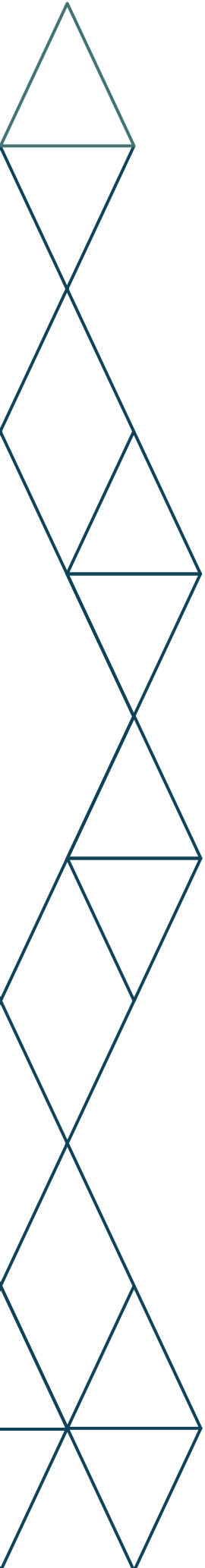


# EECA Emissions Report

2022/23 emissions inventory and  
2023/24 emissions reduction plan

May 2024





**Ka ora a  
Papatūānuku,  
Ka ora Te  
Tangata.**

When the earth  
is well,  
the people will  
be well.

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## About this report

This report covers our emissions from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, our projections, and our strategy and plans to further reduce our emissions.

It is a supplement to our Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2023.

# Our purpose

## Our purpose is to mobilise New Zealanders to be world leaders in clean and clever energy use.

Te Tari Tiaki Pūngao the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) is a Crown agency. Our function is to encourage, promote, and support energy efficiency, energy conservation, and the use of renewable sources of energy as outlined in the 2000 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act.

Energy use is responsible for **over 40%** of New Zealand's total greenhouse gas emissions. EECA is focused on the most significant opportunities for emissions reductions at speed and scale.

## The levers we pull to accelerate change



Our **regulations and standards** mean New Zealanders have access to, and are encouraged to use, the best performing new products and technologies available internationally, including vehicles – for home, commercial and industrial use, saving money and energy.



When there are significant, evidenced market barriers for the adoption of clean and clever energy technology, we use our expertise to **target investment** through co-funding mechanisms.



We provide evidenced-based **education and information** to New Zealanders and businesses to help them make informed choices – lowering energy bills, improving productivity, and future-proofing for a clean energy economy.

**Learn more about the impact we are making in each of our focus areas in our 2022/23 Annual Report**

[www.eeca.govt.nz/Annual-Report-2022-23](http://www.eeca.govt.nz/Annual-Report-2022-23)

# Walking the talk

## We are committed to reducing our carbon footprint

Although our organisation’s carbon footprint is relatively small, every contribution does count and we are committed to meeting our obligations and reducing our emissions.

We are in our sixteenth year of measuring and reporting our carbon emissions.

As a signatory of the Climate Leaders Coalition, we’re committed to measuring and publicly reporting on our emissions, setting a public emissions reduction target and working with our suppliers to reduce their emissions.



### Signatory since 2019

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We are one of three lead agencies of the Carbon Neutral Government Programme (CNGP). The programme aims to make many organisations within the public sector carbon neutral from 2025.



### One of three lead agencies

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We are a Carbon Net Zero Organisation, which means we are measuring, managing, and reducing our emissions according to ISO 14064-1:2018 and Toitū requirements, and offsetting remaining emissions.



### Verified emissions reporting since 2008

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# How we're tracking

## Our progress towards our 2025 and 2030 emissions targets

EECA has been measuring and reporting on organisational emissions for 16 years. Our reporting years run from 1 July to 30 June, in line with the government financial year.

In 2018 we set science-based targets, calculated to keep our emissions reductions in line with what be required to keep global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. 2018/19 is therefore our baseline year for measuring progress.

