



06 May 2026

C211438

Rhys Hurley
rhys@taxpayers.org.nz

Tēnā koe Rhys

Thank you for your email of 6 March 2026 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about carbon neutral public service targets. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

I will address your requests in turn. Please note that some of your questions have been reordered and combined for ease of response. You requested:

This is a request for official information under the Official Information Act 1982 in relation to carbon neutral public service targets.

We request the following information:

- 1. Is your agencies continuing to pursue the carbon neutral public service targets.
 - a. If so please provide any documents showing how this is being implemented**
- 2. Any consideration or actions involving Agricultural emissions.*

Corrections sets the emission reduction targets for the Department based on the recommendations provided by the Carbon Neutral Government Programme (CNGP) and continues to pursue these targets. Further information regarding the implementation of these targets, including measured and reported emissions, is available on pages 158 to 162 of Corrections' 2024/25 Annual Report, which is available on our website here:

https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/strategic_reports/annual-reports/annual_report_202425

- 3. The total spend on this target broken down by year since the targets were implemented (including but not limited to internal staff numbers, external spend, capital spend, offset spend).*

Please see the below table, which shows the total spending on achieving the targets set by the CNGP, broken down by financial year since those targets were set. Corrections has invested in a hybrid and electric vehicle (EV) fleet, along with the installation of EV charging infrastructure. Additionally, we have converted gas boilers to electric systems and incurred

costs associated with replacing a coal boiler. Concurrently, operational expenditures have supported the feasibility assessment of boiler transitions, a wastewater recovery project, and the development of a comprehensive decarbonisation roadmap.

Financial Year	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Total Spending (\$000's)	2,917	8,494	12,831	4,000

Table notes:

- Costs are exclusive of GST.

In addition to their core duties, a small number of Corrections' staff have worked on pursuing the targets set by the CNGP since the 2021/2022 financial year, and the costs of this work are absorbed within wider operational budgets as part of our business-as-usual operations.

This information does not exist in a form that can be readily supplied to you and would instead require Corrections to initiate a project to extract, analyse, and present the data in the form requested.

Therefore, this part of your request, as it relates to '*internal staff numbers*' is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information requested is not held by Corrections, and we have no grounds for believing that it is held by another agency or more closely connected with the functions of another agency.

4. *Total EV's brought since the targets were implemented broken down by year.*

Corrections employs around 11,000 staff and our fleet includes more than 1,900 vehicles, ranging from light commercial vehicles and prisoner escort vehicles to trucks and various industrial and agricultural mobile plant assets and towable equipment. As at 30 June 2025, our light commercial fleet includes 293 battery electric vehicles (BEVs), 69 plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV)s and 105 petrol hybrid vehicles supported by 352 chargers nationwide.

The table below outlines the number of electric vehicles purchased since the introduction of the CNGP targets in 2021/22.

Financial Year	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
No. of Electric Vehicles Purchased	40	92	157	38

5. *Total spent on agency emissions inventories by year since implementation.*

a. *Please provide the most recent inventory.*

Please see the below table which shows the amount spent on emissions inventories since the implementation of the CNGP, broken down by financial year.

Financial Year	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Total spending (\$000's)	232	57	16	16

Table notes:

- Costs are exclusive of GST.
- External emissions audit charges included in the 2021/2022 financial year also covered the 2020/2021 financial year.

As above, in addition to their core duties, a small number of Corrections staff members worked on emissions inventories since the 2021/22 financial year, and the costs of this work are absorbed within wider operational budgets as part of our business-as-usual operations.

This information does not currently exist in a form that can be readily supplied to you and would instead require Corrections to initiate a project to extract, analyse, and present the data in the form requested.

Therefore, this part of your request, as it relates to 'internal staff costs', is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information requested is not held by Corrections, and we have no grounds for believing that it is held by another agency or more closely connected with the functions of another agency.

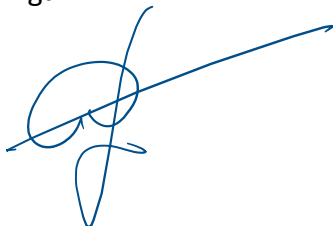
6. *How much is spent on voluntary carbon offsets? (Not the Emissions Trading Scheme)*
 - a. *Please provide information on consultants for this and the total offsets.*

Corrections has not spent money on any voluntary carbon offsets.

