

Mercury and Air New Zealand lead effort to accelerate New Zealand's transition to electric vehicles

As Energy Day gets under way at the 23rd United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC) in Bonn, Germany today (Friday, November 10), two leading New Zealand businesses are showing that the country is stepping up to help deliver the global transition to electric vehicles.

New Zealand electricity retailer, **Mercury**, and airline **Air New Zealand**, have joined The Climate Group's EV100 campaign which brings together the world's most influential companies with the aim of helping to shift markets in favour of electric transport by 2030.

Earlier this year, Air New Zealand transitioned 100% of its light vehicle fleet to EVs and electrified more than half of its heavy airport service vehicles. Meanwhile Mercury has transitioned every vehicle in its fleet that can be practically converted to electric (80 out of 114 vehicles). Mercury, with others, also helped bring the Electric Highway to New Zealand with the peer-to-peer EV charger location app, 'Plugshare'.

By joining EV100, the two companies are keen to demonstrate that the electrification of fleets is not just the right thing to do but that it makes business sense too.

Fraser Whineray, Chief Executive, Mercury, said:

"Now that we've converted every vehicle we can to EV, our mission of Energy Freedom inspires us to support the electrification of transport throughout New Zealand. Around 90% of New Zealand's electricity is produced from clean renewable sources so it's a winning formula for drivers, for business, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels. Mercury is part of a movement in New Zealand and globally through membership of EV100."

Lisa Daniell, Head of Sustainability, Air New Zealand, said:

"Electric transport offers a major solution in cutting millions of tons of greenhouse emissions worldwide. Having led the way in New Zealand it's exciting to be part of a global initiative committed to making EVs the new normal."

Between them, Air New Zealand and Mercury have instigated a landmark corporate initiative, influencing over 30 leading New Zealand organisations and businesses to pledge to transition their fleets to at least 30% electric in the next three years.

Helen Clarkson, Chief Executive Officer, The Climate Group, championed the role of business in driving a zero-emissions economy:

"It's fantastic to see continued leadership from companies on climate action – commitments like these are smart business decisions that are shaping our global energy market for the future and helping to accelerate the emissions reductions needed to deliver on the Paris Agreement."

The political climate in New Zealand is also favourable to these important steps as their new Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, has placed climate change at the heart of her government including a commitment to switch the electricity grid entirely to renewables by 2035.

The new coalition Government, formed in October, has also shown welcome leadership on electric vehicles by committing to making its own vehicle fleet emissions free where practicable by 2025/6. New Zealand is well prepared for the transition as it has the highest proportion of electricity generated from renewable sources in the OECD and reached 86% renewable electricity generation in the March quarter of 2017.

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About The Climate Group

The Climate Group is an award-winning, international non-profit. Our goal is a prosperous, low carbon future. We believe this will be achieved through a 'clean revolution': the rapid scale-up of low carbon energy and technology. We work with corporate and government partners to develop climate finance mechanisms, business models which promote innovation, and supportive policy frameworks. We convene leaders, share hard evidence of successful low carbon growth, and pilot practical solutions which can be replicated worldwide.

Our business campaigns, [EV100](#), [EP100](#) and [RE100](#), brought to you as part of the [We Mean Business coalition](#), help companies to reduce carbon emissions, enhance resilience, and boost the bottom line. They champion leadership, encourage the sharing of best practice and tackle barriers to action – creating shifts in policies and markets to help keep global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius.

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