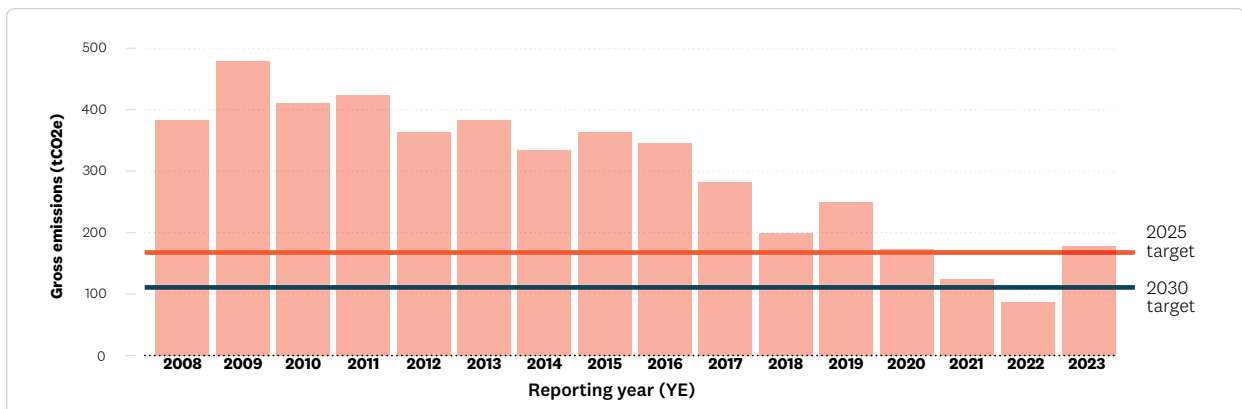
As at 30 June 2023, we have reduced our gross emissions by 23% against a 2018/19 baseline (from 244.92 tCO<sub>2</sub>e to 188.45 tCO<sub>2</sub>e).

## Our science-based emissions reduction targets

**2025** ↓ **32%** reduction from a 2018/19 baseline to: **166.5** tCO<sub>2</sub>e

**2030** ↓ **55%** reduction from a 2018/19 baseline to: **110.0** tCO<sub>2</sub>e

## EECA carbon emissions 2008-2023, and future targets



## Our progress

Our emissions have been steadily trending downwards since 2008. Covid restrictions in 2020 and 2021 had a significant impact on travel, resulting in reduced emissions – below our 2025 target levels. In 2022 our emissions have increased, due to travel restrictions lifting, an increase in staffing numbers, the opening of a new office in Christchurch, and the introduction of working from home emissions to our measurements.

Our emissions intensity for the 2022-23 reporting year was 1.63 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per FTE, and 1.12 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per \$million operating revenue. This represents a 64% and 78% decrease respectively since our 2018-19 base year.

# Our carbon footprint

## 2022/23 emissions inventory

### Key stats

**188** tCO<sub>2</sub>e

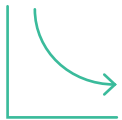
Total emissions in the year to July 2023.

**109%** ↑

Increase in gross emissions from previous reporting period.

**23%** ↓

Reduction in gross emissions from 2018/19 base year.



Despite an increase in emissions in the past year, we are currently on track to meet our 2025 and 2030 targets.

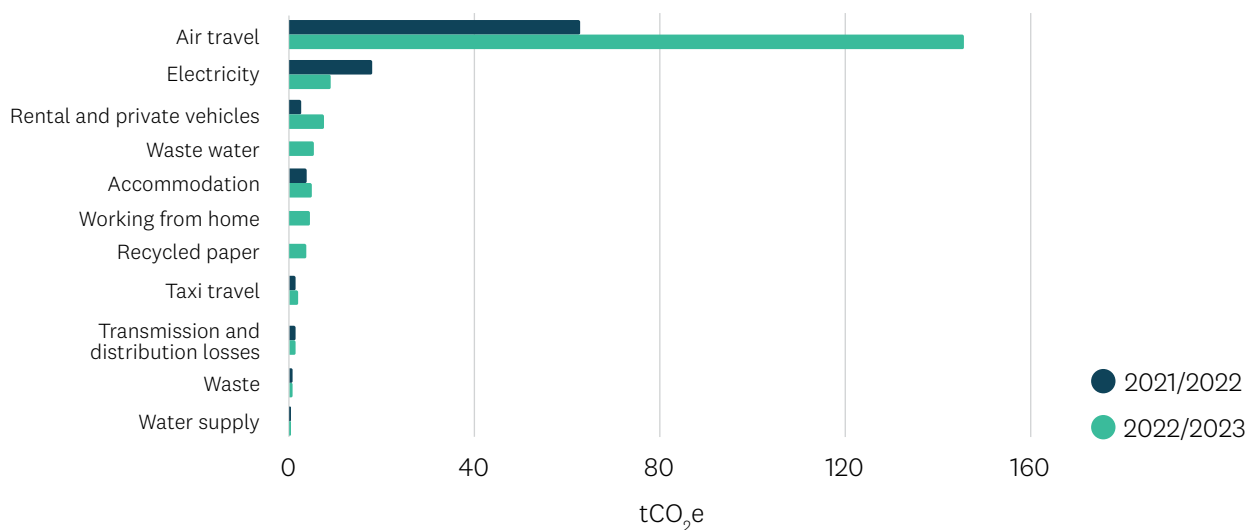


Our largest emissions source is air travel.



