

CLIMATE
CHANGE
AUTHORITY

Emissions Reduction Plan 2026



Australian Government
Climate Change Authority

Acknowledgement of Country

The Authority acknowledges the First Nations people of this land and their ongoing connection to land, waters and community. 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 past and present.

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Declaration of targets and Accountable Authority sign off

The Australian Government released the Net Zero in Government Operations (NZGO) Strategy in November 2023, setting out the overall approach and action required by Commonwealth entities to achieve the APS Net Zero 2030 Target (2030 Target). The NZGO Strategy represents a commitment by the Australian Government to lead by example on emissions reduction and contribute to the decarbonisation of Australia's economy.

The Authority is committed to the 2030 Target in full, as per the NZGO Strategy.

The 2030 Target is the target set by the government to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions from government operations by the year 2030. It includes Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions from activities in Australia and its territories, as described in the NZGO Strategy. It applies at the aggregate level to non-corporate Commonwealth entities and those Commonwealth entities and companies who opt-in and generally covers the entirety of the entity's organisation. From an organisational perspective, this means minimising the greenhouse gas emissions that are within our control. The Authority is committed to the achievement of the government's 2030 Target.

This Emissions Reduction Plan describes the priorities and actions the Authority is taking to reduce our operational emissions and contribute to the 2030 Target.

Kath Rowley
Chief Executive Officer

12 October 2026

Emissions Reduction Plan

Purpose

The Authority is implementing emissions reduction initiatives in line with the Net Zero in Government Operations (NZGO) Strategy. The NZGO Strategy sets out the Australian Government's approach to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions from its operations by 2030. It also puts in place public emissions reporting for Australian Government agencies to promote accountability for progress towards this goal.

The purpose of this Emissions Reduction Plan is to provide a pathway for the Authority to contribute to the achievement of the APS Net Zero 2030 Target (2030 Target) through emissions reduction activities. This plan encompasses new and existing priorities and actions within the Authority to reduce emissions.

Governance and reporting

The Authority will update this plan annually. Progress against actions identified within this plan, and any additional measures adopted, will be included in our annual reports. This, combined with annual emissions reporting, will be used as a measure of the Authority's progress towards reducing its emissions.

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

Previous Emissions Reduction Plans are available on the Authority's website. The Authority's annual reports including associated Climate Disclosures are available at https://www.climatechangeauthority.gov.au/annual-reports

Operational context

The Climate Change Authority (the Authority) plays a central role in supporting Australia's response to climate change by providing the Australian Government with independent, evidence-based advice on emissions reduction, adaptation and progress towards national climate objectives. Our work is shaped by science, economic analysis, and engagement with governments, industry, experts and the Australian community. As an agency dedicated to supporting Australia's transition to a net zero future, we recognise the importance of demonstrating leadership through our own operations.

The Authority employs approximately 65 staff, primarily based in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Staff work flexibly, with a combination of office-based and remote work arrangements. A small number of staff are based in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide and have access to office space operated by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) under a Memorandum of Understanding arrangement.

The Authority leases an office in the ACT with a net lettable area of 655 square metres. The office is located within a multi-tenanted five-storey building.

The Authority does not maintain or operate any fleet vehicles.

Engagement

In developing this plan, the Authority has worked with:

- Department of Finance and the Climate Action in Government Operations unit to ensure alignment with the NZGO Strategy and the Commonwealth Climate Disclosure requirements
- DCCEEW to identify opportunities to address shared considerations and reduce emissions holistically across the portfolio
- Property Services Provider (Jones Lang LaSalle) to identify opportunities to reduce emissions through property and facilities management
- IFM (building owner and landlord) to explore opportunities to progressively lower emissions and contribute to emissions reduction.

Emissions inventory

Baseline emissions

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

In 2025, following consultation with the Department of Finance, the Authority adopted 2024-25 as its baseline year as this was the first year for which complete electricity consumption data was available for its ACT office. Prior to this, the Authority was co-located with DCCEEW or operating from temporary accommodation, limiting the availability of representative electricity consumption data.

The initial baseline may change as additional emissions sources are included in the future.

