

The Mitigation Hierarchy

In order to achieve New Zealand's targets under the [Paris Agreement](#), reduction of carbon emissions needs to happen as quickly as possible.

Around 40% of New Zealand's energy-related emissions are from the business sector – so we all need to do our bit to accelerate this change.

When considering how to reduce your businesses' energy-related emissions, it's best to consider the Mitigation Hierarchy.

Mitigating Climate Change

In the context of climate change and emissions reduction, 'mitigation' refers to human interventions that reduce the sources of greenhouse gas emissions or enhance 'carbon sinks' – which actively remove carbon from the atmosphere.

The mitigation hierarchy, depicted below, takes a three-step approach to prioritising mitigation efforts.



Avoid

Step One – avoid creating emissions where possible by optimising your current process to be more efficient



Reduce

Step Two – focus on reducing the emissions that can't be avoided by introducing equipment that reduces demand for energy – for example, a heat recovery system.



Neutralise

Step Three – neutralise the remaining emissions by reviewing your fuel switching opportunities.