

I retired aged 60 after 43 yrs as a science/horticulture teacher, 23 yrs training science teachers in Christchurch. I sat in on classes in 80 high schools from Fiordland to East Cape. For the past 5 years I have been reading all I can on the issue of tree planting for all reasons not just 'forestry'.

The American Meteorological Society says 'planting a few trees in your garden is likely to be beneficial for the climate'.

I fail to understand why tree planting for all reasons is the most obvious way to reduce CO2 levels. I also fail to understand the lack of a sense of urgency for action.

If we work on a wartime footing and start planting on a massive scale all nations would work on this.

I have been emailing MPs, city council, NZ TA, writing letters to papers and the Listener. Yes I am planting trees myself.

600 NZ voluntary organisations are planting trees. Here in Hamilton the Western Community Centre has planted 1600 in home gardens, etc. Of course the Waikato Expressway is removing far more greenery than all that these groups are planting. The housing and commercial concreting underway is also involving thousands of hectares.

Let's find ways to get trees planted in home gardens, suburban berms, along highways, around sports parks, school grounds, around commercial buildings. Maybe a concrete tax.

If this can be done maybe farmers will join in and do their bit with help from petrol, concrete, etc., taxes. 10% of grassland in fodder trees, the days of endless grassland are surely numbered. If stock can get shelter they will gain more weight (I spent a few months as a veterinary information officer with Glaxo). One NZ ag. expert says brown cows to replace black and white ones.

Benefits besides storing carbon. Shelter from wind, noise and reduction of pollution motor vehicles. Phosphorus, nitrates, etc. Reduced melanoma rates. Fragrance, colour and more biodiversity. More tree crops, timber and honey.

Our species has been cutting down/burning trees for 4,000 yrs. Could we see some discussion as to if tree planting on a rapid massive scale is one way to go. Is it just all electric vehicles (what do we do with the trillions of petrol vehicles?).

Martin Toop