



Australian Government

Australian Trade and Investment Commission

Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) Emissions Reduction Plan

23 September 2024



Acknowledgement of Country

The Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of the of the lands on which we work, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

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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 Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy represents a strong commitment by the Australian Government to lead by example on emissions reduction and contribute to the decarbonisation of Australia's economy.

The Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) is committed to the achievement of the Government's APS Net Zero 2030 target. Austrade 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 Austrade is taking to reduce its operational emissions and contribute to the APS Net Zero 2030 target.



Xavier Simonet
Chief Executive Officer
23 September 2024

Emissions Reduction Plan

Purpose

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

The goal of this Emissions Reduction Plan is to provide a pathway for the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) 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 Austrade to reduce emissions.

This Emissions Reduction 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 its control.

Governance and reporting

Progress against actions identified within this Emissions Reduction Plan, and any additional measures adopted, will be included in Austrade's annual reports. This, combined with annual emissions reporting, will be used as a measure of Austrade 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.

Austrade Operational context

Austrade operates across 100 locations worldwide, with approximately 1,150 personnel, 60% of which are based in 8 Australian offices across all states and territories. Austrade's facilities are made up of leased office spaces and leased data centres that are exposed to Australia's extreme weather events. Austrade does not have any fleet vehicles in Australia. Domestic travel averages 2,800 flights per year and international travel averages 600 flights per year.

Austrade has already commenced its Net Zero emissions pathway in line with the direction set in the Strategy. This includes the following key activities:

- Establishment of an internal steering Group co-chaired by General Manager Investment and General Manager Government (reporting to the CEO) that coordinates the whole-of-agency Net Zero strategy and the development of an Austrade Net Zero framework.
- Baseline analysis of domestic carbon footprint and contribution to DFAT's international energy footprint data collection.
- Participation in the regular cross-departmental meetings on APS Net Zero run by the Climate Action in Government Operations unit (previously APS Net Zero unit) at the Department of Finance since Q1 2023.
- Continuous review of Net Lettable Area (NLA) footprint with a view to reducing it where possible, including through the use of hybrid working practices and co-location with other government agencies, reduction in overseas vehicles and car parks.
- Offering teleconference facilities and flexible work in sufficient work points and associated NLA for 70% of ongoing staff.
- Ongoing program to reduce its technical footprint thereby reducing ICT energy consumption and waste; use of government approved suppliers and ethical and economical asset disposal policy. This program includes a shift to cloud computing and storage facilities and enabling a reduction in use of data centres.
- Incorporation of environmentally sustainable principles as part of property related capital works and leasing, where feasible (end of travel and public transportation options, intelligent lighting, energy efficient, Australian made, water efficient, etc.).

Baseline emissions

Baseline emissions are a record of greenhouse gases that have been 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 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 Austrade are presented in the Austrade 2022-23 Annual Report.

Table 1: Baseline Emissions

Baseline year	Financial year 2022-23 (Location-based)	Financial year 2022-23 (Market-based)
Scope 1 emissions	N/A	N/A
Scope 2 emissions	382,118 tCO ₂ e	193,701 tCO ₂ e
Total emissions	382,118 tCO₂e	193,701 tCO₂e

Time series show historical emissions trends and track the effects of emission reduction strategies. Efforts will be made to calculate the time series using the same methods and data sources in all years. However, as emissions measurements, data collection methods, methodological refinements and reporting requirements are expected to be continually added and improved upon, strategies to ensure time-series consistency are being implemented from the outset. Key to ensuring confidence in time-series consistency will be the diligent documenting of approaches to emissions estimated, including methodologies and data sources, in the Net Zero in Government Operations Annual Progress Reports.

Engagement

In the development of this plan Austrade 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
 - Travel Team – to discuss options and considerations for lowering travel emissions
- DFAT Portfolio – where possible shared considerations could be addressed to lower emissions across the portfolio

Emissions reduction targets

Austrade emissions reduction targets has been prepared in accordance with the [Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy](#) associated guidance, reporting standards for annual emissions reporting.

Austrade projects that carbon emissions will decrease over the next 6 years from 809 (per 2022-23 emissions report, total of scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions) to 645 tCO₂e by 2030. This is a reduction of 20%.

