



TE TARI TIAKI PŪNGAO
ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

EECA's Fortnightly Report to the
Minister for Energy

3 May 2024

EECA Contact: Will Jensen, Manager, Policy and Engagement

Phone: 04 470 2441 **Mobile:** 9(2)(a)

The International Energy Agency has published its 2024 Global EV Outlook (GEVO)

We briefed you on 8 April about public EV charger data reporting in New Zealand and overseas, in which we mentioned that updated IEA reporting was to be released imminently (EECA MEMO 159 refers). The IEA has now published its Global Electric Vehicle Outlook (GEVO). The GEVO report provides the best source of data relating to EVs and EV charging infrastructure across the world.

The GEVO report content of most relevance to New Zealand is the information about ratios of public EV chargers to number of EVs in different countries. New Zealand still has the lowest number of EV chargers per EV compared to other IEA member countries (one charger for every 88 EVs), but the report now provides additional context and metrics.

In previous iterations, we felt that the GEVO reporting on the number of electric vehicles per public charger has inadequately illustrated the provision of slow and fast public chargers, and the reasons it varies in different markets. This has led to New Zealand being presented as having the lowest proportion of public EV chargers compared to other countries, with no explanation of New Zealand's prioritisation of public fast charging due to low demand for public slow chargers. The IEA has responded to this feedback in the 2024 edition by including this important context and providing more detail on the proportion of slow and fast chargers in different countries. The IEA particularly notes that New Zealand has by far the highest proportion of fast chargers to slow chargers globally, with 75% of our public chargers being fast (power output of more than 22kW). See pages 73-74 of the full report (appended).

The GEVO report contains a number of additional interesting observations about EV uptake at a global level:

- Electric car sales neared 14 million (18% of all cars sold) in 2023, and could reach around 17 million in 2024, accounting to more than one in five cars sold worldwide.
- Roll-out of public charging needs to keep pace with EV sales, which will need to increase sixfold by 2035.
- Trucks continue to be slowest to electrify, but country commitments could help boost progress and could see total cost of ownership parity in many applications this decade.
- As more electric heavy-duty vehicles such as trucks and large buses hit the road, dedicated and flexible charging is needed, including along main transit routes to enable long-distance trucking.

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Update on engagement with industry over smart EV charger specifications

We have been engaging with industry since 2021 on opportunities to increase the uptake of smart EV chargers, including requiring chargers to use ‘open communication protocols’. Using these protocols means consumers can easily switch between flexibility providers and avoid being locked in to any one company’s proprietary technology. We see this as vital to supporting open access principles across a ‘smart’ flexible market, and included this specification in our recently published list of endorsed chargers.

We have seen broad industry support for this approach, but recently Evnex, a New Zealand manufacturer of EV chargers, has raised concerns with the specification. Evnex recommended EECA should remove the requirement for chargers to have ‘open’ access to the Open Charge Point Protocol (OCPP). Evnex chargers use proprietary communications that mean their chargers would likely not be eligible for the approved list.

We have met with Evnex to better understand their concerns and expect this conversation to continue. At this stage we are providing this update to you under no surprises, but expect that this example will inform EECA's contribution to broader advice on the role of open communication protocols in a demand flexible market.

EECA is supporting Australian partners with a technical consultation under the Equipment Energy Efficiency (E3) programme

EECA is working with Australian partners under the E3 programme to develop a methodology to compare the performance of different types of space heaters (e.g., heat pump heaters, solid fuel heaters, plug-in electric heaters etc.). A technical document is now ready for publication and feedback from technical stakeholders. The Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) intends to release the document for public consultation in June this year. EECA will be supporting the technical consultation process.

The objective of this technical document is to underpin further work on space heating energy performance and inform consumers' purchasing decisions. We will keep you updated on the progress. We can share with you a copy of this technical paper upon request.

EECA communications and events calendar

The following table shows upcoming events and communications which EECA is involved in.

Significant Events		
Date	Type	Activity/Event
May 2024	PR	We will work with your office on promotion opportunities for our new EV charging tools (and current insights drawn from the tools). The Public EV Charger Dashboard is live, and we will soon publish a Community EV Charger Planning map.
May 2024	PR	We are developing the next phase of media outreach (trade and transport/energy journalists) to promote our approved list of smart EV chargers, and our work with the FlexTalk flexible distribution trial.
May 2024	PR	We are planning to publish the Bay of Plenty Regional Energy Transition Accelerator (RETA) report. This will be accompanied by regionally focused PR. We will

