

19-D-02157

s 9(2)(a)

RNZ Reporter  
Radio New Zealand House  
s 9(2)(a) @rnz.co.nz

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 24 September 2019 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *a table of measures undertaken by MFE to encourage a more sustainable, less polluting workspace*
- *a table of measures that are being considered for the future*
- *with each measure, that we provide you with the date each measure was started*

The information you have requested is publicly available. We are not providing the information in table form as you requested, as under section 16(2)(a) of the Act, doing so would impair efficient administration. For us to rearrange the information in a table is unnecessary.

You'll find information on our sustainability strategy and targets in the Ministry for the Environment's Annual Report 2018/19, pages 22 to 25: [www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/media/About/annual-report-201819-web-final.pdf](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/media/About/annual-report-201819-web-final.pdf). Some of the information is provided below, with additional links of interest. I encourage you to have a look at the full report.

### **Sustainability at the Ministry for the Environment**

We launched our internal sustainability strategy in 2018, aiming to improve our sustainable business performance. It includes targets to achieve by July 2020.

Sustainability for us as an organisation means operating within our baseline, minimising our environmental footprint, and giving our people what they need to thrive. There is an additional link to our sustainability strategy here <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/about-us/about-ministry/sustainability-mfe>.

### **Certified Emissions Measurement and Reduction Scheme certification**

Our sustainability strategy commits us to measuring, reducing and reporting on our emissions profile and having it externally verified. We are also committed to emissions-reduction goals on our travel (20 per cent), head office energy use (10 per cent), and waste to landfill (50 per cent).

In late 2018, we obtained our Certified Emissions Measurement and Reduction Scheme (CEMARS) certificate through Enviro-Mark Solutions' accreditation scheme. Our emissions profile is publicly available here: [www.enviro-mark.com/our-members/members/ministry-for-the-environment](http://www.enviro-mark.com/our-members/members/ministry-for-the-environment)

## Solid waste

Reducing our waste to landfill by 50 per cent by July 2020 (from our 2018 baseline) is a major focus for the Ministry. We have conducted three separate waste audits, to measure how our waste reduction and contamination levels (eg, waste in the wrong bin) goals are progressing. We conducted these audits according to best-practice guidelines, and they give us better insight into common mistakes. Guidelines on how to undertake a waste audit can be found here: [www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/sustainability/guide-implementing-recycling-systems-multi-tenanted-office-buildings/3#step4](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/sustainability/guide-implementing-recycling-systems-multi-tenanted-office-buildings/3#step4)

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision to withhold information relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz). Please note that due to the public interest in our work the Ministry for the Environment will publish responses to most of our requests for official information on our web site at [www.mfe.govt.nz/about-us/official-information-act-requests](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/about-us/official-information-act-requests) shortly after the response has been sent to you.

If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Executive Relations team.

Yours sincerely



**Vicki Connor**  
Director, Partnerships and Engagement

Released under the Official Information Act 1982