



OIAD-131

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a),

Thank you for your email of 26 September 2021 asking the following questions:

1. *Does your organisation currently have a policy for zero-carbon use by 2025? If so, is there an official wording for it?*
2. *Do you have an advisory committee dedicated to zero-carbon neutrality? If so, what is its structure, and how many staff are dedicated to it?*
3. *What are your main priorities for carbon neutrality?*
4. *What are your current gross emission reduction targets?*
5. *What priority areas have you identified to meet this target? For each of these, what is your work plan?*
6. *When does your organisation plan to phase in the NABERSNZ rating requirement for large buildings?*

We have tried to reach you on the phone number you supplied a number of times and left messages to call us back to discuss scope and clarify what you were requesting but you have not returned these calls. Please note that most of the information you are seeking is already publicly available on the Ministry's website, however for ease we have listed below.

1. ***Does your organisation currently have a policy for zero-carbon use by 2025? If so, is there an official wording for it?***

No, it would be impossible to use zero carbon. We need to use electricity in our building and fly for some of our work programme and responsibilities. We are reducing our emissions and will offset any remaining emissions from December 2025 onwards to become carbon neutral. This is in-line with the requirements of the Carbon Neutral Government Programme (CNGP).

Our emissions reductions goals are listed in our Sustainability Strategy and we report on progress each year in our Annual Report. You can view our Sustainability Strategy here: <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/Publications/sustainability-strategy-2020-2022-poster-a3.pdf>

Our 2020 Annual Report can be found here:

<https://environment.govt.nz/publications/ministry-for-the-environment-annual-report-2020/>.

We have our emissions inventory third party verified each year and this is reported via the Toitū website: <https://www.toitu.co.nz/our-members/members/ministry-for-the-environment>

You may be interested to know the Ministry's emissions in 20/21 were 367.46 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents (tCO₂e): 44% lower than our 19/20 total of 660.31 (tCO₂e), and 72% lower than our 2017/18 base year total of 1324.12 (tCO₂e).

2. Do you have an advisory committee dedicated to zero-carbon neutrality? If so, what is its structure, and how many staff are dedicated to it?

We have a Sustainability Team that helps imbed emissions reduction initiatives and manage the Ministry's responsibilities under its Sustainability Strategy, Sustainable Business Council member commitments, Climate Leaders Coalition commitments and Carbon Neutral Government Programme requirements.

Two full time equivalent staff members are dedicated to this and report via a Manager directly to the Executive Leadership Team Sponsor.

3. What are your main priorities for carbon neutrality?

Our air travel makes up over 90% of our emissions so we have a significant programme looking at reducing this.

4. What are your current gross emission reduction targets?

A 50% emissions reduction across all three scopes by 2030 from our 2017/18 baseline. This is in-line with a 1.5 degree reduction pathway. We have a short term goal on this pathway to reduce our emissions by 26% from our 2017/18 baseline by June 2022.

5. What priority areas have you identified to meet this target? For each of these, what is your work plan?

Our priority areas are a reduction in travel, waste to landfill and greater energy efficiency.

- We have an emissions cap and trade system in place with monthly reporting on travel to the cap so we can ensure we are managing our emissions to achieve our emissions reductions goals. We educate staff on sustainable travel alternatives, have invested significantly in technology to reduce the need to travel and have pool bikes, scooters and an e-bike to help get to meetings around Wellington in a lower emissions way. As well as reducing our emissions we are also looking at how we are adapting to the changing climate and how this may impact our operations. We have recently completed a process looking at our adaptation risk using the Taskforce for Climate Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) Framework. This is available on our website.
- We conduct waste audits and report findings to staff and have behavioural education and change initiatives to ensure we are minimising our waste to landfill. We have a goal in our Sustainability Strategy to reduce our waste to landfill from our head office by 50% from our 2017/18 baseline. We also have a goal to reduce our paper use by 50% from our 2017/18 baseline. We have achieved both these goals ahead of the 2022 timeframe. We report on this annually in our annual report and on our website.
- Our new head office building we are moving into shortly is aiming to achieve at least a five star Greenstar building rating. This means a range of energy efficiency measures have been built into the design.

6. When does your organisation plan to phase in the NABERSNZ rating requirement for large buildings?

In-line with the requirements of the CNGP programme.

I hope this information has been helpful for your purposes. Thank you once again for writing.

Yours sincerely



Belinda van Eyndhoven
Manager - Sustainability

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