Please note that this response may be published on Corrections' website. Typically, responses are published quarterly or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

I hope this information is helpful. I encourage you to raise any concerns about this response with Corrections. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi



Alastair Turrell
Deputy Chief Executive
Infrastructure and Digital Assets

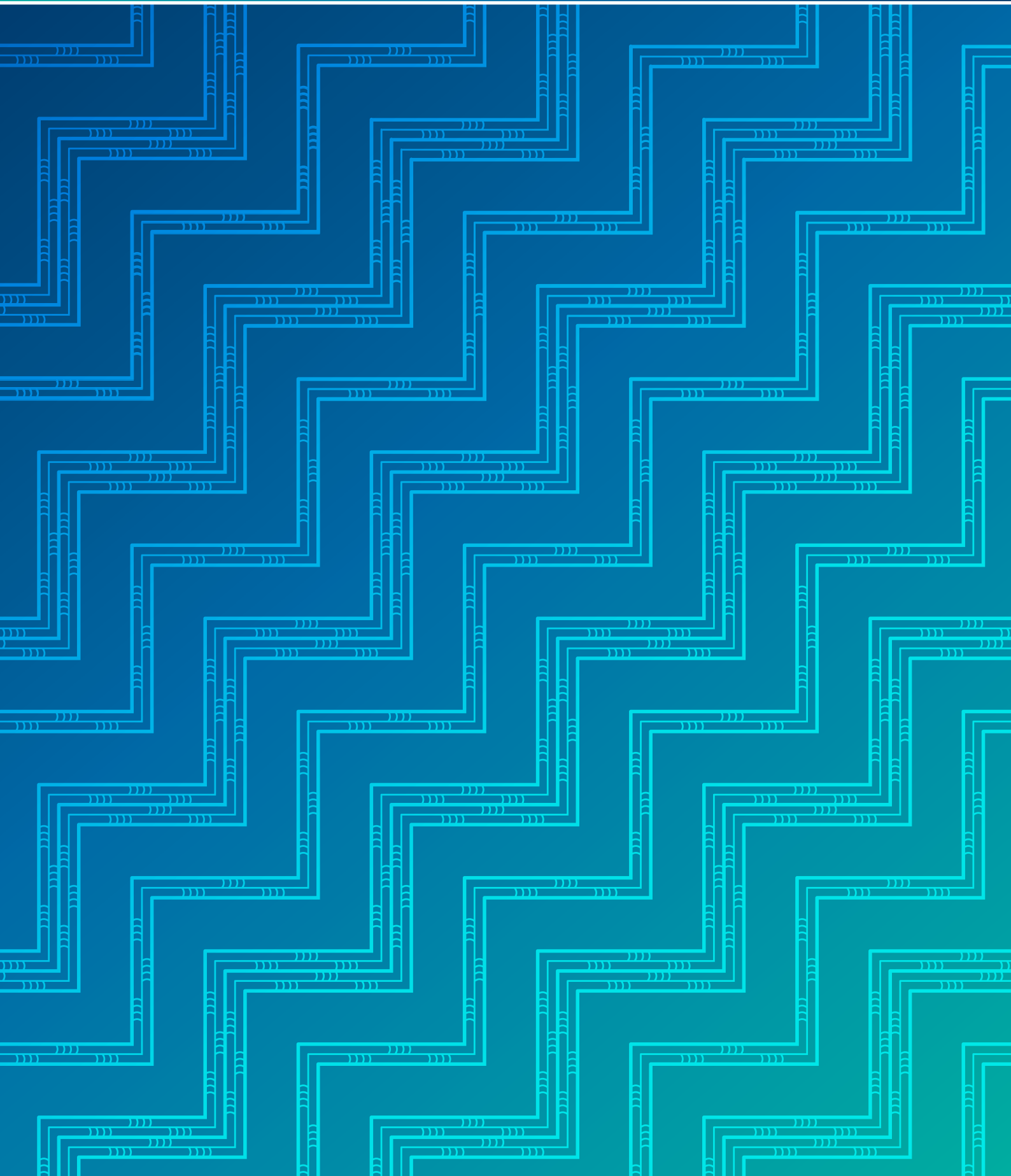
2024 - 2025

Annual Report

*For the year ended 30 June 2025 and Report by the Minister of Corrections
on Non-departmental Appropriations for the year ended 30 June 2025*



DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS
ARA POUTAMA AOTEAROA



Appendix Nine: Environmental Sustainability

We have launched several initiatives including a temperature control and ventilation programme prototype and trial for an in-cell cooling system, and completed guidelines for energy efficiency and sustainability.

