



TE TARI TIAKI PŪNGAO
ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

EECA's Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Energy

4 October 2024

EECA Contact: Will Jensen, Manager, Policy and Engagement

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

Updates on your specific expectations for EECA (as per your letter of Expectations)

New items are in **bold**.

Supercharging EV Infrastructure: Update on the public EV charging RFI

On the morning of Friday 4 October, EECA will launch the Request for Information on approaches to government co-investment in public electric vehicle charging infrastructure. EECA has emailed contacts in the New Zealand EV charging industry so they can be prepared for the RFI release.

The RFI will be open for submissions for three weeks (4-25 October). EECA will then work with the other Taskforce agencies (MBIE, MoT and CIP) to analyse submissions and prepare advice on our recommended approach to government investment.

The Taskforce will keep you updated through the RFI process, particularly if there are likely to be impacts on the timing of the Cabinet report-back on the co-investment approach.

Other Updates

Low Emissions Heavy Vehicle Fund

Since our last update, we have entered contracts with an additional five vehicle suppliers, increasing the vehicles eligible for grant funding as represented on our whitelist to 23 (some vehicles are available through multiple suppliers). We have also received the first customer applications for grant funding, which will see six light battery electric trucks (7.8 tonne) on the road from the end of November. We will now move to providing you with quarterly updates on the Fund's progress.

Upcoming market engagement/procurement on Technology Demonstration & Diffusion

EECA is assessing opportunities to support innovative technologies through our Technology Demonstration Fund. Our focus has been on identifying emerging technologies where there are material barriers to early adoption and high replicability potential. The following two market-ready opportunities have been identified:

- **High temperature steam heat pump (130-200 degrees)** - At present, there are limited low emissions fuel options for hard-to-abate industrial processes that require process heat temperatures exceeding 130 degrees. High temperature steam heat pump technology has been adopted internationally but is yet to be demonstrated in New Zealand, which is critical to de-risk first mover investment. At an individual

level, adopting a HTHP achieves around 50% industrial energy productivity improvement and approximately 50% emission reduction potential.

- **9(2)(f)(iv)** [Redacted]

[Redacted]

International engagement on ‘doubling energy efficiency by 2030’ commitment

EECA was recently a virtual attendee at the 53rd Energy Efficiency Working Party meeting under the International Energy Agency (IEA). This meeting enables collaboration between IEA countries in their 2023 commitment to double energy efficiency by 2030. Three key levers were discussed at the conference to enable doubling of energy efficiency: regulations, information, and incentives. The IEA recommends a combination of all three to have the largest effect.

Representatives from other countries were interested to hear how New Zealand has been using these levers to encourage uptake of smart and efficient EV chargers. **9(2)(f)(iv)**

[Redacted]

While the focus of the meeting was energy efficiency, demand flexibility was also discussed, particularly in the context of using renewables such as solar where peak generation and peak demand occur at different times. Negative wholesale electricity prices are becoming more common internationally because of this. It was also noted that in general there are energy efficiency gains when electrifying, which is a focus internationally.

EECA communications and events calendar

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

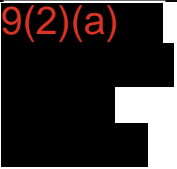
Significant Events		
Date	Type	Activity/Event
October 4 2024	Direct communication	We will open the RFI on investment approaches for public EV charging infrastructure on Friday and have reached out directly to charge point operators to encourage their submissions.
October 2024	PR/event	9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
October 2024	Possible PR/site visit	9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
October 2024	PR/report publishing	We will publish the Taranaki RETA report and an accompanying PR. This report provides insights and recommendations for the Taranaki region on the decarbonisation of stationary process heat.

Upcoming items to the Minister

Primary contact	Status	Item description	Notes	Response Required
Will Jensen (Manager, Policy & Engagement)	Sent	Briefing: Warmer Kiwi Homes Programme Targeting		N/A

Active Official Information Act (OIA) requests

Requestor	Type	Request	Date received	Date due
9(2)(a) [Redacted]	Departmental	<p>Access to the forecast data points per statistical area as shown in the map pop-ups in the EECA EV Charger Planner tool, found here: https://www.eeca.govt.nz/insights/data-tools/community-ev-charger-planner/</p> <p>Specifically, we are looking for these data points per statistical area for each year forecasted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year • Current number BEV • Projected number BEV • Current charge points • Charge points needed. • Charge points gap • Population Estimate • Population growth 	12 September 2024	10 October 2024
9(2)(a) [Redacted]	Departmental	Information on the average cost of gas per kilowatt-hour (kWh)	18 September 2024	16 October 2024
[Redacted]	Departmental	Several questions regarding EECA's use of advertising services.	22 September	18 October 2024

9(2)(a) 			2024	
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TE TARI TIAKI PŪNGAO
ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

EECA's Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Energy

18 October 2024

EECA Contact: Will Jensen, Manager, Policy and Engagement

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

1. Snapshot of the fortnight

Full updates are provided in section three of this report. Here are some standout insights below:

1. The E3 programme has commenced public consultation for options to improve energy efficiency of Distribution Transformers. The consultation closes on 6 December. With the proposals, there is an estimated net benefit of \$155 million and energy savings of around 5,700 GWh over the 2024 – 2051 period, equating to the annual electricity consumption of 28,000 homes.
2. Two Regional Energy Transition Accelerator (RETA) reports for Taranaki and Hawkes Bay will soon be published. Our Hawke’s Bay RETA demonstrates that it is economic for businesses to reduce fossil fuels for process heat by 80% within the next seven years by reducing demand and switching to biomass – and this supply of biomass is available from within the region.

