

Ministry for the Environment Sustainability Strategy

Our purpose: Aotearoa - he whenua mana kura mō te tangata - Aotearoa New Zealand is the most liveable place in the world

Sustainability for us at the Ministry for the Environment means operating within our baseline, minimising our environmental footprint and providing our people what they need to thrive. We connect, engage, influence and mobilise action across New Zealand to care for, manage and invest in our natural resources wisely, so our environment thrives along with our economy and people. This is our plan to July 2020 which complements our Strategy on a Page.

Our People

Being an awesome place to work



Our Environment

Leading by example



Being a strong voice for the environment



Our Finances & Transparency

Being financially fit so we can achieve our outcomes



Our longer term Goals

- Using our diversity as our strength – “He rau mano, he rau kotahi tangata” Embracing our multiple talents
- Growing our people so they can be effective leaders, challenging and empowering others to improve environmental outcomes

- Reducing our environmental footprint, leading by example and sharing best practice
- We want to be carbon neutral by reducing and then offsetting our emissions and be a zero waste ministry

- Advising with impact by providing New Zealanders with the best information at the right time to enable informed and sustainable decisions
- We lead by connecting others with an interest in better environmental outcomes to find solutions

- Remain financially sustainable by operating within our baseline
- Reporting on our performance and progress to our people and stakeholders on our intranet and in our Annual Report
- Managing our funds for greatest environmental benefit/impact and in-line with our priorities

Our Targets by July 1st 2020

- Develop and launch our Te Ao Māori Strategy
- Achieve Rainbow Tick Certification
- No gender pay gap
- Staff volunteering day available for all staff annually
- Diversity and Inclusion Policy and programme enacted

- Measure and report our carbon footprint and have it externally verified
- Reduce our waste to landfill by 50%
- Sustainability criteria added into the funds we administer
- Reduce our total energy use (kWh) in Environment House by 10% per m2
- Reduce our travel emissions by 20%

- Policy Plus - Sustainability is at the forefront of our minds and is woven into our everyday actions, advice and outcomes
- Building our voice – engagement, reputation and brand measurement scores consistently over 75%
- Use our state of the environment synthesis report EA2019 to lead action on sustainably managing our natural assets

- 100% of OIAs consistently delivered within statutory timeframes
- Measure and Report on our financial as well as non-financial results via our Annual Report and intranet
- Sustainable procurement principles incorporated into all contracts. We help lead this for Government to progress our outcomes

Our Sustainability Commitment



Aotearoa – he whenua mana kura mō te tangata

Our goal is that Aotearoa New Zealand is the most liveable place in the world. For this to be realised, and for New Zealand to prosper, our environment must prosper. We need to care for our natural resources and put the environment at the heart of our decision making. A thriving environment underpins our economic prosperity; it contributes to our health and our physical well-being and is central to what it means to be a Kiwi.

Sustainability for us at the Ministry for the Environment means operating within our baseline, minimising our environmental footprint and providing our people what they need to thrive. We connect, engage, influence and mobilise action across New Zealand to care for, manage and invest in our natural resources wisely, so our environment thrives along with our economy and people.

We do this every day by living our Strategy on a Page and:

- Using our diversity as our strength – “He rau mano, he rau kotahi tangata” Embracing our multiple talents;
- Growing our people so they can be effective leaders, challenging and empowering others to improve environmental outcomes;
- Reducing our environmental footprint, leading by example and sharing best practice. We want to be a carbon neutral and zero waste Ministry;
- Advising with impact by providing New Zealanders with the best information at the right time to enable informed and sustainable decisions;
- Connecting others with an interest in better environmental outcomes to find solutions;
- Remaining financially sustainable by operating within our baseline; and
- Managing our funds for greatest environmental benefit and in-line with our outcomes.

We report on our performance and progress to our people and stakeholders on our intranet and in our Annual Report.

Our Environmental Commitment



Aotearoa – he whenua mana kura mō te tangata

Our goal is that Aotearoa New Zealand is the most liveable place in the world.

To make New Zealand the most liveable place in the world, our environment must prosper. We need to care for and invest in our natural resources, understanding the consequences of our decisions, and make wise choices that will benefit future generations.

We need everyone to play a part. And that starts with us. At MfE we are a team of people passionate about the environment and the role we play. We take action, lead and help others succeed. We connect, engage, influence and mobilise action across New Zealand to care for, manage and invest in our natural resources wisely, so our environment thrives along with our economy and people. We can influence others environmental performance through our policy advice, environmental improvement funding, best practice advice and procurement.

As environmental stewards, we take every opportunity to reduce and minimise our environmental impact in our day to day work. This means that as well as complying with all relevant legislation and standards, we will:

- Continue to provide informed policy advice that leads to sustainable management of our natural assets.
- Monitor our environmental performance, setting and reviewing clear objectives and targets at least annually to ensure we are continually improving.
- Measure our carbon footprint, proactively seeking to reduce it, and reporting publically on our progress.
- Reduce our consumption of non-renewable resources and the waste we generate, thereby preventing any unnecessary pollution.
- Guide our staff to reduce impact of air and land travel.
- Raise our awareness of environmental issues associated with our organisation and monitoring new technologies or practices that may assist us to approve our environmental performance and demonstrate leadership for others.
- Consider the environmental credentials of products and services in our procurement decisions (in accordance with our Procurement Policy).
- Encourage our stakeholders within central government and beyond to minimise their environmental footprint.