As a participant of the Carbon Neutral Government Programme (CNGP) we are required to:

- measure, verify and report our emissions annually
- set gross emissions reduction targets and longer-term reduction plans
- introduce a plan to reduce our organisations’ emissions
- offset remaining gross emissions from 2025 to achieve carbon neutrality⁵⁵

Measuring and reporting our emissions

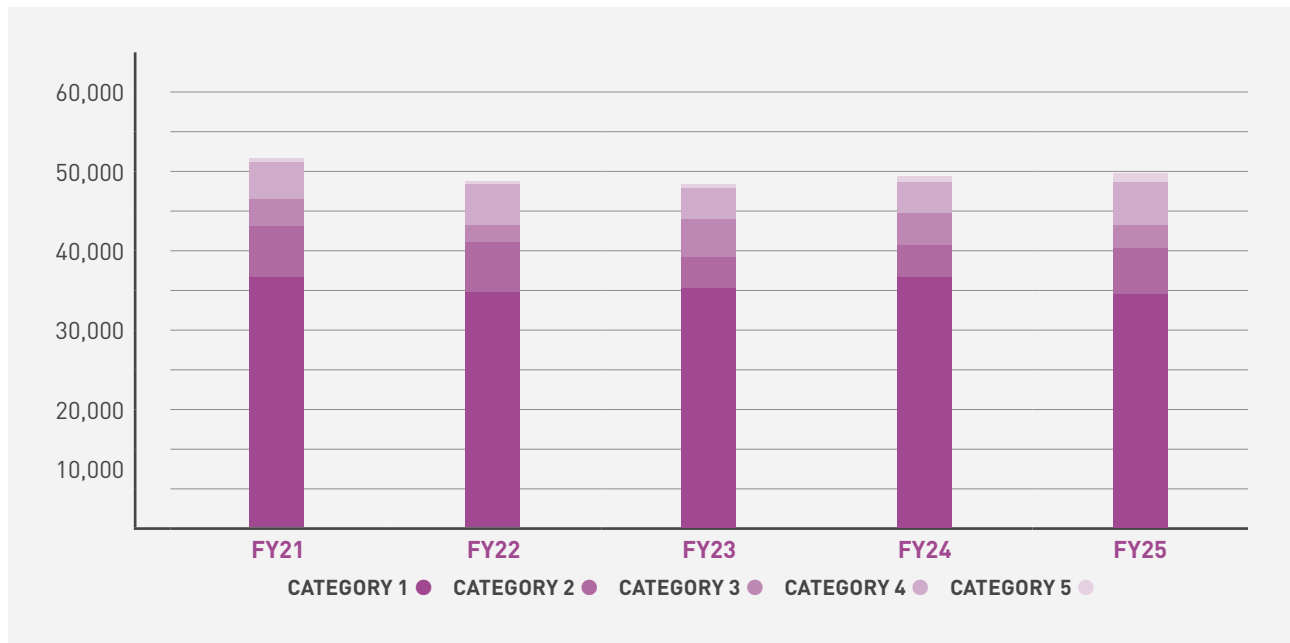
Corrections’ operational emissions include the prison network, national and regional offices, and community sites, and our industries that provide rehabilitation and training opportunities toward employment post-release. Since 2020/21, our total emissions have been measured and externally verified by Toitū Envirocare in accordance with ISO 14064-1.

Our 2020/21 base year emissions totalled 63,399 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent units (tCO₂-e).

In 2024/25 our emissions totalled 71,577 tCO₂-e. Stationary combustion, agriculture and food remain our largest emission sources. There has been a 3.3% decrease in emissions that are subject to reduction targets compared to our base year. This is primarily due to a reduction in the number of swine and a change in the Ministry for the Environment - Manatū Mō Te Taiao livestock emission factors.

Corrections’ emissions that are subject to reduction targets are displayed in Figure 10. Emissions from purchased food, beverages, and personal care items have been excluded from these targets despite their significance. Their calculation, based on spend-based factors⁵⁶, poses unique challenges in targeting reductions while ensuring essential provisions for a growing prison population.

Figure 10: Emissions subject to reduction targets by year



See table on next page for category descriptions.

⁵⁵ A carbon neutrality date for the CNGP is under review and has not been confirmed as at 30 June 2025.

