



Trade and Foreign Investment Policy

Vision

The Green Party envisions an Aotearoa/New Zealand in which:

- Trade occurs within sustainable ecological limits.
- Trade and investment decisions value social equity.
- There is ecologically sustainable production and consumption of traded goods and services.
- Methods of exporting and importing goods and services are ecologically sound.
- International trade rules are fair and there is equity in global trading.

Key Principles

1. Ecological limits to production and trade need to be understood and respected.
2. Sustainable and just ways to economic development and prosperity need to be promoted, locally, nationally, and internationally.
3. Human rights and fair labour standards must be promoted and respected.
4. Good global citizenship and corporate responsibility needs to be promoted and enforced.
5. The environment must be protected.

Specific Policy Points

1. Democracy, Sovereignty, and Good International Governance

Aotearoa New Zealand needs a more democratic approach to economic decision-making nationally and internationally. International trade agreements must be subject to international environmental and labour agreements, and must neither override them nor the right of Aotearoa New Zealand to protect its citizens and our natural environment from exploitation and degradation.

Policy Positions

- 1.1 Ensure all new international treaty texts are open to public scrutiny, give full effect to Aotearoa New Zealand's Te Tiriti o Waitangi responsibilities and obligations, and require a vote in Parliament before being signed.
- 1.2 Strengthen the powers of international environmental organisations, labour and human rights organisations, and development organisations to enable them to enforce their mandate and restrain unfair and unsustainable trading practices.
- 1.3 Work towards the development of a new international trading organisation and regional trading agreements that respect and uphold international labour and environmental agreements, to replace the World Trade Organisation and existing unfair and unsustainable bilateral and multilateral trade agreements.
- 1.4 Support the right of Aotearoa New Zealand and other nations to encourage local, social and ecologically sustainable development, and foster self-reliance (e.g. oppose forced trade through compulsory market access and similar mechanisms).
- 1.5 Preserve the right of tangata whenua to protect themselves and their taonga from trade and investment related exploitation.
- 1.6 Ensure that decision-making about food standards and safety and health products is a power held by accountable agencies within Aotearoa New Zealand (see our [Food](#) policy).
- 1.7 Review existing World Trade Organisation and other trade treaty commitments and limit or roll back their application where these are not consistent with exercising positive sovereignty.

2. Human rights, Labour Standards and Good Global Citizenship

The Green Party believes that Aotearoa New Zealand's trading regime needs to respect human rights. International trading corporations also need to be encouraged to be good corporate citizens, pay fair taxes, safeguard the environment, and employ sound labour practices.

Policy Positions

- 2.1 Prevent the importation of goods made or produced by forced or compulsory and child labour, as defined by the International Labour Organisation.

- 2.2 Develop, monitor and enforce a Code of Corporate Responsibility applying to all domestic and international corporations trading in Aotearoa New Zealand (see our [Economic](#) policy).
- 2.3 Work towards a fair international intellectual property rights regime that includes, guaranteed access to essential medicines and protection of indigenous knowledge and biodiversity.

3. [Environmental Standards and Ecological Sustainability](#)

The current regime of global trade compromises the health of our natural world. Biodiversity and biosecurity protection and promotion measures, ecologically-sustainable practices, and reducing our global ecological footprint should be implemented ahead of trade promotion measures to prevent the loss, or compromise, of sustainable production and distribution (see our [Global Affairs](#) policy). Exporting and importing methods must respect the need to conserve fuel resources and use them sustainably.

Policy Positions

- 3.1 Support initiatives to give multinational environmental agreements precedence over the international trade rules affecting the environment.
- 3.2 Prohibit trade in genetically modified organisms except under strict biosecurity controls for contained use in diagnostics, understanding of heredity, and development of medicines.
- 3.3 Require full labelling for traded goods, with regard to both contents and country of origin.
- 3.4 Ban trade in hazardous wastes unless for the purpose of safe recycling or reprocessing.
- 3.5 Ban trade in unsustainable wild harvests.
- 3.6 Develop a biosecurity strategy and amend relevant legislation to ensure all biosecurity threats from national and international trade are identified and the risks managed (see our [Conservation](#) and [Agriculture and Rural Affairs](#) policies).
- 3.7 Work with like-minded governments and organisations to develop common standards and labelling of environmental impact for products and services, and allow for the restriction or prohibition of imported products and services that do not meet these standards.
- 3.8 Support measures that maximise returns from exports (such as supporting value-added and comparative advantage sectors and industries).

- 3.9 Support measures to assist import-substitution industries and reduce our dependence on imported products.
- 3.10 Support moves to include the full costs of climate change and other environmental problems in international transport costs (see our [Climate Change](#) and [Transport](#) policy).
- 3.11 Discourage transporting equivalent goods long distances in opposite directions at great energy cost.
- 3.12 Promote locally produced food, where possible, in preference to imported food (see our [Food](#) policy).
- 3.13 Re-focus government-supported export promotion activities to achieve sustainable production and distribution goals.

4. [Promoting just and sustainable development](#)

International trade should only be encouraged when it contributes to sustainable development. Aotearoa New Zealand must make use of the full range of protection and promotion mechanisms that are available to achieve this aim. Foreign investment must meet justice and sustainability criteria, and not be merely speculative, or lead to the expatriation of profits from a country's productive assets, or the alienation of a country's land from its citizens.

Policy Positions

- 4.1 Encourage and facilitate bilateral fair trading relationships between Aotearoa New Zealand and other countries that support sustainable development and human rights (including labour standards), and that respect local values and cultures and common democratic principles (see our [Global Affairs](#) policy).
- 4.2 Retain or impose tariffs, quotas or bans where useful to prevent unfair competition caused by unjust or unsustainable production practices in the country of origin.
- 4.3 Support the option of using an across-the-board tariff to address balance of payments problems.
- 4.4 Support international rules to end export subsidies and subsidised production for export.
- 4.5 Support the right of all nations to develop and enforce national food security policies and oppose the undermining of such policies via international trade agreements.
- 4.6 Oppose trade de-regulation in public goods, services and utilities (e.g. health, education, water, electricity, telecommunications) and, where

desirable, roll back General Agreement on Trade and Services commitments.

- 4.7 Ensure that international and bilateral agreements put the rights of peoples and governments before those of multinational company investors.
- 4.8 Strengthen controls on foreign investment in New Zealand to minimise the negative effects of speculative and other non-productive foreign investment.
- 4.9 Ensure any overseas investment in New Zealand meets stringent conditions in order to be approved by the appropriate government authority and the Minister by:
 - a) Reserving land ownership for New Zealand citizens and permanent residents; and
 - b) Prioritising foreign investment that will support sustainable enterprises and retain profit within Aotearoa New Zealand.
 - c) Applying the national interest test required under the relevant legislation to all foreign investment proposals, and, where the purchasing entity is 10% or more foreign-owned, reduce the threshold for scrutiny to 10 million.
 - d) Amending relevant legislation and agreements to restrict the sale of high country property to New Zealand citizens or residents who reside in New Zealand for at least 185 days a year for three years before purchase.
- 4.10 Require international businesses with significant operations within New Zealand to:
 - a) Establish local subsidiaries that are incorporated within New Zealand, and encourage the development of joint ventures and other mechanisms to create a local ownership stake in activities.
 - b) Meet the same conditions for sustainable practises that we expect of New Zealand companies.
- 4.11 Support the international initiative for a charter of responsibilities for overseas investors.