

***Chile's Citizens' Committee on Climate Change  
labels government plans for climate action insufficient.***

Santiago, Chile – A [new study](#) has been launched by the Chilean Citizens' Committee on Climate Change showing that by switching to 100% renewable energy by 2050 the country could: avoid spending \$5.3 billion a year on fossil fuels, save 1,500 lives a year due to reduced air-pollution in Santiago alone, and create 11,000 green jobs.

This study conducted by the NewClimate Institute is one of a series of reports demonstrating the significant benefits to Chile and other countries – including the U.S., China, Japan, Australia, and the European Union – if they get on track to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2050.

The reports assess the benefits delivered in terms of lives and money saved, and jobs created by their proposed climate action commitments – also known as INDCS – and what more they stand to gain if they boosted their efforts in line with a fossil fuel phase out.

In December 2014 Chile announced its intention to contribute to international efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions ahead of the upcoming climate change negotiations taking place in Paris this December, where a new global agreement to tackle climate change is due to be forged. Currently, Chile's most ambitious proposal under discussion within the government aims to reduce national greenhouse gas emissions 40-45% by 2030.

However, for the Citizens' Committee on Climate Change – a diverse national coalition of environmental organisations – this proposal is inadequate and will not achieve the transition that is needed. “The ambition of Chile's government is insufficient compared to that of other countries in the OECD. It ignores all of the work that will be needed in the coming decades for us to adapt to climate change, particularly considering Chile has been categorized as extremely vulnerable to climate change impacts,” says Matias Asun of Greenpeace and a member of Committee.

Through the nationwide “MAPS project” (Mitigation Actions Plans and Scenarios) the government calculated a range of models for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, 2030 and 2050 respectively – none of those models set Chile on the path to achieving 100% renewables by 2050 and therefore would fail to deliver the associated benefits outlined above.

If Chile committed to achieving 100% renewable energy by 2050, a NewClimate Institute report found:

1. Additional savings of \$2.4 billion dollars related to the decrease in fossil fuel imports, for a total savings of \$5.3 billion annually, including the \$2.9 billion the country would save if it pursues the most ambitious plan presented so far.
2. Avoid an additional 800 premature air-pollution related deaths each year, for a total of 1,500 lives that could be saved annually.
3. Create 4,000 additional green jobs in the renewable energy sector, on top of the 7,000 jobs that would already be created by implementing the most ambitious mitigation plan. This would signify the creation of 11,000 new jobs.

According to experts in Chile, the government's proposed MAPS models neglect the global requirements established by the international scientific community, since none of the scenarios put forth by the MAPS project would allow Chile to meet its obligations as part of the global effort to avoid a global rise in temperatures 2°C above preindustrial levels and limit catastrophic consequences.

Considering the above, and the approval process which the Council of Ministers for Sustainability and Climate Change must now follow for the proposed INDC, the Citizens' Committee on Climate Change calls upon the Minister of the Environment, Pablo Badenier, to push for raising Chile's ambitions towards a truly transformative process for transitioning energy generation away from dirty and outdated fossil sources and towards a green, renewable and low-impact environmental one based on sources like solar and wind.

"With the resources that Chile could save each year, we could be funding half of Chile's new education reform package or investing in more and better sources of renewable energy," says Karen Pradenas of Fundación Decide and a member of the Committee.

Going further, Javiera Valencia of Fundación Terram and likewise a Committee member, says "This study shows that we are jeopardizing lives and wasting financial resources and jobs, simply because Chile is unwilling to make the effort which both the country and the planet need on climate change. Chile emits a small amount of greenhouse gases, but our carbon footprint per capita is approaching France's, for example. The developed countries are tending to reduce their emissions while we are increasing ours."

Patrick Lynch, International Director for Futaleufú Riverkeeper and a member of the Citizens' Committee on Climate Change added: "Chile needs to be more ambitious in achieving 100% renewable energies and protecting natural resources which are already severely stressed due to climate change. It makes no sense for example to allow the construction of large dams, as even mid-sized or run-of-river dams can be ecologically devastating in water-stressed areas, something that's of major concern for Chile's rich agricultural region in Santiago's Maipo valley. What we really want is to see Chile's government listening to communities, rather than big industry. There is widescale rejection of large hydro in Chile, but at the same time people overwhelming support nonconventional renewable energies. The fact that this study shows tremendous savings and a public health benefit on top of what communities want only adds weight to our arguments about protecting Chile's rivers."

Marc Yaggi, executive director at Waterkeeper Alliance, stated: "To put it into economic perspective, this report shows that if Chile alone were to strengthen its INDC and move toward a trajectory for stabilizing the climate by 2050, it would create approximately 15,000 full-time jobs following a 100% renewable scenario with no new large hydro. Chile's population is roughly the same as New York State, with a GDP slightly larger than the state of Connecticut, so when we are talking about \$5 billion USD in savings from fossil fuel imports each year the implications are quite significant."

**Notes from the editors:** The English version of the report can be accessed here <http://newclimate.org/2015/03/27/indc-cobenefits/> and the infographics and supporting documents here <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/p4y6ij6tizh9z9l/AAC0v60ftJKDM2BDyU9f3B3aa?dl=0>

The report, Assessing the achieved and missed benefits of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, INDCs, was written by the [NewClimate Institute](#), based on credible and reliable information from sources at the national levels, in order to help increase the ambition of climate

action plans. The study was commissioned by [Climate Action Network](#)(CAN) and the [Global Call for Climate Action](#) (GCCA) for Chile's Citizens' Committee on Climate Change. The Citizens' Committee on Climate Change is composed of the following organizations;

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Asociación Chilena de ONG Acción  
Acción por la Tierra  
Amigos de la Tierra  
AIDA Latin America  
Casa de la Paz  
Centro Ecuménico Diego de Medellín  
Coalición Ecuménica por el Cuidado de la Creación  
CODESA  
Colegio de Periodistas  
CODEFF  
Dunas de Ritoque  
FIMA  
Fundación Terram  
Fundación Decide  
Fundación Futaleufú Riverkeeper  
Greenpeace  
Observatorio Ciudadano  
[350.org](#)  
Wildlife Conservation Society Chile

**Contacts:**

U.S.: Tina Posterli, Waterkeeper Alliance, [tposterli@waterkeeper.org](mailto:tposterli@waterkeeper.org), 516-526-9371  
International: Patrick J. Lynch, Fundación Futaleufu Riverkeeper  
[plynch@futaleufuriverkeeper.org](mailto:plynch@futaleufuriverkeeper.org) +1.914.357.4837  
Regional: Samuel Leiva, Climate Action Network – Latin America (CAN-LA)  
[samuel@can-la.org](mailto:samuel@can-la.org) +56-9-8230-9252

