



THE HIVE: EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

22 DECEMBER 2021

**Prepared by The Hive & Curative
for the Ministry for the Environment**

The Hive engaged with young people across Aotearoa on the emissions reduction plan in October and November 2021, on behalf of the Ministry for the Environment.

49 Total Instagram Posts, Stories & Ads	13 Instagram Feed Posts	13 Instagram Stories	23 Instagram Ads
91,128 Total Instagram Reach	16,554 Total Instagram Engagement	1,419 Total Instagram Votes, Comments and Submissions	\$233.19 Total Instagram Ad Spend

FOUR RECURRING THEMES

As well as specific submissions on the nine topics young people had told us matter most to them - transport, waste, home, energy, kai, rangatahi Māori, mahi, behaviour change, and principles - there were also four recurring themes across all kōrero:

1. Young people want more choice about the climate crisis they'll inherit.

Young people told us again and again, their climate anxiety isn't caused by climate change, it's caused by watching adults have all the choice, yet choose to do nothing. The emissions reduction plan needs to give young people decision-making power that's proportionate to the future they're inheriting.

2. Young people want less talk, and more action.

Many young people told us that government climate-change engagement no longer felt meaningful to them, and more like a delay tactic. The time for talk is over. Young people want emissions reduction action, not emissions reduction plans.

3. It's still easier for young people to choose high-emissions than low-emissions.

Young people told us they want an emissions reduction plan that uses both the carrot and the stick - creating *more* friction for high-emissions choices through bans, restrictions and taxes while also creating *less* friction for low-emissions choices through better infrastructure, legislation, and subsidies.

4. Young people want solutions designed for communities, not individuals.

Whether it's our waste systems, our transport options, or the homes we live in, young people don't want individual changes for individual citizens. They want intelligent and innovative solutions designed for their WHOLE communities, and systemic change that puts pressure on the powerful. The emissions reduction plan needs to be designed for collectives, not individuals.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC FINDINGS

Transport: 81% of young people told us they support a ban on new fossil fuel cars, and the majority want to see that ban take effect by 2025. While young people told us electric vehicles feel unaffordable today, 91% said they would drive an electric car in the future and they expect rising petrol prices will make them cheaper in the long run. 92% of young people were in favour of switching 20% of their travel to a low-emissions alternative, and said that shift should happen today. “**I want the only cars in cities to be for people who need them for access needs and deliveries**”

Waste: Young people unanimously supported a separated waste approach, and were overwhelmingly in support of banning food waste in landfills. Young people told us they wanted the government to design waste systems that make recycling accessible and affordable for all kinds of whānau, flats, and communities, not just quarter acre home owners. “**Make it easy, make it free, just like landfilling is right now!**”

Home: 97% of young people said money would be a big barrier to making their home zero-emissions right now, and they talked about the importance of transition funding and subsidies that support them and their whānau. Young people unanimously supported knowing the energy performance of their home, wanted the government to focus on building low-emissions communities, rather than just thinking about low-emissions homes from an individualistic Western perspective. “**My dream is a well-insulated home with energy efficient heating and cooling, rainwater tanks, and garden space for food and native plants.**”

Energy: Young people support an ambitious energy transition, and want to see Aotearoa’s energy grid 100% renewable by 2035 at the very latest. They told us this energy transition must prioritise reliability, both in terms of energy supply and cost. However young people also told us they see an energy grid that relies on fossil fuels as a less reliable option, as both fossil fuel sources and pricing become less predictable in the future. “**It may change my mind about being hesitant to have kids if we were to switch to 100% renewable.**”

Kai: Young people were unanimously in support of farming, and their kai, becoming climate-friendly. This was particularly surprising considering more than half the submissions on this topic were from young people who live in

kai-producing communities. They told us they wanted labelling and education that helps them make quick and easy choices, plus financial incentives that make climate-friendly diets affordable for consumers and financially viable for producers. **"Why do we need to say goodbye to certain foods? Innovative thinking should lead to more options, not less."**

Rangatahi Māori: Rangatahi Māori told us that a true Māori-led approach would start with a shift to Te Ao Māori values and ways of life, and any actions that didn't emerge from that shift would feel more like Pākehā tokenism. And while rangatahi Māori told us that knowing the climate impact of their iwi or community could be useful to them, they were concerned that it could perpetuate the Western myth that climate change is an individual problem that can be solved by individual action. **"You'll just make me feel like I'm the reason the planet is f*cked, but can't do anything to change it. It'll create a huge amount of shame, and delay the action that needs to be taken at a systemic level."**

Mahi: 97% of young people who engaged with us told us they want a zero-emissions job, and they believe finding one starts with better career education at school and university. Young people talked about the importance of comprehensive and intersectional climate education, which sets them up with the knowledge they need to build their own zero-emissions future, not just in their jobs but in EVERY part of their lives. **"It would be good to have an understanding about which jobs are going to be sustainable for us in the future too, so we can earn an income as well as helping our environment."**

Principles: Young people told us there were two emissions reduction plan principles particularly important to them - they want a transition that's fair, equitable and inclusive, that upholds Te Tiriti. 62% of young people who responded told us the emissions reduction plan wasn't affordable enough, 75% told us it wasn't clear enough, and 83% told us it wasn't ambitious enough. **"We'll know the emissions reduction plan is working when young people no longer need to protest en masse on the streets, begging those in power to protect us."**

Behaviour Change: Young people told us that climate behaviour change needed to shift from individuals to Aotearoa's biggest corporate emitters and the local and central government systems that allow their climate emissions to continue. They told us they want to see this corporate behaviour change measured through mandatory environmental accounting and the government's climate progress measured in accessible language, concrete metrics, and most importantly action. **"Measure it through actual ACTION! Like I want our lives to change for the better!"**