		provide an early copy to your office in case you are interested in being involved.
May 2024	Partner led event	This month, Fulton Hogan is holding a launch event at its plant in Templeton, Christchurch to demonstrate and test its Reduced Energy Asphalt (for sustainable and low carbon roading). The asphalt project received co-funding via GIDI and produces mixes that significantly lower carbon emissions and reduces fumes and smoking during application. This event will be attended by an EECA representative.
21 May	Partner led event and PR	Alongside industry and the Electricity Engineers' Association (EEA) we recently completed the FlexTalk 1.0 project, which installed smart EV charging functionality on three electricity networks - Orion, Aurora and WEL Networks. The project provides a template for Electricity Distribution Businesses (EDBs) to enable smart EV charging on their networks quickly and cheaply. A report and technical guidance document will be published, and an event is being planned to mark the milestone. The EEA is also planning to share a PR.
May/June 2024	9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]	[Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted].

Upcoming items to the Minister				
Primary contact	Status	Item description	Notes	Response Required
Will Jensen, Manager Policy & Engagement	9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	N/A	ASAP
	Sent	Briefing: EECA draft Statement of Intent (SOI) 2024-2028 and draft Statement of Performance Expectations (SPE) 2024/25	N/A	21 May 2024

Active Official Information Act (OIA) requests				
Requestor	Type	Request	Date received	Date due
9(2)(a) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	Departmental	The number of boilers owned by each CNGP organisation (excluding the state schooling sector), by fuel type.	09 April 2024	08 May 2024
9(2)(a) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	Departmental	Copies of all proposal documents prepared to give effect to the Government's directive to reduce expenditure in the public service, including but not limited to reduction of staff numbers and resulting redundancies. If no such specific proposal document exists, please provide copies of all documents concerning the reduction of staff and redundancies from 27 November 2023 to present.	11 April 2024	10 May 2024

9(2)(a) [REDACTED]	Departmental	(Relating to a previous OIA request, sent on Friday 12 April): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All information considered out of scope in this response, and All communications and meeting notes that mention this request since 26 December 2023? 	13 April 2024	13 May 2024
9(2)(a) [REDACTED]	Departmental	Warmer Kiwi Homes service provider contract funding allocations for the 2024 Calendar year.	12 April 2024	13 May 2024
9(2)(a) [REDACTED]	Ministerial	Copies of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda and supporting information for Minister for Energy/EV charging 'deep dive' session with MBIE/EECA/MoT Low Emissions Transport Fund: Public EV Charger Hubs - Key messages and talking points 	30 April 2024	14 May 2024 (to your office)
9(2)(a) [REDACTED]	Departmental	EECA's quarterly contractor and consultant spend since 2018.	24 April 2024	23 May 2024



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17 May 2024

EECA Contact: Will Jensen, Manager, Policy and Engagement

Phone: 04 470 2441 **Mobile:** 9(2)(a)

9(2)(f)(iv)

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9(2)(f)(iv)

Related to the recent request from Transpower for households and businesses to reduce power usage during peak periods, we have a range of measures at hand to help consumers manage their energy use in peak periods.

Our 2023 winter energy savings campaign found the initiative directly supported an overall energy reduction and delivered a return on investment of near \$3.0, based on consumer energy savings.

EECA is currently driving traffic to content on EECA's Gen Less website with the focus being tips to keep homes warm and dry over winter and reduce energy bills through energy efficiency.

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EECA is actively involved in the Supercharging EV Infrastructure Taskforce

This week, the Taskforce met with charge point operators (CPOs) to test alternative funding and financing options and further reinforce that the approach to Government support is changing. Feedback from this engagement will inform the design of EECA's 2024 charging rounds, which will be included in a briefing to you from the Taskforce on 5 June 2024.

Crown Infrastructure Partners (CIP) is actively involved in the Taskforce and are offering their expertise to inform consideration of financing options. In the meantime, we are finalising the funding agreement between EECA/CIP to formalise their involvement in the Taskforce. We will shortly provide your office with a briefing and a policy mandate letter, for you to provide to CIP.

EECA is scoping a new pilot project to support distributed flexibility (FlexTalk 2.0)

To help meet the challenge of increasing electricity demand, EECA recently partnered with industry (represented by the Electricity Engineers' Association, EEA) to complete the FlexTalk1.0 project. This installed smart EV charging functionality on three electricity networks operated by Orion, Aurora and WEL Networks. The project provides a template for Electricity Distribution Businesses (EDBs) to enable communication to smart EV chargers to control their demand on their networks quickly and cheaply.

We are now investigating a second iteration of this project, FlexTalk 2.0, that will add on other energy-using technologies to the smart communication platform (e.g. heat pumps, hot water systems) to trial connecting real smart homes to a demand flexibility service provider. FlexTalk 2.0 will use the same collaboration partners but with a wider technology provider group. The project has been scoped from the 'next steps' identified in FlexTalk 1.0 and the first 2.0 project design meeting is on 22 May.

