



11 November 2021

Tēnā koe

On 22 September 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- 1. Have you got a policy inside your department for zero-carbon use by 2025 and what is the official wording of it?*
- 2. What mechanisms are you using to measure and verify your department's emissions?*
- 3. Do you have a current report on said emissions?*
- 4. What structure have you set up with how many staff, such as a zero carbon committee?*
- 5. What are the main areas you have identified to meet mitigation and reduction goals?*
- 6. For each of these, what is your work plan?*
- 7. When do you plan to phase out coal?*
- 8. Have you begun your transition to phase in Electric Vehicles (EVs) and reduce your fleet size?*
- 9. How far along are you in meeting the NABERSNZ rating requirement for large buildings?*

On 18 October 2021, the Ministry advised you that more time was required to provide you with a response.

For the sake of clarity, the Ministry will answer your questions in turn.

- 1. Have you got a policy inside your department for zero-carbon use by 2025 and what is the official wording of it?*

The Ministry has implemented the Carbon Neutral Government Programme (CNGP) as agreed by Cabinet and is following published government guidance for government agencies to achieve carbon neutrality. This guidance can be found at the following link: www.environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/key-initiatives/carbon-neutral-government-programme/. The Ministry's Organisational Health Committee (OHC) has full oversight of CNGP progress in the Ministry.

2. *What mechanisms are you using to measure and verify your department's emissions?*

The Ministry has commenced collecting data to measure carbon emissions from 1 July 2021. The first-year collection of data will form a base year for future reporting. The data on carbon emissions will be verified by an independent third party and published in the Ministry's Annual Report by 30 September 2022.

The Ministry has joined the CarbonReduce programme through Toitū Envirocare to support the establishment and independent verification of carbon emissions required under the CNGP.

The Ministry can provide you with **Table One** which shows the emissions used by unit for 2019/20 and the last five financial years:

Financial Year	Petrol	Diesel	Combined Total Fuel
	Tonnes CO2e	Tonnes CO2e	Tonnes CO2e
2015/16	3,277	275	3,551
2016/17	3,161	268	3,429
2017/18	1,809	74	1,883
2018/19	1,211	7	1,218
2019/20	989	6	995
TOTAL	10,447	629	11,077

An updated amount will be published in the Ministry's annual report, and the subsequent Select Committee Annual Review, which is due to be published in December 2021.

3. *Do you have a current report on emissions?*

The Ministry will present a current report on Carbon emissions to OHC in November 2021. The collection of carbon emission data commenced from 1 July 2021 and the report will cover approximately five months of emissions data. The Ministry is on schedule for reporting the full first year of carbon emissions in December 2022 as per the CNGP timeline.

4. *What structure have you set up with how many staff, such as a zero carbon committee?*

The Ministry's CNGP is led by the Commercial Operations Group within the People and Capability Directorate. The CNGP team comprises of 1 FTE dedicated project lead, a senior programme manager and a part-time senior data analyst. A cross-Ministry working group supports the programme and OHC has governance oversight of CNGP activities. The Ministry is also a member of government Sustainability groups and is a Toitū Envirocare CarbonReduce member.

5. What are the main areas you have identified to meet mitigation and reduction goals?

The key emission activity areas that the Ministry will mitigate are CNGP mandated emission sources, which can be seen at the following link: www.environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/cabinet-papers-and-regulatory-impact-statements/cngp/. These include direct and indirect emissions of greenhouse gases and source categories, for example, business air travel, fleet vehicle emissions, and building heating and ventilation emissions. The Ministry will implement emission reduction plans for these areas following guidance from the Ministry for Environment (MfE).

6. For each of these, what is your work plan?

The Ministry's work plan is to collate emissions activity data following a prescribed Green House Gas (GHG) inventory and reporting process and Emissions management process. The GHG Inventory and emissions reporting model refers to MfE guidelines which is in line with ISO (International Organization for Standardization) 14064-1:2018 standards and GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard.

The Ministry's Fleet Strategy was approved in July 2021 and aligns with the Government's priority for reducing fleet emissions across public sector agencies. The Ministry's fleet emissions profile is available through a dashboard managed by New Zealand Government Procurement (NZGP) and tracks the average emissions for each mandated agency with light vehicles and provides a comparison across these agencies. This can be found at the following link: www.procurement.govt.nz/broader-outcomes/reducing-emissions-and-waste/reducing-government-fleet-emissions/.

The Ministry has also included carbon emission key performance indicators in our cleaning and security contracts; however, it is too early to report any information to date. Questions are asked in line with sustainable practices in some procurement activities with work also being done on Broader Outcomes, including environmental initiatives and expectations. The Ministry uses an energy management supplier (Smart Power) to advise on energy purchasing against the property portfolio.

Science-based target guidance released by MfE will be used to plan our reduction targets. The Ministry's gross emissions reduction targets will be set when there is measurable evidence of the Ministry's actual carbon emissions per year.

7. When do you plan to phase out coal?

The Ministry does not currently have or use any coal boilers.

8. Have you begun your transition to phase in Electric Vehicles (EVs) and reduce your fleet size?

The Ministry is planning to transition to an electric vehicle fleet by 2025/2026. The Fleet Strategy includes roadmaps for the replacement of petrol and kinetic hybrid vehicles, with battery electric vehicles (BEVs) or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) if BEVs cannot be purchased for operational reasons, and for the installation of on-site charging infrastructure and equipment. In 2021/22, the Ministry is planning to replace 76 petrol vehicles with BEVs or PHEVs.

The Ministry will continue to optimise our fleet, including in terms of the distribution of vehicles across our various sites around the country and will be undertaking a full fleet audit and optimisation study in the first six months of 2022.

9. How far along are you in meeting the NABERSNZ rating requirement for large buildings.

The Ministry has moved, or is planning on moving, from a number of large buildings prior to 2025. Our Building Performance Specification, which applies to the design of new builds and major renovations, sets the requirement for a NABERS four- or five-star rating respectively.

After the Ministry has moved from these large buildings, the new buildings will be assessed, the new buildings will be assessed once there is 12 months of operating data available. The other large buildings are planned to have NABERS rating assessments done before lease renewals in line with the Government Property Group requirements. If the rating is less than NABERS four-star, the Ministry will work with the landlord on the upgrades required to lift the rating as part of the lease negotiations.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui



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