

The main points I would like to make

I support the transition to a low carbon emissions economy as tool in a kit of measures to reduce carbon emissions.

The role of a low carbon emissions economy is subservient to a broad integrated low carbon emissions management plan. This needs to be reflected in resource management and land use plans at a regional and district levels.

A low carbon emissions future will require urban and rural planning consistent with environmental best practices regarding density, infrastructure, public transport and the urban environments relationships with their natural surroundings, and eco sensitivity.

The low carbon emissions future be focused on maximising public benefit and democratic process.

That a carbon tax be used in preference to carbon credits.

Acknowledge that much of the inaction on climate change and transitioning to a low carbon economy is being actively blocked by bullying interest groups protecting their property rights.

There is no evidence that the market is a adequate tool to effect positive public benefit. A market based approach has failed with housing (leaky homes), health and safety (Pike River), education (charter schools), water quality (Clean Streams Accord). For many important issues the profit margins are not great enough to attract investors. For many issues a using profit to attract participants attracts a predatory element that will sacrifice public benefit for private profit.

### **What would a low-emissions economy look like for New Zealand?**

This has been a subject of prolonged extensive and conclusive discussion for many decades now. The decision makers have closed their ears to the discussion.

The UN has published numerous documents covering sustainability the most well known is Agenda 21.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/outcomedocuments/agenda21>

the PDF is available through the following link

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/Agenda21.pdf>

This is to illustrate that these discussions have been resonating around the world since the early 1990s.

UN publications specifically about low carbon economies are numerous.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1448>

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=711&menu=35>

This shows that since the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Conference) to The Ocean Conference 2017 there has been a continuous stream of knowledge about sustainability and low carbon alternatives.

You can see here that in 2011 concern was being aired in the UN about mitigating the effects of high levels of carbon in the atmosphere..... 'prepare low-emission, climate resilient development strategies that aim to simultaneously address the threats, risks, vulnerabilities and uncertainties associated with global climate change and the pressing development needs countries face as they pursue sustainable development .....

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=708&menu=35>

Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS)

OECD/IEA, 2010

by: *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)*

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=714&menu=35>

Brazil Low-Carbon Development Study

World Bank, 2010

by: *World Bank Group*

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=379&menu=35>

Anticipating skill needs for the low carbon economy? Difficult, but not impossible

International Labour Organization, 2011

by: *International Labour Organization (ILO)*

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=41687#.WdF5Xbh8imY>

UN-backed study shows technology can help world move to low-carbon economy

[http://unfccc.int/press/news\\_room/newsletter/guest\\_column/items/4608.php](http://unfccc.int/press/news_room/newsletter/guest_column/items/4608.php)

Economic opportunities in a low-carbon world

We are now at a point where we are discussing abrupt climate change, abrupt sea level rise.

This is because we allowed ourselves to be side tracked by business interests that were prepared to risk losing the world than risk losing the right to make a fortune.

As the arctic melts, the tundra melts, Greenland melts, and the methane is released.

The background level of methane in the atmosphere has been relatively stable at 5 G tonnes until now. In the shallow water off the Siberian coast there is a membrane of ice that has shrunk from about 2m thick to 60cm since measurements have been recorded here. That membrane of ice is holding back an estimated 50G tonnes of methane from being released to the atmosphere.

We need to ask not only how to transition to a low carbon economy but how to survive a high carbon atmosphere.

### **Twenty six years ago a blue print was written up**

The Ahwahnee Principles for Resource-Efficient Communities, written in 1991 by the Local Government Commission, paved the way for the Smart Growth movement and New Urbanism. These principles provide a blueprint for elected officials to create compact, mixed-use, walkable, transit-oriented developments in their local communities. Cities and counties across the nation have adopted them to break the cycle of sprawl.

[http://www.lgc.org/wordpress/docs/ahwahnee/ahwahnee\\_principles.pdf](http://www.lgc.org/wordpress/docs/ahwahnee/ahwahnee_principles.pdf)

We must ask where was Aotearoa looking when all of this was taking place.