The intent is that these flexible demand resources under FlexTalk 2.0 will then be made visible and available to EDBs in real-time under the sister project known as "FlexViz".

The FlexViz project will trial a centralised digital trading portal where demand flexibility service providers can automatically make their available aggregated demand resources visible to EDBs to help them quickly assess the amount of flexible demand available on their network. The centralised portal is to demonstrate how a virtual 'shop window' could enable consumers and businesses with flexible demand to engage with flexibility traders.

Progress update on strategy implementation and budget planning for 2024/25

As discussed at the EECA officials meeting on 8 May 2024, EECA has drafted a new strategy that is closely aligned to our legislative purpose "*to encourage, promote, and support energy efficiency, energy conservation, and the use of renewable sources of energy.*" The strategy is

outlined in EECA's draft Statement of Intent (SOI) 2024–2028 (EECA 2024 BRF 006 refers) and will be effective from 1 July.

EECA is now taking steps to prepare for the implementation of the strategy. A strategic review of our activities is underway, and we are drafting our budget for 2024/25 in line with the pre-Budget 2024 information received on 8 May. EECA's final budget, activities and performance measurement framework will be presented in our Statement of Performance Expectations 2024/25. You will receive this, alongside the final SOI, on 27 June.

EECA communications and events calendar

The following table shows upcoming events and communications which EECA is involved in. **New items are shown in bold.**

Significant Events		
Date	Type	Activity/Event
May 2024	PR	We have published the Bay of Plenty Regional Energy Transition Accelerator (RETA) report, accompanied by regionally focused PR. We have provided an early copy to your office.
May 2024	PR	We will work with your office on promotion opportunities for our new EV charging tools (and current insights drawn from the tools). The Public EV Charger Dashboard is live, and we will soon publish a Community EV Charger Planning map.
May 2024	PR	We are developing the next phase of media outreach (trade and transport/energy journalists) to promote our approved list of smart EV chargers, and our work with the FlexTalk flexible distribution trial.
May/June 2024	PR	We are planning to publish an updated version of the Energy End Use Database (EEUD) which includes data from 2017-2022. The EEUD provides annual estimates of how energy is used across the New Zealand economy. Delivered energy estimates are provided for fuel types, sectors, end uses and technologies. This will be accompanied by a trade-focused PR.
21 May	Partner led event and PR	Alongside industry and the Electricity Engineers' Association (EEA) we recently completed the FlexTalk 1.0 project, which installed smart EV charging functionality

		on three electricity networks. A report and technical guidance document will be published, and a launch event is planned to mark the milestone. The EEA is also planning to share a PR.
May/June 2024	9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]	[Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted]

Upcoming items to the Minister				
Primary contact	Status	Item description	Notes	Response Required
Will Jensen, Manager Policy & Engagement	9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted] [Redacted]	[Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted]	N/A	ASAP
	Sent	Briefing: EECA draft Statement of Intent (SOI) 2024-2028 and draft Statement of Performance Expectations (SPE) 2024/25	N/A	21 May 2024

Active Official Information Act (OIA) requests				
Requestor	Type	Request	Date received	Date due
9(2)(a) [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted]	Departmental	EECA’s quarterly contractor and consultant spend since 2018.	24 April 2024	23 May 2024
9(2)(a) [Redacted] [Redacted]	Departmental	Copies of all correspondence and other information (including but not limited to briefings, aide-memoire, notes, emails, in person meetings, verbal correspondence, online meetings, text messages) received or sent related to the EECA’s (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority) decision to decline the request for semi-regular updates from the Opposition	13 May 2024	11 June 2024

		Spokesperson for Energy and Resources, the Hon Dr Megan Woods.		
9(2)(a) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	Ministerial	A list of all briefings, reports, aide memoirs and memos produced or received by the Minister of Energy between April 1, 2024 and April 30, 2024	14 May 2024	04 June 2024 (to your office)



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31 May 2024

EECA Contact: Will Jensen, Manager, Policy and Engagement

Phone: 04 470 2441 **Mobile:** 9(2)(a)

Budget 2024 Delivery Update

Low Emissions Heavy Vehicles Fund (LEHVF) (formerly Clean Heavy Vehicles Grant)

9(2)(f)(iv)

Warmer Kiwi Homes

Your Letter of Expectations directed EECA to ‘deliver Warmer Kiwi Homes in a way that better targets households to ensure the funds allocated are being used to benefit the households with the greatest needs’. 9(2)(f)(iv)

Supercharging EV Infrastructure policy options

EECA is working as part of the interagency Supercharging EV Infrastructure Taskforce to progress advice on options for co-investment in public EV charging infrastructure.