The complete greenhouse gas emissions inventory tables for 2022-23 forward are presented in the Authority's annual reports: https://www.climatechangeauthority.gov.au/annual-reports.

Table 1: Baseline Emissions

Baseline year	Financial year 2024-25
Scope 1 emissions	Nil
Scope 2 emissions	
Electricity (market-based calculation method)	0.64 tCO_2-e
Electricity (location-based calculation method)	22.83 tCO_2-e
Total Scope 1 and Scope 2	**0.64 tCO_2-e** (per market-based calculation for Electricity)

The Authority does not generate any Scope 1 emissions as we do not have any fleet vehicles or purchase natural gas.

All Scope 2 emissions relate to electricity consumption for the Authority's ACT office.

Electricity emissions using the **location-based method** are calculated by multiplying electricity consumption (kWh) by the average emissions factor for the electricity grid in the region where the electricity is consumed. It reflects the emissions intensity of the local electricity network, regardless of any renewable electricity purchases or contracts.

Electricity emissions calculated using the **market-based method** are calculated using emissions factors associated with the specific electricity products purchased, such as renewable energy. As a result, market-based emissions may be lower than location-based emissions.

In the ACT, reported electricity emissions can differ significantly between the 2 methods because the ACT's renewable electricity arrangements reduce market-based emissions while location-based emissions do not. In the case of the baseline figure, the market-based emissions are 97.2% lower than the location-based emissions method.

Emissions inventory annual update

Table 2: Greenhouse gas emissions inventory and Annual Progress Towards Net Zero Emissions

Emission source	**2024-25 Baseline** (tCO_2-e)	**2025-26** (tCO_2-e)	**Change from baseline** (tCO_2-e)	**% change from baseline**
Scope 1	0	0	0	0
Scope 2 – Electricity (market-based approach)	0.64	0.65	0.01	+1.56%
Total tCO_2-e	**0.64**	**0.65**	**0.01**	**+1.56%**

Table 2 shows a 1.56% increase in market-based emissions, but the absolute increase is only 0.01 tCO_2-e. Electricity consumption actually fell from 34,582 kWh to 33,355 kWh, a reduction of approximately 3.5%. This reduction is due to a range of energy efficiency initiatives including increasing the set point of the server room, enabling sleep mode for the hot water unit, adjustment to lighting sensors and general electrical maintenance.

The minor increase to Scope 2 emissions should reduce over time with participation in the Whole of Australian Government (WOAG) renewable electricity agreement which commenced for the ACT on 1 July 2026. Under the agreement, 80% of electricity supplied across Australia must be renewable by 1 January 2028 and 100% by 1 July 2029. In the case of the ACT, all electricity consumption is already notionally met by renewable sources in line with the ACT Government's agreement with ActewAGL that requires procurement of an equivalent amount of renewable electricity to that consumed in aggregate in the ACT each year.

Net Zero targets

The metric used to set the 2030 Target is t CO2-e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent).

The 2030 Target is defined in the NZGO Strategy as 'a target set by the Australian Government to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions from government operations by the year 2030.'

The objective of the 2030 Target is to reduce emissions to mitigate further impacts of climate change. It applies to all non-corporate Commonwealth entities, and any corporate Commonwealth entities or Commonwealth companies that opt-in. The organisational boundary is the whole entity, unless an exemption has been agreed for security or other reasons.

The timeframe for achieving the net greenhouse gas emissions target is from 16 June 2022 to 30 June 2030.

The initial baseline as per the NZGO Strategy is the 2022-23 financial year. The initial baseline may change as additional emissions sources are included in the future.

The Authority's specific interim targets are detailed within this Emissions Reduction Plan.

The 2030 Target is an absolute target.

The 2030 Target forms part of Australia's international climate commitments, including Australia's Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement.

The 2030 Target methodology has not been reviewed by a third party.

The NZGO Strategy noted that a 2026-27 mid-term review would be undertaken to consider overall progress to date, domestic expectations and any recommended changes to policy or strategy. If the outcomes of this review impact the 2030 Target, changes would be reflected in the Authority's future disclosures.