In the country of origin of these principles (US) came blow back by the vested interests. The automobile industry, the motorway construction industry, the green field peri urban property speculators, the urban infrastructure construction companies the big box shop franchises, the fossil fuel industry, the financiers of these [industries.to](http://industries.to) name a felt threatened that this would harm their income streams.

The Lone Mountain Compact was drawn up as a reaction to the Ahwahnee Principles.

<http://www.demographia.com/db-lonemountain.htm>

The signatories of this compact are essentially reactionary supporters of free market solutions and regard any form of government regulation as coercive interference in the free will of private enterprise.

A notable signatory is Wendall Cox of Demographia who is often quoted on Radio New Zealand for his solution to housing affordability which is monotonously 'open up more green field development' and 'no urban limits'.

<http://demographia.com/dwc-sketch.htm> This link shows Mr. Cox served three years as the Director of Public Policy of the American Legislative Exchange Council, where he oversaw the development of state model legislation and policy reports. He drafted the 1988 Colorado legislation that required 20 percent of the Denver transit system to be competitively tendered, the only mandatory competitive tendering law in the United States (mandatory competitive tendering laws and regulations have been enacted in Europe, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand). **He was also a participant in drafting the competitive pricing procedures by which New Zealand converted its public transport system to competition in 1991.** Most recently he was commissioned by the congressional Millennial Housing Commission to prepare a policy report *Smart Growth and Housing Affordability*. He lectures widely, writes numerous commentary articles (op-eds) and is frequently interviewed by the international, national and local media.

His critics representatives of the [Sierra Club](http://Sierra Club) have called Wendell Cox an "itinerant anti-public transportation gun-for-hire."[\[7\]](#)

Aotearoa/New Zealand has a very effective right-wing reactionary organisations that are strongly 'anti state', 'anti-government', anti-regulation'.

Amongst these are people who have made massive fortunes out of getting their associates into government to asset strip the state.

These people and their supporters have blocked attempts to create frameworks that produce progressive social and environmental outcomes. They also have destroyed many of the democratic institutions, laws, policies, structures, and income streams that would produce positive social outcomes.

Until we can unravel and untangle the deeply embedded destructive reforms that have enriched the game players there is no hope of achieving a low carbon economy.

It was the likes of Wendall Cox who has actively blocked the much needed changes that we need to make as a society.

There has been a major resistance to acknowledging climate change which has created an enormous amount of political inertia that needs to be overcome.

A local example 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2013 Christopher Monckton made this presentation at the request of a farming organisation that was headed by a Northland Regional Councillor who was the Chairman of the Regional Policy Committee that facilitated the Regional Policy Statement. But also look at how this is an attack on environmental sustainability. For a deputy chair of a regional council that is charged with protecting the environment from abuse to hold a position counter to the central role of the council must lead the council to become dysfunctional.

Local and regional government put into practice (or are meant to) government policies and legislation for matters concerning land use including urban and industrial development. Local and regional governments need to be audited to make sure they are providing oversight for environmental responsibility that will achieve low carbon emissions.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78C5nArYzY8>

**Pt. 1/2 Lord Monckton's "Global Warming: Just The Truth" Apr 3, '13, Whangarei Library**

[www.stthomas.edu/engineering/jpabraham/](http://www.stthomas.edu/engineering/jpabraham/) This video shows how fraudulent Christopher Monckton is. And what is equally shocking is that a regional councillor leading the Regional Policy Statement supported Monckton's visit.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aX2kMAfJggU>

get up Monckton speaking to WA mining investors

This shows that Monckton is an industry lobbyist rather than a bonafide climate commentator.

Keep in mind that just previous to this we had Rodney Hide as 'Minister of Regulatory Reform' and 'Minister of Local Government'.

Rodney Hide claimed that 'climate change is a hoax'.