Whilst Austrade's emissions targets have been developed based on the APS Net Zero targets and focus on its domestic operations, for international operations, Austrade will continue to consider practicable opportunities for decarbonisation, including low emissions vehicles,

sustainable procurement, relevant energy and waste measures treatment depending on feasibility and availability in the local overseas environment.

Priorities and actions

For Austrade to achieve Net Zero by 2030, targeted action on existing measures and the introduction of new measures are required. These actions are outlined below.

Buildings

Austrade is leasing six domestic office spaces and is using one under licence agreement (Hobart) and one under MoU (Canberra). Only Austrade's headquarters in Canberra and office in Sydney are greater than 1,000 m². Both are already exceeding the APS Net Zero target of a NABERS energy rating of 5.5 stars. The energy building rating for both is 6 stars.

For its remaining office sites (Adelaide, Brisbane, Darwin, Hobart, Melbourne and Perth), Austrade will continue to seek environmentally sustainable buildings and incorporate environmentally sustainable principles as part of property related capital works and lease renewals, where feasible.

Austrade reduced its footprint in 2023-24 by 488.95m² and it will continue to review its domestic and global footprint regularly based on needs and opportunities, including through shared office arrangements. Austrade also sub-leased over 280 m² of available office space in its offices to Commonwealth tenants, including Export Finance Australia, the Net Zero Economy Agency and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Action:

- Environmentally sustainable principles in future building leases and capital works.
- Austrade will engage with landlords and potential sub-tenants in 2024-25 to discuss green power options and options for shared locations including any associated and relevant outcomes to lower emissions.
- Further education on waste streams for staff.

Electricity

Austrade will participate in the Whole of Australian Government electricity procurement for renewable electricity following its commencement in 1 July 2025.

Action:

- Engage with the Department of Finance on the Whole of Australian Government electricity procurement for renewable electricity and utilise contracts where available and permitted under leases and market conditions in relevant States and Territories.

Travel

Austrade will update its travel policy to ensure its travellers consider low-emission sources of transport, such as buses, trains or other land-based transport, including to and from airports where air travel is required. Staff will also be encouraged to use NABERS-rated accommodation where available and feasible.

To support greener travel choices, NABERS Energy ratings will be displayed next to applicable hotels in the CTM Online Booking Tool from 1 July 2024.

Action:

- Embed low-emissions travel requirements in policy and conduct awareness campaign for staff (Travel & Postings team in consultation with COO).

Fleet

Austrade does not have any fleet vehicles in Australia.

ICT

Austrade will prioritise moving to cloud services, where possible, by 2027. This reduces the reliance on managed Data Centres and leverages the efficiencies of cloud compute and storage services, with research stating the potential to reduce energy consumption by 65%, and carbon emission by 84%.

Where Austrade is unable to utilise cloud services, it will take measures to reduce its energy consumption through the following initiatives:

- Post Services Refresh – reducing devices at posts (from 11 pieces of infrastructure to 6).
- Printer Refresh –reducing printers across the network (from 109 to 79).
- Data Centre storage refresh – new more efficient technology and reduction in capacity will see 3 time less power consumed 4.98kVA to 1.53kVA (Max).
- Disposal process outlines the requirement to opt for the most energy-efficient process for disposing of assets.
- Improved access to greenhouse gas reporting through increased usage of the NABERS Data Centre rating tool.

Austrade's primary data centre is Canberra Data Centre (CDC). CDC is one of the approved suppliers on the Australian Government's new data centre panel and supports the panel's strengthened measure for data centres to provide, identify, manage and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Action:

- Deliver infrastructure upgrade projects by June 2025.

- Continue migration of services to cloud providers:
 - Aurion by September 2024.
 - External calling (PSTN) by June 2025.

Procurement

Austrade will continue to adhere to the Sustainability principles outlined under the Whole of Australian Government Procurement rules and processes.

People and culture

Austrade will uplift Net Zero operational capability within its agency and encourage individual staff interests and contributions to reducing the agency emissions. This has already been demonstrated through the use of digital business cards and brochures in a number of Austrade-led events.

Action:

- Provide relevant staff with access to Net Zero Community of Practice and training offered by Climate Action in Government Operations and other government agencies.

Title: Emission Reductions Plan template

Created By: Climate Action in Government Operations (CAiGO)

Date Created: 6 December 2023

Maintained By: Climate Action in Government Operations (CAiGO)

Table 2: Version History

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.	May 2024	Final