

[REDACTED]

16 August 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Official Information Act Request: EECA Carbon Impact Assessment

Thank you for your email on Monday 24 July 2023 in which you requested information under the Official Information Act 1982. You requested:

1. *Does your department or agency employ staff, either full time, part time or in a contractor capacity, specifically tasked with measuring the carbon impact of the department or agency's activities? If yes:*
 1. *How many people are employed in this role, and what are their job titles?*
 2. *Provide an figure for the total annual salaries or fees paid for these roles in the last fiscal year?*
2. *Can you provide the total expenditure by your department in the last fiscal year on activities specifically related to measuring the carbon impact of the department or agency's activities? This might include, but not be limited to, staff salaries or fees, software and hardware procurement, consulting fees, and any other related expenditures.*
3. *Has your department or agency calculated any cost savings (direct or indirect) that have resulted from efforts to reduce the carbon impact of its activities? If so:*
 1. *Please provide an estimate of these savings in the last fiscal year?*
 2. *Provide any documents, reports, or assessments that detail these savings or the methods by which these savings were calculated?*

EECA has provided a response to your questions below:

1. *Does your department or agency employ staff, either full time, part time or in a contractor capacity, specifically tasked with measuring the carbon impact of the department or agency activities? If yes:*
 - *How many people are employed in this role, and what are their job titles?*
 - *Provide an figure for the total annual salaries or fees paid for these roles in the last fiscal year?*

EECA has not employed any staff specifically tasked with measuring the carbon impact of EECA's operational delivery activities.

EECA is Toitū-certified and has been since 2008. We are a member of the Climate Leaders Coalition, and we also fulfil our obligations as a participant of the Carbon-Neutral Government Programme.

To date, our Kakariki Group, consisting of a number of staff volunteers, contribute to the auditing, reporting and behaviour change initiatives required to embed our emissions-reduction and sustainability practices in house. The time spent on measuring the carbon impact of EECA's activities would be approximately 80 hours per year.

- 2. Can you provide the total expenditure by your department in the last fiscal year on activities specifically related to measuring the carbon impact of the department or agency activities? This might include, but not be limited to, staff salaries or fees, software and hardware procurement, consulting fees, and any other related expenditures.**

EECA's total expenditure for FY22/23 relating to the measurement of carbon emissions is \$17,959.00 excl. GST.

A breakdown below:

Toitū CarbonZero Certification

A breakdown of the costs is below:

Deliverables	Value
Toitū Envirocare Annual Membership Fee	\$5,275.00
Carbon Zero External Audit	\$4,560.00
Independent Review and Certification Fee	\$744.00
Staff Salary	\$5,000.00
TOTAL excl. GST	\$15,579.00

Waste Audit

EECA conducted a Waste Audit to update the waste baseline used to measure emissions arising from Waste to Landfill as part of the Toitū CarbonZero programme. The total cost for the waste audit is as follows:

Description	Value
Sustainable Enterprise Solutions – Waste Systems Assessment	\$2,380.00
TOTAL excl. GST	\$2,380.00

3. *Has your department or agency calculated any cost savings (direct or indirect) that have resulted from efforts to reduce the carbon impact of its activities? If so:*
- *Please provide an estimate of these savings in the last fiscal year?*
 - *Provide any documents, reports, or assessments that detail these savings or the methods by which these savings were calculated?*

EECA has had energy emissions reductions goals in its core operational parameters for a number of years. For example, EECA does not have a vehicle fleet and it provides one visitor carparking space at its Christchurch office (it comes as part of our lease) as part of its operations. These deliberate actions help eliminate costs (and emissions) associated with their availability. In July 2022, EECA introduced an air travel emissions budget pilot across the organisation that aims to help monitor and ultimately reduce air travel and their emissions, and it is working towards meeting its obligated 2030 emissions target. In addition, we have undertaken tasks in our Wellington head office to introduce smart plugs to improve energy efficiency measures and removed our most power-hungry appliance – an older model vending machine. These are initiatives that help reduce specific costs. We will continue to explore initiatives that can seek to improve energy efficiency, energy savings, and emissions reductions in our core operations.

We have not completed an assessment of the estimated cost savings as our practices are now just “how we do our business.”

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly at <https://www.eeca.govt.nz/about/news-and-corporate/official-information/> with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Caseley
EECA Chief Executive