Rodney Hide was creating policy and legislation at central government level while the regional councillor was pushing a similar line at regional government level. Both in a position to misrepresent the truth and base policy and legislation on lies.

A central supporter of the ACT Party and role model and mentor for Rodney Hide was Allan Gibb.

Allan Gibb established the NZCSC, New Zealand Climate Science Coalition.

<http://www.climatescience.org.nz/> which is a disinformation website to continue to cast doubt on the validity of the science that substantiates anthropomorphic climate change.

The NZCSC wasted resources of NIWA by challenging their research in the High Court. Judge Venning threw this vexatious case out of court.

<https://www.nbr.co.nz/article/climate-change-deniers-shot-down-high-court-challenge-niwa-bd-127869>

This shows the level of malicious behaviour these ACT Party supporters are capable of. A wikipedia entry on the coalition cites an article published on the [hot-topic.co.nz](http://hot-topic.co.nz) global warming blog that says the Heartland Institute, a US body "that plays a key role in organised climate denial", made a \$US25,000 grant to the NZ Climate Science Coalition.

According to the biography 'Serious Fun The Life and Times of Alan Gibbs' by Paul Goldsmith pages 218 -219 describes how Gibbs recruited Rodney Hide, Roger Douglas and Richard Prebble to form the ACT Party ..." Gibbs and his associates put \$4 million dollars into ACTs 1996 election campaign'.

Page 212 'Time revealed Perigo as an ardent follower of Ayn Rand, the author of Atlas Shrugged, The Fountainhead and the virtue of selfishness, all of which Gibbs knew and enjoyed.'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5dNkLmFVdM>

Paul Ryan's end point is Ayn Rand Utopia & he knows it

<https://vimeo.com/groups/96331/videos/80799353>

**All watched over by machines of loving grace.**

A documentary about the influence of the Ayn Rand had on global politics and influenced large sections of the corporate sector. This 'philosophy' of selfishness being good and altruism being evil has assisted in shaping economic and political reform over recent decades.

It is important that this is taken into account so we can understand how deeply flawed people can make deeply flawed decisions. When decisions are made based on lies and deceptions at state government level the effects

The ACT Party is about as extreme right wing as it is possible to be.

In the book 'Liberal Thinking' by Richard Prebble and ACT Members of Parliament page 85 opens a chapter by Gerry Eckhoff called Property and the Environment. where he claims 'Neither control nor regulation was ever worked. They are the twin despots responsible for so much poverty and inequality throughout history.'

And yet neoliberals approves of control and regulation through private contract even if the more powerful has leverage over the weak.

**Quote from wikipedia** 'The New Zealand Productivity Commission is an [independent crown entity](#) whose principal purpose is "to provide advice to the Government on improving productivity in a way that is directed to supporting the overall well-being of New Zealanders, having regard to a wide range of communities of interest and population groups in New Zealand society."<sup>[1]</sup>

**The Commission was established as a condition of the [ACT Party](#) supporting the Govt on confidence and supply**, with then Finance Minister Bill English describing it as working "closely with and be closely modelled on" the Australian [Productivity Commission](#).<sup>[2]</sup>'

The ACT Party created the Productivity Commission to achieve Act Party objectives. The Act Party objects to government intervention and pursues business lead solutions in preference to government regulation.

It is not the role of the market to solve societal problems. The market is bound to exploit whatever situation to maximise profit.

The market fundamentalists argue that government has no role in an economy.

Back to the brief 'How New Zealand can maximise the opportunities and minimise the costs and risks of transitioning to a lower net-emissions economy.'

This question is not about identifying what needs to be done. This question is how do we maximise the profitability of the opportunities that have been created by the problem.

This question has been answered many times over the decades but obviously there is not enough money to be made from a low carbon economy so nothing gets done.

The markets have not responded in any meaningful way for the last thirty years so maybe we need to consider government intervention. But the neoliberals would rather we were all roasted alive than succumb to government coercion. Even the so called 'left wing' are neoliberal in this country so I guess we will have to wait for the markets to respond.

