

NZ Energy Strategy Released

The New Zealand Energy Strategy has been released this week by NZ Prime Minister Helen Clark and NZ Energy Minister David Parker. With a strong emphasis on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the Government has set a target of halving domestic transport emissions per capita by 2040, and for NZ to be one of the first countries to deploy electric vehicles. Clark says that maintaining security of energy supply at competitive prices is essential for a modern NZ economy, and that energy efficiency, demand-side management and an increased diversity of electricity supply all contribute to high levels of security. She adds that there will be a greater use of renewable energy sources, and a stronger national grid. The Government has set a target for 90 per cent of NZ's electricity to come from renewable sources by 2025, which the Government believes would help see its greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generation back to 1990 levels. An emissions trading scheme, sending a message to state-owned electricity generators that there should be a limiting of new base load fossil fuel generation over the next ten years, and a national policy statement for renewable energy will help achieve this, Clark says. A New Zealand Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy has also been announced, to detail an action plan for energy efficiency initiatives, which include all forms and uses of energy services other than transport and mobility. There will also be tax credits for research and development expenditure to expand technologies and innovation, and an emphasis on energy affordability and consumer wellbeing.

[Source esaa news]