

Helen Plume was Chair of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation (OECD) and International Energy Agency (IEA) Climate Change Experts Group. She is employed as a Principal Analyst, Climate Change at the Ministry for the Environment, where she has worked for the past 35 years. She has been at the forefront of the New Zealand government's domestic and international response to climate change since the beginning of global discussions to address the issue. She frequently participates in United Nations-led expert peer reviews on national emissions reporting. She has made significant contributions to the implementation of key international climate change agreements, including the Kyoto Protocol and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) monitoring, reporting and verification processes. She has held numerous voluntary positions within the UNFCCC and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), including chairing panels and groups. She was elected as Chair of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice for two years. In 2007, Al Gore and the IPCC were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Helen was one of a small number of individuals within the IPCC that were recognised by name for their contribution.

Helen was named a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2020 for her services to the environment.