[Or alternatively what would](#) Aotearoa/New Zealand look like with a low emissions economy.

**Aotearoa New Zealand would look significantly physically very different.**

Under our current regime that regulates local government while it deregulates private business, a low carbon economy is something that will only occur once carbon reserves are seriously depleted.

By then the atmospheric carbon levels will be raised to un survivable levels.

The business community is led by individuals whose self-interest exceeds the capacity of most life on the planet to survive.

**But if we are serious about achieving a low carbon economy**

**High density urban areas with high efficiency public transport, cycle ways and footpaths.**

Urban areas would make all of the daily requirements of the residents to be within an easy walk of their homes. Schools, childcare, grocery shopping, pharmacists, medical centres, government service buildings, sportsgrounds, community arts and recreation centres, civil defence centres, banks and other services.

**Industrial areas connected to residential areas with subsidised public transport.**

They would all be located above tsunami and flood hazard areas and away from slope stability.

Unstable, flood or coastal hazard areas be zoned for forestry, food production, biodiversity protection, parks,

**Infrastructure corridors doubling up as bio diversity corridors** (pylons, reticulated water, gas, sewerage, storm water swales, public transport,) **follow suitable contours such a valley floors or ridges.**

**Locally produced food and local manufacturing.**

In reality we are unlikely to seriously move toward a low emissions economy because the main players won't allow it to happen.

Nine years of the National Party have shown no intention of lowering carbon emissions, this is high-lighted by Climate Change denial from senior National Party MPs, fast tracking motorways, regulatory reform to open up farmland to urban sprawl, and a raft of regulatory reforms that promote personal freedoms above social responsibility while promoting the insanity of perpetual growth.

There will be some playing around the fringes, there will be arguments that we are too small to make any difference, there will be finger pointing at high carbon emitting countries, we have an eviscerated RMA that will promote opening up new coal fields, we have a dairy industry in the south island located near lignite deposits to facilitate drying milk powder, we have a farming industry in denial about everything connected with pollution, we have global public relations organisations paid by fossil fuel industries.

A fraudulent carbon trading market will flourish allowing polluters here to buy non-existent carbon credits from deregulated countries without the regulatory ability carry out their duty of care.

And we will carry on in our merry melee of legitimising the unethical policies of 'the devil take the hindmost.'

Which after all is the basic tenet of our successive governments.

This will not be a low carbon economy but as John Key said "perception is reality". if the public believe we have a low carbon economy then despite the facts we will have a low carbon economy.

There will be a redefinition of what low carbon is in the same way we redefined water quality.

The public relations industry will have a blistering campaign of lies aimed at the public, community organisations will dispute that we have a low carbon economy and the public relations companies will have a smear campaign targeting 'the disbelievers' and attempt to destroy their careers and personal lives in the same manner as Cameron Slater did for the National Party.

It is completely predictable we have seen it so many times before.

The Productivity Commission will write a report saying that the most efficient and cost effective way of having a low carbon economy is by not having one and pretending that we do have one. It is pretty straight forward really

There has been a major resistance to acknowledging climate change which has created an enormous amount of political inertia that needs to be overcome.

**Aotearoa/New Zealand political landscape would look very different in a low carbon economy.**

**Our largest hurdle will be political will.** We have had at least 40 years of the politics of unashamed greed, organised criminality, and theft of public assets.

The restructuring of government by the political establishment has left decision making to two classes of people. Those who are elite and those who pander to the whims of the elites for fear of being restructured out of their jobs. In such a dysfunctional setting we cannot expect any useful outcome.

The ruling classes of New Zealand under ACT/National have spent the last twenty five years locking us down to make it as difficult as possible to make changes that would have any public benefit.

This will be a major obstacle to overcome. Even as a stalling tactic to avoid the necessary changes, 'business as usual' will privately benefit from hundreds of millions of dollars per year. They will not quit this easily.

