# Hydrogens role in decarbonising transport

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| How do we decipher our decarbonisation journey and, from there, define the role that hydrogen will play? One such approach would be to divulge the lessons that our global energy and transport sector counterparts have learned in their approach to a zero-carbon future. New Zealand is looking to bridge the gap between global lessons learnt and the local environmental, social, cultural and economic context. This discussion will offer insight into this shift and make a comparison between large and small players and short-term and long-term objectives. Hydrogen is poised to fulfil its potential as a clean alternative to hydrocarbons and is gaining momentum around the globe with a focus on domestic applications and a potential export market. Evaluating the benefits, costs and impacts of a transition to hydrogen fuel as part of our transport fleet mix requires considering New Zealand’s existing natural, social, cultural and financial resources. A transition to green hydrogen-powered heavy vehicles including trucks, trains and buses is one of the most impactful ways that we can reduce carbon emissions and meet targets set by government and our international climate commitments. Instrumental to this is understanding the supporting infrastructure required, ensuring legislation and standards are fit for purpose and prioritising health, safety and the reduction of risk. The potential for hydrogen to support local jobs and growth, in addition to an export market, is also central to this conversation.In recognising the importance that partnership will play in this transformation, an appraisal of how UNSDG 19 ‘Partnership for the Goals’ can help affect positive change will be threaded throughout the discussion referencing the “Vision for hydrogen in New Zealand” green paper delivered by Arup. The vision demonstrates how green hydrogen could become a major differentiator for New Zealand’s energy, transport and industrial sectors with substantial export potential.  |