



## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE Quarter 2 2025

In 2022, the New Zealand Veterinary Association Te Pae Kīrehe (NZVA) began exploring ways to support climate action. Below is an update on our climate change work, and the steps we are taking to reduce our carbon emissions as an organisation.

### How do we positively contribute to a sustainable environment?

In an ideal world, organisations would aim to stop emitting greenhouse gasses (GHG) altogether, however this is impossible for most businesses. The key steps NZVA needs to undertake to reduce carbon emissions are:

1. **Measure, report and verify** our carbon emissions.
2. Identify which GHG we can **reduce**.
3. **Offset** any GHG emissions we cannot avoid.
4. **Commit** to a reduction of carbon emissions, with a short-term goal (two years), a medium-term goal (five years), and a long-term goal (10 years).

### What has the NZVA done so far?

We began working with Ekos to measure our carbon footprint in 2022. You can see how we are tracking in the table below.

GHG emissions sources	FY 2022		FY 2023		FY 2024		YTD 2025 - Q2	
	GHG tCO	% of Total	GHG tCO	% of Total	GHG tCO	% of Total	GHG tCO	% of Total
Domestic Air Travel - New Zealand Domestic Economy Class	35.89	62.97%	50.33	53.15%	42.54	48.66%	17.37	50.79%
International Air Travel - Long Haul International Average	7.00	12.28%	23.75	25.08%	19.08	21.82%	0.00	0.00%
International Air Travel - Short Haul International Average	1.89	3.32%	0.86	0.91%	1.14	1.30%	2.87	8.39%
Business Accommodation - New Zealand	1.39	2.44%	2.17	2.29%	1.70	1.94%	0.84	2.46%
Business Travel - Petrol	1.12	1.97%	2.34	2.47%	3.09	3.53%	1.52	4.44%
Business Travel - Taxi	0.32	0.56%	0.46	0.49%	0.52	0.60%	0.15	0.44%
Business Accommodation - Australia	0.19	0.33%	0.00	0.00%	1.14	1.30%	0.42	1.23%
Well to tank emissions	5.13	9.00%	10.72	11.32%	14.15	16.18%	6.96	20.35%
Subtotal Travel	52.93	92.86%	90.63	95.70%	83.36	95.35%	30.13	88.10%
Electricity - New Zealand (Unit 1)	2.52	4.42%	2.52	2.66%	2.52	2.88%	2.52	7.37%
Electricity T&D Losses	0.23	0.40%	0.23	0.24%	0.23	0.26%	0.23	0.67%
Staff Working From Home	0.70	1.23%	0.70	0.74%	0.70	0.80%	0.70	2.05%
Waste & Wastewater General Waste to Landfill - Without Gas Recovery (Unit 1)	0.62	1.09%	0.62	0.66%	0.62	0.71%	0.62	1.81%
Grand Total	57.00	100.00%	94.70	100.00%	87.43	100.00%	34.20	100.00%
	(Audited by Ekos)		(Estimated)		(Estimated)		(Estimated)	

The 2022 numbers have been audited by Ekos; the figures for 2023, 2024 and 2025 are estimates.

For context, 2022 was the last year of COVID-19 restrictions. 2023–25 showed travel returning to more 'normal' levels.

Travel remains our biggest carbon emitter. The table below breaks down the carbon emissions across the organisation.

Carbon Emitted	FY2023		FY2024		YTD2025 - Q2	
	GHG tCO	% of Total	GHG tCO	% of Total	GHG tCO	% of Total
Committees	0.98	1.08%	2.91	3.33%	2.13	6.24%
Governance	16.31	18.00%	20.48	23.41%	3.79	11.10%
Total Governance	17.29	19.08%	23.39	26.73%	5.92	17.33%
SIBS	37.23	41.08%	34.31	39.21%	9.18	26.87%
Conference / Education	9.27	10.23%	12.16	13.90%	5.78	16.92%
Staff	26.83	29.61%	17.64	20.16%	13.28	38.88%
Total Staff	36.10	39.84%	29.80	34.06%	19.06	55.80%
Estimated Total	90.62	100.00%	87.50	100.00%	34.16	100.00%

Carbon is being generated across the whole organisation, and everyone has a role to play in reducing GHG emissions.

## What are the next steps?

### Travel

Travel remains our biggest carbon emitter. We are challenging all staff, contractors, volunteers, special interest branches (SIBs), and Board members to consider whether the carbon they're generating from transport is necessary. Consider shorter, more frequent virtual meetings instead of longer face-to-face meetings, or roster a certain number of committee members to attend each meeting virtually.

### Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The environmental repercussions of AI models are a cause for concern and need to be considered when making AI decisions. We have been active in promoting the effect AI has on carbon emissions. We will ensure the concept is included in NZVA's AI policies when deciding whether to use AI solutions.

### Other ideas

We are investigating other ways to make an impact at both an individual and an organisational level. Some ideas include:



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- encouraging staff and colleagues to dispose of food scraps through composting, worm farms, or Bokashi bins to reduce the amount of food waste being sent to landfill
- finding ways to recycle items that are not accepted by council recycling schemes (e.g. recycling plastic lids at participating New World stores, looking into local TerraCycle programmes)
- switching to eco-friendly search engines such as Ecosia.

**Make our carbon footprint count.**