Interim metrics used to monitor performance are detailed within this plan and our annual climate disclosure.

Progress against the aggregated 2030 Target is detailed within the Climate Action in Government Operations Annual Progress Report prepared by the Department of Finance.

During this reporting period there were no changes to the 2030 Target.

The following greenhouse gas emissions are included in the APS Net Zero Emissions Reporting Framework and 2030 Target:

- carbon dioxide (CO_2)
- methane (CH_4)
- nitrous oxide (N_2O)
- hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)
- perfluorocarbons (PFCs)
- sulphur hexafluoride (SF_6)
- nitrogen trifluoride (NF_3)

The 2030 Target includes Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions and is a net greenhouse gas emissions target.

It was not derived using a sectoral decarbonisation approach.

As part of our commitment to the 2030 Target, the Authority also commits to the relevant targets in the NZGO Strategy. This includes developing an Emissions Reduction Plan and publishing our annual progress towards the 2030 Target, as measured by percentage of overall emissions reduction each year, in the annual updates to the plan.

Additional interim targets are detailed within this plan and subsequent plans. The published locations of our previous plans are also included in this plan.

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 and are not included in the 2030 Target.

Scope 3 emissions are currently excluded from the 2030 Target.

Interim targets

Scope 1 emissions

Scope 1 emissions are direct greenhouse emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by the entity. The Authority has already met the net zero target for Scope 1 emissions as it does not generate any Scope 1 emissions.

Scope 2 emissions

Scope 2 emissions are the indirect emissions associated with the generation of the electricity consumed by the entity. For the Authority this relates to electricity consumption for the ACT office.

The Authority commits to achieving net zero Scope 2 emissions by 1 July 2029 aligned with the planned transition to 100% renewable electricity under the Whole of Australian Government electricity arrangement.

Broader climate-related opportunities

In addition to the 2030 Target, the Authority has set broader climate-related actions to support reductions in operational emissions and enable delivery of the Emissions Reduction Plan. These focus on key emissions drivers both within and outside of scope from the NZGO Strategy, including electricity use, buildings, procurement, travel and organisational capability. These are set out in Appendix A.

Priorities and actions

Scope 3 commitment

Scope 3 emissions relate to indirect emissions arising from activities not owned or controlled by an entity. For the Authority this relates primarily to business travel — domestic flights, accommodation and car hire.

While the 2030 Target does not currently require the reduction or offsetting of Scope 3 emissions, the Authority will explore options to fully offset its annual reportable emission including Scope 3 from 2026-27 onwards. This will be subject to resolving implementation, risk and procurement considerations. The Authority will explore offsetting these emissions through the purchase and cancellation of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs), prioritising ACCUs that deliver durable abatement.

Table 3: Annual Scope 3 emissions presented as tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO_2-e).

Financial Year	**Electricity** (market-based method)	**Domestic commercial air travel**	**Domestic car hire**	**Domestic travel accommodation**	**Total**
2023-24	0.12	26.37	0.14	13.08	**39.71**
2024-25	0.09	22.24	0.00	5.71	**28.04**
2025-26	0.09	25.37	0.07	7.60	**33.13**

Appendix A – Emissions reduction activities

The Authority has already put in place measures to reduce our Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions as close to zero as possible. During 2026-27 we will continue to pursue the activities in the table below to further reduce our impact on the environment.

