



Australian Government
Australian Public Service Commission



Emissions Reduction Plan

August 2024

Acknowledgement of Country

The Australian Public Service Commission acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of the lands on which we work, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Contents

Emissions Reduction Plan	1
Acknowledgement of Country	2
Accountable Authority Sign-Off	4
Emissions Reduction Plan	5
Purpose	5
Net zero greenhouse gas emissions	5
Governance and reporting	5
The Australian Public Service Commission operational context	5
Baseline emissions	6
Engagement	6
Emissions reduction targets	7
Priorities and actions	7
Version History	10

Accountable Authority Sign-Off

The Australian Government released the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy in November 2023, setting out the overall approach and action required by Commonwealth entities to achieve the APS Net Zero 2030 target.

The Australian Public Service Commission is committed to the achievement of the Government's APS Net Zero 2030 target. The Commission is following the APS Net Zero 2030 target in full, as per the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy.

This Emissions Reduction Plan describes the priorities and actions the Commission is taking to reduce our operational emissions and contribute to the APS Net Zero 2030 target.



Dr Gordon de Brouwer

Australian Public Service Commissioner

Emissions Reduction Plan

Purpose

Commonwealth entities are responsible for managing and implementing emissions reduction initiatives set by the Australian Government's [Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy](#), developed by Department of Finance. The Strategy sets out the Australian Government's approach to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions from its operations by 2030, along with the reinstatement of public emissions reporting.

The goal of this Emissions Reduction Plan is to provide a pathway for the Commission to contribute to the achievement of the APS Net Zero 2030 target through emissions reduction activities. This Plan encompasses existing and new priorities and actions within the Commission to reduce its emissions.

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

Net zero greenhouse gas emissions

APS Net Zero 2030 is the target set by the Australian 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 Strategy.

The APS Net Zero 2030 target applies at the aggregate level to non-corporate Commonwealth entities 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.

Governance and reporting

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 Commission's progress towards reducing its emissions.

As part of the Net Zero in Government Operations Annual Progress Report, the Department of Finance will aggregate these measures to provide whole-of-Australian Government emissions reporting.

The Australian Public Service Commission operational context

The Commission operates across the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales and Queensland, with 487 personnel as at 30 June 2024. Our facilities, which primarily comprise office spaces and training facilities, are located in areas that incur extreme temperatures.

A summary of our locations and spaces is included in *Table 1*, below.

Table 1 – APSC Locations

Property & Location	Function	Size
The Treasury Building Langton Cres, Parkes ACT	APSC	3129m ²
Lower Senate, Old Parliament House King Georges Terrace, Parkes ACT	APSC	740m ²
Parliamentary Dining Rooms, Old Parliament House King Georges Terrace, Parkes ACT	APSC	918m ²
James Cook University 1 James Cook Drive, Douglas QLD	APSC – APS Academy	277m ²
Newcastle University University Drive, Callaghan NSW	APSC – APS Academy	247m ²
580 George Street, Sydney NSW	APSC & Merit Protection Commissioner	247m ²

Baseline emissions

Baseline emissions are a record of greenhouse gases that have been produced in the past and were produced prior to the introduction of any strategies to reduce emissions. The baseline emissions from financial year 2022-23 are the reference point against which emissions reduction actions can be measured.

The baseline emissions for this Plan, captured in Table 2 below, focus on scope 1 and scope 2 emissions, consistent with the APS Net Zero 2030 target. Electricity-related emissions were calculated using the location-based method. The complete 2022-23 greenhouse gas emissions inventory tables for Commission are presented in our 2022-23 annual report.

Baseline year	Financial Year 2022-23
Scope 1 emissions	7.561 tCO ₂ e
Scope 2 emissions	116.343 tCO ₂ e
Total emissions¹	123.904 tCO ₂ e

Table 2 – APSC Emissions Baseline

Engagement

In the development of this Plan the Commission has been working with:

- Department of Finance | Climate Action in Government Operations, to ensure that this Plan aligns with the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy and the Commonwealth Climate Disclosure requirements

¹ APSC tenancies at Old Parliament House, Newcastle University and James Cook University tenancies were not able to be included in the 2022-23 baseline emissions.

