

Sustainability Strategy 2026–2028

Sustainability at the Ministry for the Environment means operating within our baselines, reducing environmental impact, and supporting our people to thrive. This Strategy is designed to remain responsive to change, with provision for interim updates as needed. Performance against our commitments will be transparently reported through the Ministry’s Annual Reports.

Tangata Our People

We empower our people to thrive as future-ready leaders who deliver meaningful outcomes for New Zealanders.



- We empower and uplift our people to grow and develop as effective leaders, challenging and enabling others to improve and innovate
- We support the wellbeing and resilience of our people so they can thrive
- We uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi and strengthen the Māori–Crown relationship by strengthening te ao Māori capability and sharing our experiences across the public sector to support a system-wide uplift
- We build confidence and capability to embed sustainable practices in everyday decisions at every level

- We embed the Growth and Performance Framework across all people processes to strengthen capability, foster continuous development, and ensure a resilient, future-ready workforce
- We deliver on Tui Raumata, our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategy
- We deliver on Te Ao Hurihuri, our Te Ao Māori capability strategy
- We share a clear understanding of our emissions profile, enabling actions that significantly reduce emissions within our operations

Taiao Our Environment

Sustainability shapes how we work and the value our work delivers. It enables smarter decisions and stronger outcomes across natural and built environments.



OUR LONGER TERM GOALS

- Our commitment to sustainability shapes how we work and deliver outcomes
- We provide trusted, accessible environmental science, data and evidence to empower decision-makers and strengthen regulatory systems for enduring environmental and climate benefits. Our policy advice is supported by robust assessments and upholds Māori rights and interests, including Treaty settlements
- We build collaborative relationships and partnerships to build strong and enduring relationships that expedite impactful environmental outcomes at scale
- By 2030, we will halve our organisational emissions from our 2017/18 baseline, aligning with a 1.5°C reduction pathway, and from 2050, we will offset the remainder of our emissions in line with the Carbon Neutral Government Programme
- We will reduce per capita/occupant waste to landfill

THIS MEANS BY 2030 WE WILL

- We deliver timely, high-quality environmental data and reports through our evidence platforms, ensuring they are accessible and actively inform policy decisions
- We achieve a 50% reduction in total organisational emissions by 2030 from the 2017/18 baseline, verified through annual emissions reporting
- We conduct waste audits at Wellington and Christchurch offices to monitor waste profiles and diversion rates, using results to inform targeted interventions and staff education

Pūtea Our Finances

We manage resources responsibly, balancing environmental, social, and economic outcomes.



- We provide clear and transparent reporting on our performance and progress
- We manage our investments to maximise benefits to the environment, leverage co-investment, build capability of our partners, and manage our risk appetite to ensure long term environmental outcomes
- We continue to meet sustainability requirements set out in government procurement policies and rules
- We consider climate-related risks when making enduring decisions about organisational systems, processes, and internal policies

- Our fund management balances environmental, social, and economic considerations and upholds sustainability principles to achieve long-term impact
- Our significant decisions demonstrate consideration of financial, non-financial, emissions, and climate-related risk impacts