



Cabinet Economic Development Committee

Minute of Decision

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Emissions Reduction Plan: Waste and F-gases Work Programme

Portfolio Environment

On 16 March 2022, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee:

Background

- 1 **noted** that on 31 May 2021, the Climate Change Commission provided the government with its final advice on emissions budgets and the recommended policy direction of the emissions reduction plan;
- 2 **noted** that proposals for waste and fluorinated gases (F-gases) have been revised following incorporation of public feedback on *Te hau mārohi ki anamata – Transitioning to a low-emissions and climate-resilient future*, which took place from 13 October to 24 November 2021;
- 3 **noted** that on 23 August 2021, Cabinet agreed to the following sector sub-targets for waste and F-gases for the first emissions budget [CAB-21-MIN-0320.01]:

Sector (All gases, net (AR5) expressed in MtCO ₂ -e)	First emissions budget (2022-2025)	Second emissions budget (2026-2030)	Third emissions budget (2031-2035)
Waste	13.7	14.9	12.7
F-gases	6.8	7.5	5.9

Waste

- 4 **noted** that the programme of work to achieve reductions in biogenic methane emissions will improve the knowledge base, build the systems needed to keep materials cycling in the economy (not generating emissions in landfills), and ensure there are appropriate legislative and regulatory tools in place;
- 5 **agreed** that the programme of work in the inaugural emissions reduction plan to achieve reductions in biogenic methane emissions from waste, in line with the Climate Change Commission's recommendations, include:
 - 5.1 subject to Budget decisions, investment in:
 - 5.1.1 collection and processing infrastructure for food waste, and where appropriate green waste;

- 5.1.2 resource recovery for construction and demolition waste materials;
- 5.1.3 a national resource recovery network;
- 5.1.4 consumer and business behaviour change campaigns to reduce organic waste;
- 5.1.5 improving information on greenhouse gas emissions from waste disposal, noting the current very high level of data uncertainty in some areas;
- 5.2 developing regulatory proposals [ENV-22-MIN-0003] for:
 - 5.2.1 kerbside collection of food waste for most communities;
 - 5.2.2 separation of commercial food waste for collection from specified businesses;
- 5.3 developing new legislation and regulations to support a national licensing scheme for more effective regulation, administration and data collection of individuals and entities in the waste and resource recovery sector, including disposal facilities, waste transporters, exporters and resource recovery entities;
- 5.4 developing future regulatory changes (supported by regulatory impact assessment) to better manage greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, once better data is available on greenhouse gas emissions from waste disposal, including:
 - 5.4.1 requiring landfill gas capture at all municipal landfills that receive organic material by 31 December 2026; and
 - 5.4.2 investigating the requirement for:
 - 5.4.2.1 landfill gas capture at a wider range of landfill sites that receive organic waste; and/or
 - 5.4.2.2 banning specified organic materials from disposal to land by 2030;
- 5.5 collaborative work by the Ministry for the Environment, the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment, and the Ministry for Primary Industries to identify and implement further cross-sector opportunities to reduce construction and demolition waste, including through the Building for Climate Change programme and work on the circular and bioeconomy strategy;
- 5.6 developing future legislation and regulations (supported by regulatory impact assessment) to establish obligations for households, businesses, collectors, disposal facilities and others to separate out specified organic materials to increase beneficial re-use and reduce emissions associated with disposal, including:
 - 5.6.1 food scraps and garden waste;
 - 5.6.2 paper and cardboard;
 - 5.6.3 construction and demolition waste, including timber;

- 6 **noted** that current modelling shows that targets for reducing emissions from landfills will not be met without a future ban on disposal of certain organic materials to landfill, but that there is a lack of sufficient data and alternative processing infrastructure to establish a ban at this time;
- 7 **noted** that the emissions reduction plan work programme for waste is subject to a Budget 2022 Climate Emergency Response Fund bid, requested to deliver on the first emissions budget for waste;

F-gases

- 8 **agreed** that the package of work in the inaugural emissions reduction plan to achieve reductions in emissions from F-gases in line with the Climate Change Commission's recommendations includes:
- 8.1 developing regulatory proposals for prohibiting import of pre-charged equipment containing high global warming potential F-gases (if alternatives are available);
- 8.2 collaborative work by the Ministry for the Environment and WorkSafe to implement appropriate training and accreditation to ensure the safety of workers servicing equipment that uses F-gases for heating and cooling (including low global warming potential equipment);
- 8.3 developing future regulatory proposals (supported by regulatory impact assessment) to prohibit the sale and use of high global warming potential F-gases used for servicing, where alternatives are available and provisions for ensuring worker safety have been made;
- 8.4 collaborative work by the Ministry for the Environment with relevant agencies on additional opportunities to reduce emissions through whole-of- life management and design options.

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Andrew Little
Hon David Parker
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Poto Williams
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon Michael Wood
Hon Dr David Clark
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Hon Meka Whaitiri
Hon Phil Twyford
Rino Tirikatene MP
Dr Deborah Russell MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for DEV