

CLIMATE LEADERS COALITION

We believe that New Zealand businesses can play a significant role in tackling climate change. The Climate Leaders Coalition (CLC) was launched in July 2018 to promote business leadership and collective action on the issue of climate change. Nearly 80 New Zealand chief executives have so far signed the joint statement, which commits each of their organisations to take voluntary action on climate change.

This includes measuring and publicly reporting their greenhouse gas emissions, setting a public emissions reduction target, and working with suppliers to reduce their emissions.

The Coalition also represents a unique opportunity for business to work together and learn from each other to reduce their emissions. Organisations from all sectors of the economy are represented in the Coalition and together the signatories make up more than half of New Zealand's gross emissions.

THE COALITION HAS EXPLICITLY SUPPORTED THE PARIS AGREEMENT AS WELL AS NEW ZEALAND'S COMMITMENT TO IT.

It also supports the introduction of a Climate Change Commission and carbon budgets enshrined in law. The Coalition's goal is to help New Zealand transition to a low-emissions economy and, in doing so, create a positive future for New Zealanders, business and the economy.

As one example, The Warehouse Group, a member of the CLC, recently announced that it is only the third major retailer worldwide to go carbon neutral – earning official CarboNZero certification. Together, The Warehouse Group says it emits approximately 40,000 tonnes of carbon a year. This will be reduced through an internal active emissions reduction programme throughout The Warehouse Group's operations and supply chain, with more than 25 energy and emissions saving projects.

The Warehouse Group's carbon emissions will be offset with carbon credits and through the planting of 2.7 million trees. The Group will also switch to LED lighting to reduce electricity use in stores, and ambitious waste recycling targets have been set by The Group. Additionally, 30 percent of the company's vehicle fleet will be electric by 2019.

The CLC is a positive example of private sector leadership in meeting the challenges presented by a changing climate.