This is a very dirty battle. The big money end of town has the means to tie up resources and processes. The 'winner take all' attitude in a highly competitive, high stakes casino economy has no interest in producing a public benefit outcome.

A recent example is the climate change denial campaigns confounding debate through doubt and misinformation campaigns. These delays have allowed the polluters to profit from unregulated 'business as usual'.

Remember that the definition of a lie is 'to mislead and deceive'. The ability to do such is much admired in many business circles that employ public relations companies to do just that. To such a degree of success that many people including government ministers and local councillors believe climate change to be a hoax. It is disturbing to recognise that people who are, incapable of discerning fact from myth, or bribed, or blinded by self-interest, or incapable of understanding basic science are making decisions that will affect the survivability of the planet.

**Aotearoa /New Zealand will need revitalised government structure in a low carbon economy**

The types of decisions that will move us to a low carbon economy will not be made by a government that is in servitude to the elites. The free market model has created this nightmare for the planet. There were other alternatives. The future these free marketeers have bestowed upon generations to come is worse than what could be imagined in a bad acid trip. You don't stop frightening hallucinations by taking more bad acid. You go to rehab. Our economy and basic governing principles need to go to rehab urgently. Retire the burnt out free marketeers who have damaged our communities as much as any number of methamphetamine manufacturers.



People who come from a culture of having no empathy for their victims, and unable to face up to reality are not going to suddenly turn around and support public benefit. They will be looking for an advantage for themselves.

Involving these people will only allow them to sow the seeds of rot into any new approach. Look what happened with the Land and Water Forum. The polluters sat around the table with groups looking after public benefit, go through months of talks and come up with an outcome predetermined by the polluters and expecting the public benefit supporters to sign off on a shonky agreement. As you know the groups supporting public interest would not be a party to a corrupt process and walked out.

### **Overcoming dysfunctional government process dominated by pandering to the elite.**

First we need to be open and transparent about what we want to achieve with a low-emissions economy.

If the primary concern of the Productivity Commission is to create low carbon emissions economic opportunities for established wealth, so they can further entrench their control over the country we will have one set of outcomes.

If the primary concern is to create a low carbon emissions economy that maximises public benefit the Productivity Commission will have another set of outcomes.

We have a dilemma here. The current politics under neoliberalism (read National, ACT, right wing of Labour) precludes public benefit.

Unless social or environmental problems can be turned into lucrative business opportunities wealthy elites will not show much interest. They will veto any activity they do not directly profit from or any activity that disrupts the profitability of existing businesses. By occupying positions in local and central government or having agents to occupy those positions the elites will act in their own interests.

Yet we have to act fast so we can make the necessary legislative changes before free trade agreements strangle at birth the possibility of the public benefits we seek.

This is a time to deal directly with the problems that we face based on democratic principles grounded on sound peer reviewed scientific knowledge.

It is important to dispense with the whining industry leaders with their lobbyists who have been shown globally to be ruthless in their ambition and callous and devious in their tactics and strategies.

The business focused forms of governance that have supplanted government and over thirty years have surgically disintegrated the mechanisms of the state to a point where the state has become an empty shell. This was of course the intention of the neoliberal regression.

Effective action will require strong ethical leadership and enforceable laws and regulations that will minimise the risks. There will need to be market intervention as there is with all other harmful activities.

<https://medium.com/@EuroYankeeBlog/10-tenets-of-neoliberalism-ea90f34e51f9>

the ten tenets of neoliberalism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zus0lCUvd1c>

<https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2017/9/20/1700024/--We-might-not-recover-Neil-deGrasse-Tyson-gets-emotional-and-sounds-the-alarm-All-the-alarms?detail=emaildkregreen>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78C5nArYzY8>

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<https://vimeo.com/groups/96331/videos/80799353>



All Watched  
Over by  
Machines of  
Loving Grace -  
Episode 1 ...

[vimeo.com](https://vimeo.com)

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