



20-E-0387 DOC-6360536

4 August 2020

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, dated 7 July 2020. You requested the following:

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *What was the agency's total greenhouse gas footprint in the most recent year in which records exist (if such records exist)? Please provide a breakdown of those emissions if they are available.*

The Department of Conservation's most recent verified baseline for carbon emissions is from 2009/10. Those measurements were done as part of the Govt's sustainability programme, and that programme ended in March 2009. In 2009/10, the last year of reporting on that programme, our carbon emissions were 8,698 tonnes CO₂e. The breakdown is as follows:

Source	CO₂e (tonne)
Air Travel—Domestic	764
Air Travel—International	189
Diesel	4,108
Petrol	810
Electricity	872
Av Gas—Fixed Wing/Helicopter	65
Jet A1—Helicopter	1,805
Fuel Oil (Heating)	65
Campground Energy—LPG	4
Coal	0
LPG (bottled for office, workshop use)	16
Taxi Travel	0

The reason for DOC's high carbon emissions is that we manage nearly a third of the country's land area, and often travel long distances in remote areas to carry out work. DOC currently has a light vehicle fleet of 789, at an average CO₂ rating of 199g per km, which ranks us 9th out of the top 16 mandated agencies (<https://www.procurement.govt.nz/broader-outcomes/reducing-emissions-and-waste/reducing-government-fleet-emissions/>).

In addition, aerial pest operations are essential to conservation, but unfortunately also lead to high carbon emissions.

2. *Does the agency have a policy of requiring employees and/or contractors to offset work-related emissions, eg domestic or international flights?*

DOC does not currently offset work-related carbon emissions. The focus for government agencies, including DOC, is to measure and understand our emissions first, then reduce them as much as possible, before considering offsetting.

However, we are also applying insetting where possible (embedding sustainable actions into our supply chains). As an example of an insetting approach, we have worked with our uniform supplier to reduce the use of plastic bags by 44,000 (a 65% reduction).

3. *Does the agency have an emissions reduction plan, or emissions reduction targets, either in place or in development? If so, please provide details of the plan and/or targets.*

Once we have a better understanding of current emissions, this will provide the baseline from which we will be able to set emissions reduction targets. We have joined the Toitū carbonreduce programme, which includes an audit of our current carbon emissions.

In addition, as part of the Government's commitment to zero carbon, all government departments are being asked to reduce their carbon levels from vehicles by 20% from 2018 levels. We have started by integrating 11 Hyundai Ioniq EV vehicles into our current fleet, and over the next year, a further 64 vehicles with internal combustion engines will be replaced by hybrid, plug-in hybrid or 100% electric vehicles. We are also taking other actions to reduce our carbon emissions, such as reducing travel budgets and encouraging the use of video conferencing.

We trust that we have provided you with the information you need. Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents may be published on the Department's website.

Yours sincerely



Neal Gordon
Director Outcomes Management