks in Auckland and Wellington are completed.
Ban new coal mines and fully protect the upper Waimangaroa Valley including	N	UnitedFuture supports phasing out coal and replacing with renewable production over the medium to long-term. We are confident

Happy Valley		
Retain the \$1 billion energy efficiency and conservation fund	Y	
<b><i>Goal 2: Clean up all New Zealand streams and rivers by 2020</i></b>		
Introduce a significant charge on nitrogenous fertilisers by 2010 to reduce water pollution	Y	...And require farmers to plant trees along waterways to limit nitrogen runoff and improve water quality
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	Y	United <b>Future</b> , through our Confidence and Supply Agreement with the Labour Government had water quality added to the Sustainable Water Programme of Action undertaken through MFE.
Implement a moratorium on new water takes for irrigation, including Central Plains Water, until environmental flows are set	Y	However a recreational amenity flow is a more sustainable position than an ecological flow as it leaves more water in the rivers rather than simply maintaining the minimum level possible
Protect all wild and scenic rivers from hydroelectric development by 2011 including the Mohikinui River		United <b>Future</b> does support the growth of hydro-electric generation if it is necessary; however this policy is tempered by recreational and environmental considerations. We will support the development of further hydro schemes only as long as they do not have an adverse affect on the environment and recreational opportunities within that specific river. Our first priority, however, is to develop alternative forms of renewable energy, and increase energy conservation initiatives.
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	Y	Water quality is one of the most important environmental issues facing NZ. There are measures that can be undertaken by farmers to mitigate their environmental footprint including; greater use of nitrification inhibitors, the planting of riparian strips to prevent nitrogen runoff and the imposition of a mandatory best practice standard for water quality.
<b><i>Goal 3: Reform oceans management by 2010 to preserve and protect the marine environment</i></b>		

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	Y	
Reform the Fisheries Act by January 2010 to better protect the marine environment and maintain healthy fisheries.	Y	Our overriding aim is to have the rights of recreational users and harvesters enshrined in law. For this reason we are pushing for a review of Section 21 of the Fisheries Act to guarantee that the Minister of Fisheries has to set recreational user's share of the relevant QMS (Quota Management System) before setting the commercial sector's quota.
Adopt measures by 2010 to reduce bycatch of seabirds, marine mammals and other fish to near zero levels.	Y	This has to be done in consultation with the commercial and recreational fishing industries to come up with practical solutions that will guarantee compliance.
Protect 10% of each of New Zealand's marine ecological types in marine reserves by 2010 and at least 30% by 2020.	N	Seek to abandon the percentage approach to marine reserves and other protected areas as it is too arbitrary and is not necessary or useful as a marine management tool.  Establish a graduated comprehensive system of marine protection for the entire marine environment whereby no-take marine reserves are one of several available categories of protection (the category that affords the maximum level of restrictions)
Implement Population Management Plans to recover New Zealand sea lion and Hector's and Maui's dolphin populations.	Y	
<b><i>Goal 4: Save New Zealand's natural heritage</i></b>		
Double regular pest control on public conservation estate by 2011 including the marine environment	Y	Provide additional funding for pest control measures that target the most noxious and destructive pests, e.g. possums, rats, and mustelids etc once thorough consultation has taken place with relevant local community and recreational groups.  Although we are supportive of most current pest control methods, UnitedFuture is opposed to the <u>aerial application</u> of 1080 unless it is proven beyond reasonable doubt that the terrain

		in the treatment area is such that it would be impossible to carry out a successful ground baiting operation.
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	Y	Although we would remove DoC from the marine reserve application process  Amend the Conservation Act to ensure that the interests of all conservation estate stakeholders are taken properly into account when decisions are made (including the “national interest”) to improve the Department’s accountability by preventing it from no longer being both law maker and law enforcer
Maintain DoC’s conservation advocacy function and ensure that hunting groups do not get control over public conservation land	Y/N	What do you mean ‘hunting groups get control over public conservation land’? Anyway, UnitedFuture will: Restructure the Department of Conservation into at least two semi-autonomous divisions - one division responsible for the “conservation” aspects such as scientific research, pest control, and native plant and animal stewardship; the other division responsible for the “recreation” aspects such as land and waterway access, track and hut maintenance, game management, and tourism.  Establish transparent Department of Conservation public application and decision-making procedures for making decisions regarding use of the conservation estate
Increase funding for DOC and community group advocacy under the Resource Management Act and other environmental decision making	Y	Establish a ‘Friends of the Court’ system for Environment Court hearings. A ‘friend of the court’ provides independent and objective advice to assist the court in making a decision. This makes it easier for community groups and NGOs, relieving them of the cost of court proceedings and having to employ expert consultants. We do not believe DoC falls into this category however.
Implement a National Policy Statement by 2011 that protects indigenous biodiversity.	Y	However, we do not want such a statement to further downgrade the status of valued introduced species such as deer, chamois and tahr, which provide an important recreational, food and tourism function for many communities.
<i>Goal 5: Show leadership for the Environment</i>		
Commit to 30% emission reductions by 2020 at the international climate change	Y	The IPCC target is a reasonable, yet challenging goal that we should aspire to.

negotiations and encourage all other developed countries to do the same		
Ban the import of products from illegally logged forests by January 2010	Y	Our policy is to ensure that NZ producers of sustainably-harvested timber products are not undercut via the “dumping” of imported timber and products that have been harvested without regard to sustainability criteria.
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	Y	UnitedFuture will further empower the Ministry for the Environment to act as the public advocate for environmental protection. We expect that agency to vigorously measure the achievement of environmental outcomes, while setting future aspirational targets in this area. It is important that the Ministry has the power to hold both private industry and other government bodies to account over such things as water pollution and habitat protection.
Keep GE in the lab	N	Proceed with caution on all aspects of genetic modification technology using the Environmental Risk Management Authority’s (ERMA) robust case-by-case assessment regime
Promote the protection of the Ross Sea as an Antarctic Specially Protected Area	Y	Absolutely.