- Department of Finance | Travel Team, to discuss options and considerations for lowering travel emissions
- Neighbouring Tenants, to discuss options within shared locations to lower emissions
- Landlords, to discuss options to lower emissions
- APSC Enabling Services, to discuss and verify options and actions to lower emissions.

Emissions reduction targets

The Commission is following the APS Net Zero 2030 target in full, as per the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy. The target covers the entirety of our entity’s operations within Australia and its territories for scope 1 and scope 2 emissions, as described in the Strategy.

Priorities and actions

For the Commission to contribute to the achievement of the APS Net Zero 2030 target, targeted action on existing emissions reduction measures and the introduction of further or new measures is required. These actions are captured in the tables below.

Buildings

Action	By Who
Establish a Net Zero Working Group to agree strategies and boundaries for initiatives that can be undertaken by APSC and garner support from landlords to support and implement net zero initiatives that improve a facilities emissions performance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APSC Property • PSP Leasing Services team • Landlord(s)
Review existing Green Lease Schedules to ensure they align to the Strategy and net zero 2030 target.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APSC Property • PSP Leasing Services team • Landlord(s)
Target an all-electric building portfolio, with a target of all new leases to be fully electric.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APSC Property • PSP Leasing Services team
Ensure all new leases with an office space of >1,000m2 and leased for a minimum of four years will achieve 5.5-star NABERS Energy rating.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APSC Property • PSP Sustainability team • PSP Project Management team
Undertake annual NABERS Energy ratings for leased properties with a Net Lettable area of >1,000m2, to measure progress against achieving a minimum 5.5-star rating.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APSC Property • PSP Sustainability team • Landlord(s)

Action	By Who
Undertake Energy Audits at facilities that are identified as having high energy intensity, with the audits used to identify energy efficiency solutions for implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APSC Property • PSP Sustainability team • Landlord(s)
<p>Utilise timer functions on boiled/chilled water units</p> <p><i>This action is a recommendation from the Energy audit conducted in 2024 at the Treasury building</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APSC Property • PSP Sustainability team
<p>Optimise thermostat set points in communication rooms</p> <p><i>This action is a recommendation from the Energy audit conducted in 2024 at The Treasury building</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APSC Property • PSP Projects team • PSP Sustainability team
Upgrade all lighting to high efficiency LED, coupled with lighting control sensors such as daylight sensors and occupancy sensors for new leases or refurbishments (where applicable).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APSC Property • PSP Sustainability team • Landlord
Replace low efficiency kitchen appliances with high efficiency appliances, supporting reuse and recycling, to reduce landfill.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APSC Property
Retire old ICT equipment and replace with new high efficiency systems at end of life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APSC ICT
Where possible within tenancies, transition to cloud-based servers to reduce energy consumption associated with server rooms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APSC ICT
Maintain existing end of journey facilities for cyclists and investigate opportunities to improve end of journey facilities to support low/no emissions staff commute.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APSC Property • PSP WoAG FM team • Landlord(s)
Integrate sustainability education programs for all APSC employees through a range of mediums including: induction training and newsletters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APSC People • APSC Property
Continue to investigate new and emerging technologies that support APSC's transition to net zero buildings, as they become available and viable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APSC Property • PSP Projects team • PSP Sustainability team

Electricity

Action	By Who
Consult with the Department of Finance to ensure participation in Whole of Australian Government electricity procurement as per the Strategy, and replace electricity contracts with renewable electricity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APSC Property • PSP Sustainability team

Fleet

Action	By Who
<p>Not Applicable</p> <p>The Commission's fleet vehicle included in 2023-23 baseline emissions reporting has been removed from service. There are no plans to purchase further fleet vehicles for the Commission.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A

Version History

Title	Emission Reductions Plan template			
Created By	Climate Action in Government Operations (CAiGO)			
Date Created	6/12/23			
Maintained By	Climate Action in Government Operations (CAiGO)			
Version Number	Modified By	Modifications Made	Date Modified	Status
1.0	CAiGO	Initial release		Final
1.1	CAiGO	Alteration of words 'carbon emissions' to 'greenhouse emissions' at p.4.	May 2024	Final
2.0	CAiGO	Revisions to streamline the template and align language and approach with other climate action in government operations initiatives.	June 2024	Final
2.1	APSC	Updated to reflect the Commission's operations and actionable commitments to the APS Net Zero 2030 target	August 2024	Final