We calculated working from home emissions for the first time this year, which added 4.78 tCO<sub>2</sub>e to our total emissions inventory.

## EECA gross carbon emissions by source



## Emissions by scope

		tCO <sub>2</sub> e		
		2018/19	2021/22	2022/23
<b>SCOPE 1</b>	<b>Direct emissions from fuel use.</b> N/A	0.00	0.01	0.00
<b>SCOPE 2</b>	<b>Category 2: Indirect emissions from imported energy.</b> <i>Electricity use in EECA offices.</i>	12.77	18.48	9.70
<b>SCOPE 3</b>	<b>Category 3: Indirect emissions from transportation.</b> <i>Air travel, taxis, rental cars, use of private cars for business travel, working from home and business travel accommodation.</i>	231.29	69.05	166.30
	<b>Category 4: Indirect emissions from products used by organisation.</b> <i>Electricity distributed transmission and distribution losses, waste to landfill, recycling and water supply.</i>	0.86	2.83	12.46
	<b>Category 5: Indirect emissions associated with the use of products from the organisation.</b> N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Category 6: Indirect emissions from other sources.</b> N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total direct emissions</b>	0.00	0.01	0.00
	<b>Total indirect emissions</b>	244.92	90.36	188.45
	<b>Total gross emissions</b>	244.92	90.36	188.45
	<b>Purchased emission reductions</b>	245.00	91.00	189.00
	<b>Total net emissions</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00

## Net carbon zero status

To achieve verified net carbon zero status through Toitū, we offset all remaining emissions with New Zealand carbon credits selected where available.

In 2022/23 we purchased carbon credits from Spray Point, Marlborough where the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative is returning traditional grazing country to native forest.





# 2022/23 initiatives

## Actions taken at EECA to reduce emissions and improve data collection

### Smart plugs

We introduced smart plugs into the Wellington office to better understand our energy use. Consequently, we made some small but significant changes, such as removing the vending machine and automating the shutdown of screens and printers through timed usage. We found that our 'plug-load' accounts for approximately 10% of the office's electricity use, with the remaining 90% from hard-wired systems like lighting, water heating, and HVAC.

### Air emissions budget pilot

We conducted a pilot project to trial travel emissions budgets, making each team in the organisation consider travel expenditure in terms of emissions as well as dollars.

### Measuring working from home emissions

We began measuring and reporting on working from home emissions, as required under our commitment to the Climate Neutral Government Programme. To measure these, we estimated (based on EECA's 2 day per week work from home policy) that on any given day an average 40% of staff worked from home. We could then calculate a total number of WFH days and used an average emissions factor to estimate total working from home emissions.

### Waste audit

In August 2022, we commissioned a waste audit to assess our waste systems and provide advice on waste reduction. The report identified a number of improvement opportunities including switching to clear bags for recycling and on-demand paper collection – which will improve our data and understanding of our performance in this area.

### NABERS ratings

Each year our office energy performance is reviewed under the National Australian Built Environment Rating System New Zealand (NABERSNZ) ratings system. Our Wellington office has a tenancy rating of 5 stars, and our Auckland office has a tenancy rating of 4.5 stars.

### Staff engagement and other endeavours

We promote a low-carbon staff culture through various sustainability initiatives led by our 'Kakariki team'. In 2022/23, we held a community service day supporting environmental outcomes, including weeding juvenile plantings on Mt Victoria. We participated in the 2023 Aotearoa Bike Challenge, placing 2nd in the Wellington region. We became a founding member of Ad Net Zero NZ, which aims to reduce the carbon impact of developing, producing, and running advertising.

# Climate-related **risk disclosure**

In 2022/23, for the first time, we undertook a climate risk assessment to identify the impact that climate-related hazards are likely to have on our organisation.

By assessing climate change risks and opportunities and setting objectives to reduce these risks and maximise opportunities, EECA will be better prepared to navigate the transition to a more sustainable, low emissions economy.

