



20 October 2021



Thank you for your email of 22 September 2021 to the Ministry of Education requesting 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. *When can we expect your first report on these 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?*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Our response to your individual questions is outlined below. Please note that these responses do not include information relating to school property.

**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 is following the government expectations set out in the Carbon Neutral Government programme (CNGP). Information about the CNGP is available at this link [About the Carbon Neutral Government Programme | Ministry for the Environment](#). As part of the Ministry's work programme, core policy and other guidance will be developed.

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

The Ministry has worked with a third-party provider to assist with emissions measurement. The emissions data for the financial year ending 30 June 2020 has been independently verified in line with *International Standard ISO 14064-3: 2019 'Greenhouse gases- Part 3: Specification with guidance for the validation and verification of greenhouse gas assertions' (ISO 14064-3: 2019)*. The Ministry is currently working on the emissions data for the financial year ending 30 June 2021. This work is in preparation for the mandatory reporting requirement in the Carbon Neutral Government Programme for the financial year ending 30 June 2022.

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**3. When can we expect your first report on these emissions?**

The Ministry will begin reporting on Corporate emissions as directed by the Carbon Neutral Government Programme by December 2022, for the financial year ending 30 June 2022.

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

The work in this area involves a number of staff across the Ministry and updates on such work is provided to the appropriate governance forums in the Ministry.

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

We are working to achieve government targets of transitioning our fleet to electric vehicles. The Ministry runs one of the largest, government vehicle fleets with 565 vehicles and for the fourth quarter of the financial year ending 30 June 2021, the Ministry was ranked 14 out of 80 in the mandated government agencies average fleet emissions with an average of 118g/km per vehicle. You can find out more information on these results on the New Zealand Government Procurement website at: <https://www.procurement.govt.nz/broader-outcomes/reducing-emissions-and-waste/reducing-government-fleet-emissions/>.

We have sustainability targets as part of our travel management services provider contract and are working with our energy and waste suppliers to increase sustainability reporting from these suppliers.

We have increased education for our staff on waste and recycling initiatives and have introduced additional organic and recycling services in 14 of our offices earlier this year.

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

The Ministry is currently developing a sustainability strategy which will include initiatives and work programmes from across the Ministry.

We currently have a project working on the plan to achieve electric vehicle transition by 2025/26.

**7. When do you plan to phase out coal?**

The Ministry has one office (Invercargill) that is heated by coal that is leased. The Ministry is anticipating vacating the premises by June 2023.

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

The Ministry introduced the first three fully electric vehicles into the fleet in June 2021 and all future replacements will be battery electric vehicles (BEV) or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles where operational requirements mean those are the best option.

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

NABERSNZ rating assessments have been completed on four buildings that the Ministry offices are based at. We are planning for the remaining buildings that meet the criteria to be completed during the next twelve months.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes OIA responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



Zoe Griffiths

**Hautū | Deputy Secretary**

**Te Puna Rangatōpū | Corporate**