

Official Information Act Request

Requester's details

Date: 21 October 2021

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Reference number: ENQ-42655-Y5L2C8

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request received on 26 September 2021 for the following information:

- Does your organisation currently have a policy for zero-carbon use by 2025?
 - If so, is there an official wording for it?
- 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?
- What are your main priorities for carbon neutrality?
- What are your current gross emission reduction targets?
 - What priority areas have you identified to meet this target?
 - For each of these, what is your work plan?
- When does your organisation plan to phase in the NABERSNZ rating requirement for large buildings?

Does your organisation currently have a policy for zero-carbon use by 2025?

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) does not have a formal policy for the reduction of emissions. However, we include guidelines in existing policies such as Procurement, Travel and contracts for services like our cleaning services, for the purpose of reducing emissions resulting from these activities. For example, considering the sustainability of goods and services being offered is built into our procurement policy and is part of the evaluation process.

As part of our commitment to moving towards a more sustainable future, the EPA has been reporting on emissions as part of the Toitū carbonreduce programme since the 2017/18 year. Toitū Envirocare (previously Enviro-Mark Solutions) is an internationally recognised environmental certification programme.

As part of our Toitū Envirocare programme certification, the EPA has developed a greenhouse gas emissions management plan and set reduction targets.

Do you have an advisory committee dedicated to zero-carbon neutrality?

The EPA does not have a dedicated zero-carbon neutrality advisory committee. However, a group of staff is responsible for promoting sustainability and emissions reduction in the workplace called Kākāriki Whānau (Green Team), which is chaired by the Services Manager and attended by at least one Executive Leadership Team member. They meet regularly to discuss and promote sustainability initiatives. Staff are kept up to date with these initiatives on the EPA's intranet.

What are your main priorities for carbon neutrality?

The EPA's main priorities and target areas for carbon neutrality are reducing electricity usage, waste and paper to landfill, and staff business travel.

What are your current gross emission reduction targets?

Below are the EPA's most recent reduction targets grouped by our priority areas for reduction. The reduction targets below are intensity-based to allow for increases in the EPAs full-time equivalents. We are due to re-certify with the Toitū carbonreduce programme and will be setting new reduction targets in line with the Carbon Neutral Government Programme and the 1.5-degree reduction.

Reduction area	Target by 1 July 2021	Achieved by 30 June 2019	Achieved by 30 June 2020	Achieved by 30 June 2021
Electricity usage	8%	15.0%	29.0%	34%
Waste and paper to landfill	15%	20.4%	51.9%	26%
Staff business travel	8%	22.2%	61.5%	92%

For each of these, what is your work plan?

The EPA work plan is to continue to target the reduction of electricity usage, waste and paper to landfill and staff business travel. We have a range of initiatives to encourage sustainability in general. Including the purchase of e-bikes for personal use, securing a corporate discount (up to 26%) from an e-bike supplier, offering reusable shopping bags in the office, having reusable food containers in all staff kitchenettes, providing coffee keep cups, using motion sensor lighting in all work areas and providing recycling and composting bins in all staff kitchenettes.

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

This is not applicable to the EPA as we occupy less than the 5000sqm required for a NABERNZ tenancy rating.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. You can contact the Ombudsman on 0800 802 602, or by email at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via ministerials@epa.govt.nz

We may publish your request and our response on our website, www.epa.govt.nz. We make OIA responses available so others can read more about the work we do and the questions we are asked. Any information that might identify you will be removed to protect your privacy.

Nāku noa nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Philip Lim'.

Philip Lim
General Manager, Finance and Systems