## Physical risks

EECA is an office-based organisation, with three offices located in Wellington (head office), Auckland, and Christchurch. The office-based nature of our operations means the most pressing physical risk linked to climate change is the potential loss of our offices, which has the direct potential to hinder our ability to deliver the Government's energy efficiency agenda.

To address this, we have implemented mitigation measures such as a flexible working from home policy and the adoption of enhanced online software, both of which aim to ensure the continuity of our services even in the face of office disruptions caused by climate-related factors.

## Reputation risks

EECA's purpose is to mobilise New Zealanders to be world leaders in clean and clever energy use. EECA is also one of three lead agencies of the Carbon Neutral Government Programme (CNGP). It is important for our reputation that EECA leads the way with measuring and reporting our emissions, setting a 1.5 degree emissions reduction target and reducing our emissions. Failure to genuinely improve our emissions profile is a reputational risk and can impact the credibility of our funding programmes and our leadership in this space.

To mitigate this risk, we follow a robust emissions reduction programme which includes JAS-ANZ accredited CarbonZero certification through Toitū Envirocare.

## Financial risks with offsetting

We offset all our remaining emissions, prioritising the purchase of New Zealand credits (when available). CNGP requires State sector organisations to be carbon neutral from 2025. The enforcement of mandatory offsetting will amplify the potential for rising costs and availability of carbon credits. The financial risk to EECA is greater if we do not reduce our gross emissions.

We mitigate this risk by focusing primarily on emissions reductions and prepurchasing offset credits in advance through the Toitū CarbonZero programme to secure the preferred New Zealand credits and secure a set price.

# 2023/24 Emissions reduction plan

As an active member of the Climate Leaders Coalition and Carbon-neutral Government Programme, we are committed to publishing our emissions reduction plan, and to report on our progress towards meeting our targets.

Our emissions reduction target for 2023/24 is 183 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, representing a 2.4% decrease on the previous reporting year.

To help us achieve this, we have established three strategic pillars of sustainability to focus our efforts on the areas where we can have the most impact.

## Pillars of sustainability: priority areas



### Sustainable transport

Travel represents **80.12%** of our latest annual emissions. As the largest slice of our carbon footprint, travel, and particularly air travel, represents our greatest opportunity to reduce emissions.



### Energy efficiency in the office

Electricity represents **10.19%** of our latest annual emissions. Through consistent energy management and the adoption of efficient and smart technologies, we can maintain low-impact office spaces and showcase our leadership in this area of expertise.



### Sustainable procurement

Our ability to influence will begin to incorporate our supply chain. By working with our suppliers, we can collectively start to understand the broader set of scope 3 emissions within our footprint. It is the first step in us knowing where to prioritise our efforts.

# Goals for the 2023/24 reporting year

PRIORITY AREA	2023/24 TARGET	PLANNED INITIATIVES
<b>Sustainable transport</b>	157 tCO <sub>2</sub> e 2.4% reduction on previous reporting period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a robust travel policy with carbon emissions budgets to ensure we meet our travel targets, with particular emphasis on air travel.</li> <li>• Within the same travel policy, to provide guidance that prioritises the use of electric or low-emissions vehicles for shorter distances.</li> <li>• To conduct a full employee survey to understand commuting journeys and whether there are opportunities to better support.</li> <li>• To ensure each office has satisfactory biking facilities for staff.</li> </ul>
<b>Energy efficiency in the office</b>	157,768 kWh 2.4% reduction on previous reporting period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measure and report on office energy use across all three offices.</li> <li>• Monitor data from smart plugs to optimise and automate efficiencies and make recommendations throughout the year.</li> <li>• Upgrade all office lighting to LEDs and introduce sensored lighting where appropriate.</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainable procurement</b>	Establish a framework for working with our suppliers to reduce emissions across our value chain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a sustainable procurement policy framework.</li> <li>• Introduce the Climate Action Toolbox as a free and accessible audit tool for our suppliers to engage with.</li> </ul>

# Conclusion

## Every effort counts

As a small, office-based service organisation, our emissions output is not substantial. However, as an entity mandated to promote energy efficiency, energy conservation and the use of renewable energy to New Zealand businesses, communities and citizens, it is critical that we hold ourselves to a high standard of emissions measurement and reporting and show progress in our own internal efforts towards emissions reduction.

We hope that by being transparent with our progress and sharing our plan, it provides to other organisations, whether small or large, public or private sector, just one example of how it can be shaped.

It is a small yet critical component within our bigger kaupapa which, through our strategy and our work programmes, strives to achieve a sustainable energy system that supports the prosperity and wellbeing of both current and future generations.

