

12 November 2021

s9(2)(a)



Thank you for your email of 16 September 2021 requesting information on the measures Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities is taking to achieve carbon neutrality by 2025. As you were advised on 13 October 2021, Kāinga Ora extended the timeframe for responding to your request under 15A(1)(b) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). I have now completed the consultation required to answer your request, and I respond to your questions below.

1. *Have you got a policy inside your department for zero-carbon use by 2025 and what's the official wording of it?*

The establishing legislation for Kāinga Ora is the Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities Act 2019. Its operating principles include the requirement for the organisation to operate 'in a manner that recognises the need to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change'. While the nature of the activities carried out by Kāinga Ora make 'zero-carbon use' an impractical goal, our aim is to be carbon neutral by 2025, in line with the government's direction.

2. *Have you got a zero carbon committee?*

Kāinga Ora does not have a specific 'zero-carbon committee'. Kāinga Ora has a decentralised management structure, made up of a number of place and specialty-based Business Groups. This distributed leadership approach is supported by six collaborative leadership committees, or Ngā Pae Tātaki, whose role is to provide guidance and support for decision-makers.

The activities of the Kainga Ora Sustainability Programme are reported to the Kāinga Ora Board, while our climate-related financial disclosures are also reported to the Kāinga Ora Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee.

3. *What structure have you set up with how many staff?*

Kāinga Ora has a hub and spoke structure to ensure that the relevant parts of the organisation have oversight and ownership of the climate and sustainability issues that are most material to them. There are currently 27 staff directly involved in the Sustainability Programme, which is headed by the Director Sustainability, Alec Tang. For more detailed information on this structure, I refer you to page 87 of the Kāinga Ora Annual Report 2020-21, which is published on the Kāinga Ora website at <https://kaingaora.govt.nz/publications/annual-report/>

4. *Which section of your organisation has this been delegated to and name the staff?*

The Sustainability Programme hub is located within the Strategy, Finance and Policy Group, which is responsible for leading the organisation's strategic direction, providing research and evaluation, and monitoring finances. However, the hub and spoke structure ensures that relevant parts of the organisation have oversight and ownership of the climate and sustainability issues that are most material to them.

I have interpreted your request to name the staff as a request for the job position titles of staff in our Sustainability Team, and I provide this information on the attached document. You should note that due to the matrix structure used by Kāinga Ora, not every position listed reports directly to the Director Sustainability, or works exclusively on sustainability issues. Conversely, there are additional roles not listed that help to deliver sustainability outcomes for Kāinga Ora.

5. *What are the main areas you have identified to meet the set goal  
a) For each of these, what's your work plan?*

The Kāinga Ora sustainability framework includes the following six key priority areas:

- support a transition to low-carbon construction
- improve biodiversity and urban ngahere (forest) outcomes in our communities
- protect and restore waterways surrounding our development areas
- support low-carbon transport
- reduce construction and demolition waste
- ensure our homes and communities are resilient to future climate change impacts.

For a copy of our sustainability framework, I refer you to the Kāinga Ora website at <https://kaingaora.govt.nz/about-us/sustainability-at-kainga-ora/>. I also refer you to the Climate Risk Disclosures provided in the Kāinga Ora Annual Report 2021-2021. This outlines the current processes that Kāinga Ora uses for identifying, assessing, and managing climate-related risks and opportunities through our governance and risk management activities. It also describes the measures we are developing to assess climate-related risks and opportunities, and how these inform our strategic decision-making.

6. *When do you plan to phase out coal?*

Kāinga Ora does not use coal in its operations.

7. *Any other additional information regarding your agencies planned transition to be in line with the governments initiative to combat climate change that will require the public sector to achieve carbon neutrality by 2025.*

Kāinga Ora takes the responsibility of climate action seriously. We are making changes to reduce our emissions and prepare for the impacts that climate change will have. This involves a fundamental shift in our relationship with the natural environment as we decarbonise our activities, build more resilient infrastructure, and better support our communities through the transition to a low-emissions future.

For more detailed information I refer you to the Climate Risk Disclosures outlined in the Kāinga Ora Annual Report 2020-21.

Please note that Kāinga Ora proactively releases our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request may be published at <https://kaingaora.govt.nz/publications/official-information-requests/> with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Kelly  
**Manager, Government Relations**

## Appendix 1: Job titles of Kāinga Ora staff in Sustainability Group

Director Sustainability
Manager Sustainability Advisory and Analysis
Senior Sustainability Advisor (x2)
Senior Sustainability Analyst
Sustainability Advisor
Renewable Energy Lead
Indoor Environment Monitoring Lead
Fleet Electrification Lead
Urban Ngahere Lead
Waste Minimisation and Site Clearance Lead
Waste Minimisation and Site Clearance Lead
Manager Carbon Neutral Housing
Senior Carbon Neutral Design Manager
Carbon Neutral Technical Advisor
Senior Project Manager (x2)
Senior Business Analyst (x2)
Senior Change and Engagement Specialist
Change and Engagement Specialist
Change Trainer
Project Coordinator (x2)
Programme Coordinator
Solution Architect
Customer Support Advisor