⁵⁶ Motu emission factors (https://motu-www.motu.org.nz/wpapers/14_05.pdf) adjusted for inflation.

Table 2: Total emissions by category

Category ⁵⁷	Description	Emission category/ source	2020/21 tco2-e	2024/25 tco2-e
1	Direct emissions	Fuel (Stationary combustion, transport fuel, biofuel and biomass (methane and nitrous oxide only))	35,871	33,667
		Fugitive and other gases		
		Agriculture (enteric fermentation, manure management, agriculture soils, fertiliser use)		
2	Indirect emissions from imported energy	Purchased electricity	7,143	6,239
3	Indirect emissions from transportation	Travel (land and air travel, accommodation)	3,422	3,273
		Distribution of goods (Freight, and couriers)		
4	Indirect emissions from products and services used by the organisation	Working from home, purchased goods, electric vehicle charge, transmission and distribution losses, water supply and wastewater, waste to landfill	5,181	6,043
5	Indirect emissions from other sources	Agriculture (Enteric fermentation, manure management, agricultural soils) ⁵⁸	274	958
Emissions that are subject to reduction targets			51,891	50,180
% reduction from 2020/21 base year				(3.3%)
4	Indirect emissions from products and services used by the organisation	Food and beverages, personal care products	11,508	21,397
Emissions that are not subject to reduction targets			11,508	21,397
Total emissions			63,399	71,577

Emissions intensity

While emissions per full time equivalent (FTE) is a frequent measure for organisations to use, it does not account for the people being managed within our prisons and in the community. Therefore, we have included the prison population to more accurately reflect the context in which we operate.

⁵⁷ All emissions from third-party owned livestock have been recategorised as Category 5 in-line with CNGP guidance.

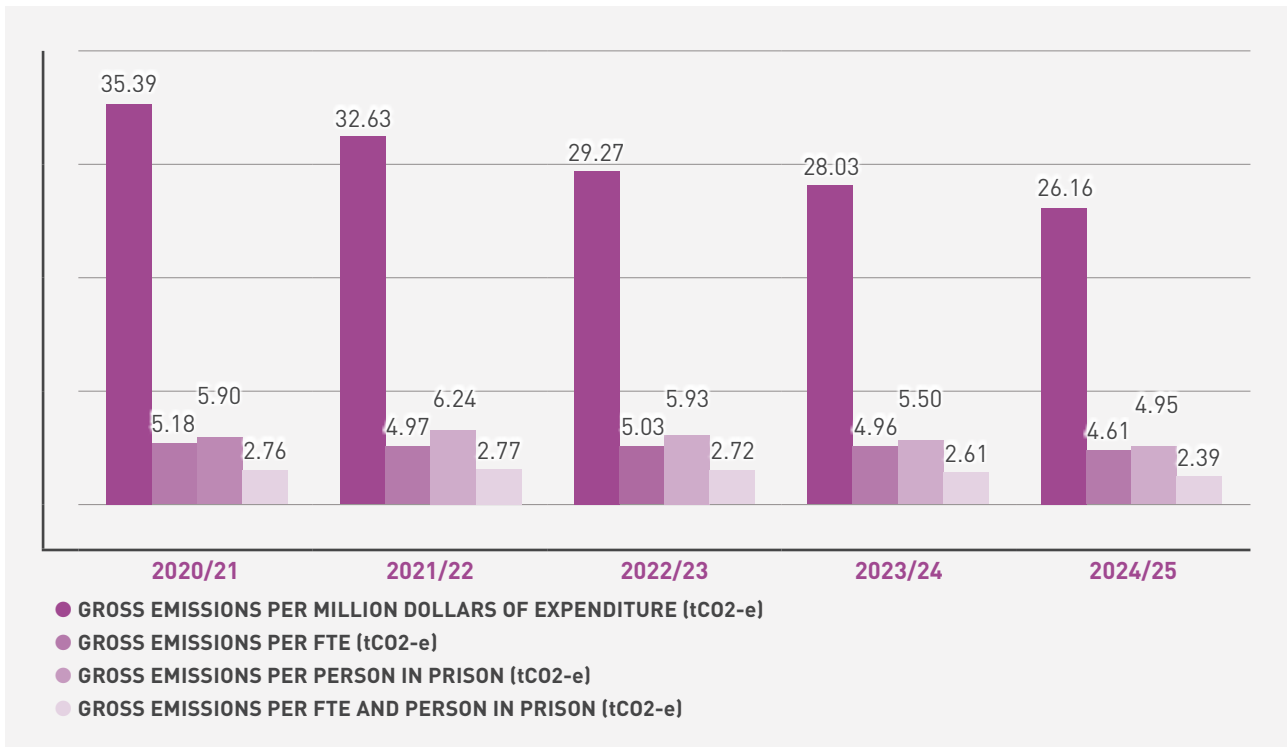
⁵⁸ Livestock owned by third parties grazing on Corrections owned land.

