



Emissions Reduction Plan 2024



Australian Government
Climate Change Authority

Acknowledgement of Country

The authority recognises the First Nations people of this land and their ongoing connection to culture and country. We acknowledge First Nations people as the Traditional Owners, Custodians and Lore Keepers of the world’s oldest living cultures, and pay our respects to their Elders.

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Foreword

The Climate Change Authority (the authority) plays a central role in driving climate action in Australia, including by advising on national emissions reduction targets and monitoring progress towards achieving those targets.

Our work in providing evidence-based advice is shaped by scientific knowledge, the international and domestic economic and climate policy environments, and the needs and experiences of Australian communities.

Urgent action is needed - in Australia and globally - to reduce emissions and put the world on the pathway to a safer climate future, consistent with the Paris Agreement goals. This urgency is increasing as scientific understanding of climate change continues to improve and more communities face direct and mounting climate impacts.

In keeping with this pressing need to cut emissions as far and fast as possible across all sectors of the economy, the authority has an important responsibility to do what we can to address the greenhouse gas emissions that arise in relation to our own operations.

The Australian Government has committed to achieve net zero emissions in government operations by 2030. The government included this target in Australia's *Nationally Determined Contribution Communication 2022* under the Paris Agreement, and reaffirmed its position when the government joined 18 global partners to launch the Net Zero Government Initiative at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties meeting (COP27) in November 2022.

Commitment to achieving net zero

The authority is committed to reducing our operational emissions through the implementation of appropriate abatement strategies, and to achieving net zero emissions by 2030.

This Emissions Reduction Plan describes the priorities and actions the authority is taking to reduce these operational emissions and contribute to the APS Net Zero 2030 target.



Brad Archer

Chief Executive Officer

24 October 2024

Emissions Reduction Plan

Purpose

The Australian Government, through the Department of Finance, has established the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy. The strategy sets out the Australian Government's approach to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions in its operations. It also puts in place public emissions reporting for Australian Government agencies to promote accountability for progress towards this goal.

This plan sets out the steps that the authority will take to achieve net zero by 2030. It encompasses new and existing initiatives within the authority to reduce emissions and contribute to the APS Net Zero 2030 target, as part of a responsible whole-of-government effort.

Net zero greenhouse gas emissions

APS Net Zero 2030 is the target set by the Australian Government to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions from government operations by the year 2030.

Inclusions

This target includes scope 1 and scope 2 emissions from authority activities in Australia and its territories. Scope 1 emissions result directly from authority operations, while scope 2 emissions are the emissions associated with the generation of the electricity used by the authority. Achieving net zero means reducing these emissions as far as possible, through measures like improving energy efficiency and sourcing renewable electricity. Any residual emissions which cannot otherwise be avoided or reduced must then be offset to ensure the authority achieves net zero emissions by 2030.

Exclusions

Activities that take place outside of Australia or its territories, including international air and marine travel, are not included in Australia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and are not included in the APS Net Zero 2030 target or subject to the Strategy.

Currently the authority does not have operations outside of Australia and therefore all its operational activities are within the scope of the strategy.

Governance

This plan will be updated annually, with a summary to be incorporated into our annual report. Progress against actions identified within this plan will also be included in annual reports. This, combined with annual emissions reporting, will be used to track and assess the authority's progress on reducing its emissions.

As part of the Net Zero in Government Operations Annual Progress Report, the Department of Finance will aggregate these measures to report on whole-of-Australian Government (WoAG) aggregated emissions reductions activities.

Future iterations of this plan will align with the best practice advice about the use of offsets and climate disclosure requirements, currently under development by the Department of Finance.

Engagement

In developing this plan the authority has worked with:

- Department of Finance - Climate Action in Government Operations - to ensure alignment with the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy and the Commonwealth Climate Disclosure requirements.
- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) – to identify shared opportunities to lower emissions holistically across the portfolio agency that the authority belongs to.
- Property Services Provider (Jones Lang LaSalle) – to discuss opportunities to lower emissions through property and facilities management.

Operational context

The Climate Change Authority’s purpose is to provide evidence-based advice on the response to climate change, to:

- Accelerate emissions reductions and position Australia as a leader in the global effort to limit temperature increases
- Guide Australia to new opportunities and new ways of doing things, to sustain Australia’s prosperity as the world transitions to net zero emissions
- Help Australia prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change, which have already begun and will continue to increase.

The authority’s functions are set out in detail in its enabling legislation, the *Climate Change Authority Act 2011*.

The authority is an agency of 65 staff, primarily working from office facilities in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). A small number of staff also work from state offices in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide operated by DCCEEW under a Memorandum of Understanding arrangement, and/or work from home.

The Canberra office consists of a net lettable area of 655 square meters, leased as part of a single floor within a multi-tenanted five-story building. The authority commenced its current tenancy in the 2023-24 financial year following a significant expansion of organisational capacity.

The authority does not maintain or operate any fleet vehicles.

