

Students have climate questions for candidates

Students from the Kāpiti College Eco-Action group have a question or two for the election candidates on climate change.

Candidates for National, Labour, the Greens, NZ First and The Opportunities Party will be at the Climate Change Challenge election candidates meeting on 5 September, organised by community group Low Carbon Kāpiti, where members of the public can ask their own questions.

Student Pippa McCormack-Wolf says “I want to know what they are going to do if elected to reduce or offset greenhouse gas emissions from dairy and beef, since agriculture makes up nearly half of NZ’s emissions. It’s young people like us who will have to live with the consequences of the decisions our politicians make right now about climate change.”

Low Carbon Kāpiti chair Jake Roos says “We’ve reached crunch time for the climate. NZ needs to get on track to net zero emissions right now to play its part in the Paris Agreement, but instead national emissions keep rising. It’s crucial the government, whoever they are, enact policies to go low carbon and help our communities adapt. We’re putting this event to bring focus on the actions that they can take here in Kāpiti to address the climate crisis, so people can become more informed before they vote.”

The event will be held at the Kāpiti Community Centre, Iver Trask Place, Paraparaumu. Doors will open at 7:00pm for a start at 7:30pm. Professor James Renwick will set the scene and candidates will be asked questions on their party’s approach to climate change – both reducing greenhouse gas emissions and dealing with the effects. The event will wrap up at 9:00pm.

Low Carbon Kāpiti is a community group whose purpose is to represent the views of residents who are concerned about the climate crisis and advocate for local solutions. Those wishing to join or find out more can at <http://lowcarbopnkapiti.org.nz> or <http://www.facebook.com/groups/lowcarbonkapiti>.

ENDS



Photo caption: *Caption L to R Kāpiti College Eco-Action Group members Hunter Meek, Bree Renwick, Pippa McCormack-Wolf*

Notes:

Confirmed candidates who will attend:

- Labour: Dr Megan Woods, MP for Wigram, climate change spokesperson
- National: Nicola Willis, Candidate for Wellington Central
- Greens: Jan Logie, MP, candidate for Mana; Jack McDonald, candidate for Te Tai Hauāuru
- The Opportunities Party: Geoff Simmons, Deputy Leader
- New Zealand First: Dr Romuald Rudzki, candidate for Ōtaki

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