



## Talking points for waste and F-gas Emissions Reduction Plan announcement

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<b>Delete/add Ministers as appropriate</b>	<b>Action sought:</b>
To Hon David PARKER, Minister for the Environment	For noting only

<b>Actions for Minister's Office Staff</b>	N/A
Number of appendices and attachments: 1	Appendix A: Full list of actions in the Emissions Reduction Plan for waste and F-gases

### Ministry for the Environment contacts

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# Talking points for waste and F-gas Emissions Reduction Plan announcement

## Purpose

1. The purpose of this aide memoire is to provide you with talking points to support the announcement of the Emissions Reduction Plan, specifically regarding the waste and F-gas sector chapters.

## Background

2. The Emissions Reduction Plan will be released on Monday 16 May. Public comment can be made from midday on this day. Ministry for the Environment officials will send a detailed email to stakeholders at midday, outlining the actions in the waste and F-gas work programme.
3. In addition, some new initiatives funded by the Climate Emergency Response Fund will be announced by the Minister of Finance on Monday 16 May (ahead of 19 May Budget announcements), including funding to reduce emissions from waste.
4. Further engagement is also planned, such as webinars with WasteMinz and the Recovery Trust.
5. Note that the announcement of the Emissions Reduction Plan will take place before the conclusion of consultation on the Transforming Kerbside proposals, which closes on 22 May 2022.

## Talking points

### *Waste*

6. The waste sector in Aotearoa New Zealand is currently responsible for 4 per cent of the countries emissions. These emissions largely come from biogenic methane emissions, which are produced by organic materials, such as food and green waste, paper and cardboard, and wood waste disposed to landfill.
7. The main actions to reduce biogenic methane emissions from waste follow a waste hierarchy approach, including:
  - a. the prevention of organic waste generation in the first place through food and garden waste behaviour change and education programmes for households and businesses; and working with the building for climate change programme to reduce waste in the construction sector.
  - b. Where waste cannot be avoided, diverting organic waste from landfill disposal to alternatives like composting and anaerobic digestion to ensure nutrients are recycled and where appropriate, renewable biogas is produced. and finally,

- c. Where organic wastes do end up in landfill, the emissions impact is minimised as much as possible by ensuring landfill gas is captured as effectively as possible.
8. The Emissions Reduction Plan announced on Monday 16 May seeks to address all these areas of work, through the following actions (see appendix for full list).
9. We will be investing in national resource recovery infrastructure, including for construction and demolition materials, and kerbside collection systems and infrastructure for processing organic waste over the next four years. Targeted funding will be available to support local government and enable private sector investment from later this year.
10. We will focus on improving waste data, through a national data collection and reporting programme on emissions reductions from waste, including landfill gas capture feasibility studies. This will help us to understand future needs in the waste minimisation space, as well as ensure that we are implementing regulations in an equitable manner.
11. In conjunction with the updated New Zealand Waste Strategy, which was consulted on earlier this year, we will be looking to establish regulations to help us meet our emissions reduction targets. This includes a national waste licensing scheme and potential obligations for households, businesses, collectors and disposal facilities to separate and divert specified organic materials for reuse and recovery.
12. To support all of the actions in the work programme, we will also establish a behaviour change programme that seeks to reduce both consumer and household organic waste.

#### *Fluorinated-Gases*

13. Fluorinated gases (F-gases) are of concern due to their high global warming potential (GWP) which means they are estimated to have a high impact on the climate, despite being emitted in relatively low quantities.
14. The biggest subset of F-gases is Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are primarily used as refrigerants. As such, many of the current and proposed policies target either HFCs or refrigerants.
15. As noted in the ERP, there are several schemes already in place that mitigate F-gas emissions. These are:
  - a. Import restrictions made under the Kigali Amendment. Imports of bulk HFCs require a permit issued by the EPA. These are to be issued in ever decreasing numbers year on year.
  - b. Imports of equipment pre-charged with F-gases are subject to the Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Levy and Imports of Bulk HFCs are subject to the Emissions Trading Scheme.
16. The actions that will be presented in the F-gases chapter of the ERP are:
  - a. A training and accreditation scheme for technicians working with alternative refrigerants. The aim of this action is to address concerns over the hazards of alternative refrigerants. This will be undertaken by WorkSafe and will build upon


work they are already undertaking. MBIE are to publish relevant regulations in Oct/Nov 2022, WorkSafe will implement the scheme late 2025/early 2026.

- b. A regulated product stewardship scheme for refrigerants. Refrigerants were classified a priority product under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008. This action will aim to reduce emissions by targeting the situations in which refrigerants are lost to the environment: leakage of equipment and improper disposal. This work will be undertaken by the Regulated Product Stewardship Team at MfE.
- c. Prohibitions on imports of pre-charged equipment. This will be carried out by the Hazardous Substances and Biotechnology team at MfE. We are aiming to consult on proposals before the end of 2022 and implement prohibitions the following year.
- d. Prohibitions on specific F-gases. Ministry staff will investigate prohibiting the import and sale of certain F-gases that have a significant impact on the climate.

## Next Steps

- 17. These talking points can be used to provide comment on the Emissions Reduction Plan.
- 18. Further engagement will be undertaken by officials in the weeks following the announcement.
- 19. Further formal consultation is required for the implementation of some actions under the Emissions Reduction Plan, including for the prohibition of pre-charged equipment containing F-gases, regulated product stewardship for refrigerants, and for regulatory proposals in the waste work programme. Your approval to consult will be sought through a briefing.

## Signature

Sophie Heighway Manager – Emissions Reduction Plan and Waste Levy Implementation teams Waste and Resource Efficiency	
Date:	12/05/22

## Appendix A: Full list of actions in the Emissions Reduction Plan for waste and F-gases

### **Enable households and businesses to reduce organic waste.**

- o Encourage behaviour to prevent waste at home.
- o Enable businesses to reduce food waste.
- o Support participation in improved kerbside collections.

### **Increase the amount of organic waste diverted from landfill.**

- o Improve household kerbside collections of food scraps and garden waste.
- o Invest in organic waste processing and resource recovery infrastructure.
- o Require the separation of organic waste.

### **Reduce and divert construction and demolition waste to beneficial uses.**

- o Support the building and construction sector to minimise waste through research and improved capability.
- o Invest in sorting and processing infrastructure for construction and demolition materials.
- o Enable the separation of construction and demolition materials.

### **Explore bans or limits to divert more organic waste from landfill.**

- o Investigate banning organic waste from landfill by 2030.

### **Increase the capture of gas from municipal landfills.**

- o Regulations will require landfill gas capture at municipal (Class 1) landfills.
- o Feasibility studies will determine the need for additional landfill gas capture requirements.

### **Improve waste data and prioritise a national waste licensing scheme.**

Develop a national waste licensing scheme.

Improve information on greenhouse gas emissions from waste disposal.

### **Build the capability to shift to low-global warming potential Fluorinated-gases**

- Develop training and accreditation for handling alternative gases

### **Control imports of pre-charged equipment containing high global warming potential F-gases**

- Prohibit imports of pre-charged equipment

### **Investigate prohibiting F-gases where low-global warming potential alternatives are available**

- Investigate prohibiting F-gases with high-global warming potential

### **Regulated product stewardship for refrigerants**

- Introduce a mandatory product stewardship scheme for refrigerants