The authority has already commenced efforts to cut emissions in line with the direction set by the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy. This includes the following key activities:

- The Canberra office space occupied by the authority currently has a NABERS base Energy Performance Rating of 5 stars. The authority’s 655-square meter occupancy is below the threshold requirement for government facilities to have a 5.5 star NABERS rating. Despite this, the authority is continuing to work with the landlord and property service provider to achieve a base building and certified tenancy NABERS rating of at least 5.5 stars. This is likely to be achieved by identifying further energy efficiency improvements.
- The office has energy efficient technologies such as sensor operated LED lighting, and timed air conditioning controls to ensure energy efficient operation and limit unnecessary energy

use after hours. The building's sustainability features include water conservation methods in bathrooms with motion-active hand basins, rooftop solar generation capacity, onsite composting, and end of trip facilities to support riding and walking to work. The building's location also provides proximity to public transport options.

- The authority has allocated parking for only a small number of designated staff members, with access to onsite electric vehicle charging provided.
- When undertaking the new office fit out, the authority reused material, products and equipment, such as computer monitors, monitor arms and light fixtures to minimise waste and promote circularity.
- Official authority travel by air is only undertaken if this is the most effective way to achieve the authority's objectives. Where other communication tools, such as teleconferencing and videoconferencing, are an effective and available option, these are used as a priority. When travelling by private vehicles such as taxi or Uber, authority staff are advised to use hybrid or electric vehicles where these are available.
- The authority has a sustainable procurement policy that considers the three-pillar approach of what we buy, who we buy from and how and where we buy. Consideration of the emissions impact of procurements is taken into account when considering *what* procurements to make, and *how and where* the authority procures.

Baseline emissions

Baseline emissions provide a point in time reference against which emissions reduction efforts can be tracked and measured.

At this stage, the authority is reporting and tracking its scope 1 and 2 emissions, in line with the APS Net Zero 2030 target. Decisions on the treatment of scope 3 emissions will be made in the future as further data becomes available and advice is provided by the Department of Finance.

The authority's baseline emissions are as set out in the table below.

Baseline year	Financial year 2022-23
Scope 1 emissions	0.000 tCO ₂ e
Scope 2 emissions	2.677 tCO ₂ e
Total emissions	2.677 tCO ₂ e

Emissions reduction targets

To authority's approach to achieving net zero by 2030 is set out below.

According to the most recent available reporting (covering the 2022-23 period), the authority was not responsible for any scope 1 emissions. The authority's scope 2 carbon emissions consisted of 2.677 tCO₂e from electricity consumption at the Canberra office.

The authority's target is for scope 1 and scope 2 emissions to reach net 0 tCO₂e by 2030 (CCA Annual Report, 2023). This is a reduction of 100% on 2022-23 levels by 2030.

Because the authority is based in the ACT, all electricity consumption in the Canberra headquarters is notionally met by renewable sources in line with the ACT Government's

procurement of 100% renewable electricity for the territory. This involves the ACT Government procuring an equivalent amount of renewable electricity to that consumed in aggregate in the ACT each year. However, the authority's direct consumption of energy from the electricity grid cannot be fully attributed to renewable sources at this time.

As a non-corporate entity, it will be compulsory for the authority to shortly sign up to the whole of Australian Government electricity contract led by the Department of Finance. It is expected this contract will take effect within the next two years.

Electricity procured as part of the new contract will be sourced from renewable energy sources in the form of GreenPower procurement for small market meters and Large Generation Certificates (LGCs) for large market meters. Once the authority is provided electricity under this contract, scope 2 emissions from electricity generation will be reduced to 0.

While scope 3 emissions are not covered under this plan, it is relevant to note that the authority was responsible for 2.725 tCO₂e in scope 3 emissions (CCA Annual Report, 2023). The authority will align with whole-of-government advice provided by the Department of Finance, currently under development, on addressing scope 3 emissions as part of future updates to this plan.

To be in line with the Strategy, by 2030 the authority will ensure that all emissions have reached net zero. For any residual emissions – those for which there has been no feasible way for the authority to eliminate directly – the authority expects these to be offset using robust and credible offset methods.

This plan has been completed in accordance with the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy, associated guidance, and reporting standards for annual emissions reporting.

Priorities and actions

The authority has already put in place measures to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions as close to zero as possible. During 2024-25 we will pursue the following actions to endeavour to reduce remaining sources of emissions:

- Procuring renewable electricity through the whole of Australian Government contract once available.
- Working with the building landlord and property service provider for the authority's Canberra headquarters on improving the building's NABERS rating.
- Ensuring scheduled preventative maintenance is carried out on appliances such as air conditioning units, to maintain efficient operation.
- Complying with the Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy that commenced on 1 July 2024 to achieve and demonstrate climate, environmental and circularity outcomes in the authority's procurements.
- Continuing to employ sustainable procurement and contract management practices that balance climate risk with other considerations – including, but not limited to, refurbished products, recycled content, and water efficiency.
- Continuing to encourage teleconferencing and videoconferencing as effective options for communicating where appropriate, to reduce the need for travel.

- Promoting the benefits of public transport, walking and cycling to new staff during induction programs and familiarising them with end of journey facilities at the authority's headquarters.
- Using internal communications to promote opportunities for active and public transport for business-related travel.