



Our Ministry for the Environment says: “Climate change is the biggest environmental challenge of our time. It [affects] our agriculture, native ecosystems, infrastructure, health and biosecurity. If left unchecked it will have broad social and economic impacts.” Different parties propose different solutions, and some question whether climate change will really be as bad as scientists warn. In this activity we will explore responses to climate change.

→ Go to policy.nz and find the elections in your area

→ Choose an election and browse the candidates’ profiles to learn about who is standing

1. Read the Ministry for the Environment’s website on how climate change will affect New Zealand [here](#). With the people around you discuss the likely effects of climate change on our economy; on our health; on our water resources, and on summers at the beach.
 - How might climate change affect you and your friends?
2. Carbon emissions are one of the main sources of climate change. One way to respond to climate change is reducing carbon emissions. Read the Ministry for the Environment’s website on New Zealand’s emissions reduction targets [here](#).
 - How do we decide our targets?
 - How have our targets changed over time?
 - Why do you think this might be?

→ Browse the candidates’ policies in the *Climate Change* topic

→ Save the policies you agree with by clicking the heart icon

3. One way to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is planting trees. New Zealand has a lot of land where trees could be planted, but much is already being used for activities like farming.
 - Why might a farmer convert a farm from dairy to forestry? Write a PMI Chart (plus, minus, interesting) for converting farms into forests.
 - Do any regional council candidates have policies about forestry? What are they?
4. Some people believe reducing carbon emissions benefits everyone eventually, while others believe it will hurt our economy. Identify two negative effects of a policy you’ve saved.
5. Converting farms to forestry would reduce net emissions, but would also change the land and might reduce the number of farming jobs available. You can read about this topic [here](#).
 - Do any regional council candidates have policies on this issue?
 - What do you think regional councils should do?