Figure 11: Emissions intensity by average FTE, average prison population and expenditure⁵⁹

Key Performance Indicator



Emissions Intensity



⁵⁹. Total operating expenditure excluding capital charge, depreciation and amortisation

We have set emission reduction targets

Corrections have adopted emission reduction targets from our base year of 21% by 2025 and 42% by 2030, as recommended by the Ministry for the Environment - Manatū Mō Te Taiao in line with the Science Based Targets Initiative⁶⁰. However, funding constraints and trade-offs with frontline initiatives have delayed our emission reduction progress. As a result, Corrections has not met the 2025 target and is uncertain about meeting the 2030 target.

We are laying the groundwork for future emission reductions

Highlights of progress we have made this year to reduce our emissions include:

- completed energy audits at two prisons.
- continued our fleet electrification programme.
- integrated 1,144 fleet assets with GPS devices into the Smart Vehicle Fleet System to enable right sizing of our fleet.
- completed the prototype and trial for an in-cell cooling solution for high security units at Hawke's Bay Regional Prison.
- completed guidelines for energy efficiency and sustainability.
- continued to partner with Waste Management to divert waste.

As part of our commitment to making a positive impact this year we:



Replaced **35** fossil fuelled cars with plug-in hybrid vehicles and installed **37** EV chargers across the network.



Tracked **348,318** hours, from **5,938** individuals from both prison and community work this year, on projects including manufacturing traps, nursery planting, track maintenance, recycling/repurposing and weed control.



Diverted **483** tonnes of waste in partnership with Waste Management.

60. <https://sciencebasedtargets.org/resources/legacy/2019/04/foundations-of-SBT-setting.pdf>.

Fleet

Corrections manage a fleet of approximately 1,900 assets, including light commercial vehicles, prisoner escort vehicles, trucks, and a range of industrial and agricultural mobile plant and trailers. These assets are critical to supporting operations across custodial and community sites.

In 2024/25, we advanced the implementation of our Fleet Decarbonisation, Optimisation and Transition Plan. Key initiatives included equipping 1,144 vehicles with GPS devices and integrating them into the Smart Vehicle System, enabling real-time tracking and data informed asset management. We also launched a pool car booking system to improve access and coordination for 889 shared cars and vans that support operations across 103 sites.

This year we replaced 35 fossil fuel vehicles with plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) and installed 37 new EV charging stations. As at 30 June 2025, our light commercial fleet includes 293 battery electric vehicles (BEVs), 69 PHEVs and 105 petrol hybrid vehicles supported by 352 chargers nationwide.

Working towards zero waste: Sustainability in Action

Tongariro Prison is working toward becoming zero-waste. Initiatives include: a work farm that supports food production and sustainability; spinning and weaving wool from the Tongariro Prison sheep farm; turning cardboard into fire bricks, which are delivered to vulnerable community members; and creative use of bamboo in craft and construction projects.

Whanganui Prison is also progressing toward zero waste. Initiatives include repurposing old mattresses into dog beds and building dog kennels from repurposed pellets. These are then donated to the SPCA, supporting animal welfare while reducing waste.

These initiatives not only reduce waste and create meaningful employment but also provide an opportunity for the men to give back to the community fostering a sense of purpose and connection.

Sustainability Policy and Design Standards

We have completed the Energy Efficiency, Sustainability guideline, which forms part of a broader set of design guidelines that provide clear methodologies to enhance the environmental performance of our buildings. While new buildings must fully comply with all relevant standards and guidelines, upgrades to existing buildings are also required to demonstrate sustainable initiatives, particularly those focused on reducing operational emissions and minimising waste. These guidelines offer physical infrastructure solutions and set mandated targets for infrastructure projects, aligning with Corrections policies such as Mahi Kaitiaki.

We will continue to refine our data

We expect emissions will change in some areas as our assumptions, data and reporting continues to mature. Future reporting may also include new emission sources as planned changes across our network are implemented.