Category	Measure	Owners	Timeframe	Status	Progress Update
Electricity	Transition ACT office to WOAG electricity arrangement	Security & Facilities team	Start: 2025-26 End: 1/7/26	Completed	Department of Finance has established the WOAG arrangement as of 1 July 2026. The Authority's ACT office is included in this contract.
Buildings	Engage landlords on opportunities to improve the ACT office environmental performance and NABERS ratings. Current base building ratings: • Energy 4.0 • Water 4.0 • Waste 3.0 • Indoor Environment 6.0 The Authority's office Energy Tenancy rating is 5.5	Security & Facilities team	2025 - 2028	On track	The base building energy rating has not changed over the past year as approximately 37% of the space was untenanted. As of July 2026, the building is fully occupied. Accordingly, the NABERS Energy rating should improve over the next 12 months with a 5.5 rating by November 2027. The landlord also undertook a chiller upgrade in September 2026 which should provide energy efficiencies. Further work is in progress to refurbish lifts including conversion to a smart lift destination control system. This should improve reliability, efficiency and user experience. Works due to be completed mid-2027
	Maintain building systems and appliances to support efficient operation.	Security & Facilities team	Ongoing	On track	Preventative maintenance is embedded in the WOAG Property Service Provider agreement with JLL and is being undertaken per the agreed schedule.
	Improve waste avoidance, recycling, data quality and resource recovery. Continue to enhance the Authority's waste management practices through: • encouraging staff to recycle and dispose of waste accurately • collecting and improving data on solid waste to help inform further opportunities to reduce emissions • implementing soft plastics recycling • continuing to collect organic waste to feed into the building's worm farm • encouraging digital communications over printed materials to reduce paper waste.	Security & Facilities team Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO)	Ongoing	On track	Bintracker waste management system was implemented in July 2025. It logs and analyses the Authority's ACT office landfill and recycling streams. Work is still in progress to refine the waste tracking process to ensure the accuracy of logged data.

Category	Measure	Owners	Timeframe	Status	Progress Update
People & Culture	Appoint a Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) to champion the NZGO Strategy and oversee implementation of the Authority's Emissions Reduction Plan	CSO	Ongoing	Completed	The Authority appointed its first CSO in 2024. A new CSO took over the role in August 2026.
	Increase staff awareness and capability to support the Authority's emissions reduction actions through: • providing regular communications, data, guidance, and training • encouraging staff participation in sustainability initiatives, workshops, and events e.g. National Ride to Work Day • undertaking staff surveys exploring barriers and enablers to low emissions travel.	CSO Security & Facilities team	Ongoing	On track	The Authority has a dedicated sustainability intranet page. Sustainability initiatives are included as part of new starter inductions and monthly corporate branch updates. Staff are provided with regular communications on training opportunities, workshops, and events.
	Support staff to complete recognised climate capability training.	CSO	2026-27	Not Started	
Procurement	Comply with the Australian Government Environmentally Sustainable Procurement (ESP) Policy to achieve and demonstrate climate, environmental and circularity outcomes in the Authority's procurements.	Procurement team	Ongoing	On track	In February 2026, the Authority developed a *Sustainable Procurement Guide* to support the ESP Policy. In 2025-26 the Authority did not report anything against the policy as it had not procured construction services at or above $7.5M or goods /equipment at or above $1M.
Travel	Embed emissions-reduction considerations in the Authority's domestic and international travel policies to prioritise the following actions, where value for money can be demonstrated: • preferencing direct flights to help reduce the higher emissions associated with connecting flights • coordinating travel bookings to enable shared ground transport for staff travelling to the same destination • preferencing accommodation and venue hire with the highest star rating possible, using the NABERS Energy for Hotels tool • preferencing electric vehicles for vehicle hire Official travel is only undertaken if travel is the most effective way to achieve the Authority's objectives and where other communication tools, such as teleconferencing and videoconferencing, are not an effective option.	Finance team	2025 – 2026	Completed	The Authority updated its Domestic Travel Policy in May 2026 and International Travel Policy in October 2026. The policies include a range for emissions reduction strategies.
	Promote awareness of building end of trip facilities and electric vehicle charging stations during staff induction programs, and promote the benefits of public transport, cycling, and walking to work.	Security & Facilities team	Ongoing	On track	

Category	Measure	Owners	Timeframe	Status	Progress Update
	Use internal communications to promote opportunities for active and public transport for business-related travel.	Corporate Branch	Ongoing	On track	
Emission offsets	Explore options to fully offset annual reportable emission (including Scope 3 emissions) from 2026-27 onwards. This is subject to resolving implementation, risk and procurement considerations. The Authority will explore offsetting these emissions through the purchase and cancellation of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs), prioritising ACCUs that deliver durable abatement.	CSO	Start: 2026-27 End: Ongoing	Not started	This is a new action for 2026-27