The Taskforce met with charge point operators on 17 May. This was a fruitful discussion, with a clear expectation set that private sector investment is to be maximised and Crown funding is likely to be recycled. Industry participants were well engaged and offered useful insights and information.

You will receive a briefing from the Ministry of Transport on 3 June setting out options currently being considered by the Taskforce and seeking your direction on several key policy matters. 9(2)(f)(iv)

The Public EV Charger Dashboard and Community EV Charger Planning Tool are now live

EECA has published a dashboard providing a national view of current and planned EV charging infrastructure, as well as key EV charging metrics. The tool can be viewed via this link [Public EV Charger Dashboard | EECA](#)

EECA has also published a tool to forecast demand and assist planning for Public EV Charging in local communities. The planner can be found here [Community EV Charger Planner | EECA](#)

We are seeing usage of both tools by market players in preparing applications for the Urban Infill Public EV Charging round (closing 31 May 2024).

EECA is continuing to develop further tools to assist the market to invest in public charging infrastructure, including; a prototype tool to assist planning for public EV charging along long journey routes, and assisting NZTA with their 'EV-Roam' system, with the aim of this becoming the authoritative dataset on public chargers in New Zealand.

9(2)(f)(iv)

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EECA is undertaking further research on Distributed Flexibility

As part of our Distributed Flexibility work programme, we are undertaking research to better understand issues around peak demand, and current utilisation and demand response/flexibility across national, regional and sector levels.

This research will support collaboration across government and with industry to use distributed flexibility to support electricity system resilience, reduce required investment in infrastructure, and reduce costs for businesses and households.

We have provided several stakeholders with our research scope, including relevant government agencies and EDBs for feedback. We intend to work with interested stakeholders and go to market for the research later in June.

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- [Redacted list item]
- [Redacted list item]

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9(2)(f)(iv)

[Redacted text block]

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Upcoming items to the Minister				
Primary contact	Status	Item description	Notes	Response Required
Will Jensen, Manager Policy & Engagement	9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]	[Redacted]	N/A	ASAP
	Upcoming	EECA revised draft Statement of Intent (SOI) 2024-2028 and revised draft Statement of Performance Expectations (SPE) 2024/25	N/A	TBA
	Upcoming	Briefing: Approach for introducing the Low Emission Heavy Vehicle Fund (LEHVF) to market	N/A	TBA

Active Official Information Act (OIA) requests				
Requestor	Type	Request	Date received	Date due
9(2)(a) [Redacted]	Departmental	Copies of all correspondence and other information (including but not limited to briefings, aide-memoire, notes, emails, in person meetings, verbal correspondence, online meetings, text messages) received or sent related to the EECA's (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority) decision to decline the request for semi-regular updates from the Opposition Spokesperson for Energy and Resources, the Hon Dr Megan Woods.	13 May 2024	11 June 2024

<p>9(2)(a) [Redacted]</p>	<p>Departmental</p>	<p>Regarding Meridian's Springs Junction EV Charger:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.A copy of the original proposal from Meridian for this install, and any conditions imposed by EECA on this installation 2.The amount of funding provided by EECA for this installation. 3.How much of this funding for this installation has been provided to Meridian to date. 4.Each occasion that the installation date has been reviewed/changed- and what the new date has been. 5. Does EECA apply any penalties for non-delivery 6. Reasons for delays. 	<p>23 May 2024</p>	<p>21 June 2024</p>
<p>9(2)(a) [Redacted]</p>	<p>Departmental</p>	<p>We are seeing specific information relating to Government funding of Pacific Steel EAF. Please ensure the information we receive covers the following questions: - Please provide all evidence, the entire file, handwritten notes, audio recordings, site visits etc.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the process by Government to involve Pac Steel? Who initiated it? 2. Who decided on partnering with Pac Steel? When was this decided upon and how was the decision made? 3. Was there a tender process? If so, who put it out to tender? 4. When was this put out for tender? Please provide full timeline. 	<p>24 May 2024</p>	<p>24 June 2024</p>

		<p>5. What advertising process was followed for the tender process?</p> <p>6. Who were all the parties involved in the tender process?</p> <p>7. Did tender go before a committee? If so, when did this happen? Who was involved?</p> <p>8. What was the select criteria? Please provide full details.</p> <p>9. Please provide all tender documents submitted by third parties.</p> <p>10. What was the selection criteria, process, and procedure?</p> <p>11. Copies of the contract that was signed between Government and Pac Steel.</p> <p>12. For how many years is the contract and specifically what does this contract cover?</p>		
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