2. Update on priority outputs

Priority area	Fortnightly achievements	Target
Supercharging EV Infrastructure	RFI released.	Support the Government to deliver 10,000 EV Charging stations by 2030.
Warmer Kiwi Homes (WKH)	Received your signature on the Warmer Kiwi Homes programme targeting briefing (BRF 009). Where we outlined the next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue working with the University of Otago to develop a customised WKH Deprivation index. • Refining community partnerships. • Leverage existing connections for medium to large businesses to engage their workers in the programme. 	26,500 installs. Better target high need households.
Efficient products	Consultation published on Distribution Transformers, which are critical infrastructure components in the electricity grid.	Develop energy efficient products and labelling regulatory regime.

<p>9(2)(f)(iv)</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>	<p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>	<p>TBC</p>
<p>Low Emissions Heavy Vehicle Fund</p>	<p>To date, EECA has approved grant applications for 9 vehicles under the Fund.</p> <p>So far, we have 16 Heavy Vehicle suppliers signed up to the fund.</p>	<p>At least 50 Low Emissions Heavy Vehicles ordered in 2024/25. (SPE 18.)</p>

3. General updates

3.1 EV Charging Request for Information (RFI) update

EECA released the RFI “Approaches to government co-investment in public electric vehicle charging infrastructure” on 4 October via GETS.

Though we have received no submissions to date, there has been keen interest (with 58 subscriptions to the tender). The deadline for responses is Friday 25 October. The submissions will be reviewed by a panel, consisting of the Supercharging EV Infrastructure Taskforce (EECA, CIP, MoT and MBIE). The panel will commence their reviews soon after submissions close, with full panel considerations scheduled for the 7 and 8 November.

We will advise you further on the outcomes of the RFI, which will inform a Cabinet paper for late 2024.

3.2 Low Emissions Heavy Vehicle Fund Update

Since the Low Emissions Heavy Vehicle Fund (LEHVF) announcement on 20 September, EECA has received applications for ten vehicles. Nine funding applications have been approved, and one is in progress. We are expecting to have approximately \$315k in grants committed by the end of November.

Currently there are 25 vehicles, and 16 suppliers approved for the programme. We are currently in discussions with a couple of well-known international manufacturers, in hopes to add them to our supplier approved list. If these manufacturers do sign up, the fund will have a wider range of vehicles available to suit businesses needs.

We will continue to keep your office updated in progress of the Fund.

3.3 Distribution Transformers consultation published

Following your approval on 30 September (EECA 2024 BRF 013 refers), EECA is consulting on a Consultation Regulation Impact Statement (CRIS) that assesses policy options for increasing the energy efficiency of distribution transformers in Australia and New Zealand. The recommendations in the CRIS include expanding the scope and increasing the Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for distribution transformers.

This is a joint Australian and New Zealand Government consultation under the Equipment Energy Efficiency (E3) programme.

To support the consultation, EECA will hold public forums next month. The main forum will focus on the technical aspects of the CRIS and include a technical presentation and an opportunity to ask questions about the proposed MEPS and their implementation. We will be hosting a New Zealand -specific forum which will look at the wider policy implications, such as infrastructure planning and investment, and electricity price/quality.

3.4 Regional Energy Transition Accelerator (RETA) Taranaki and Hawkes Bay reports: key insights

EECA's RETA Taranaki report will be published on Monday 21 October, containing insights about industrial process heat in the region. The 36 sites in the region consumed 23,900 TJ piped gas for process heat in 2022. The economic transition pathway sees renewable fuel decisions that result in 80% of the energy needs being supplied by electricity and 20% supplied by biomass. Uniquely, the region also uses piped gas as a feedstock in products, e.g. methanol at Methanex, and urea (for fertiliser) at Ballance. The report acknowledges that decisions are more complex for these organisations.

The RETA report covering Hawke's Bay will be published in November and demonstrates that biomass is likely to play a crucial role for the region's transition to renewable fuels. The 44 sites consume 2,100 TJ per year in fossil fuels, primarily from piped gas, and the pathways demonstrate that it is economic for businesses to reduce this by 80% within the next seven years by reducing demand and switching to renewable fuels. The volume of biomass required is available from within the region, and EECA is working with forest managers and demand side organisations to unlock this opportunity.

There are opportunities for you to promote these findings. We will work with your office to gauge interest.

3.5 Home energy efficiency partnership and public engagement update

Partnership with New Zealand Master Electricians

EECA and New Zealand Master Electricians have signed an MoU, to partner on a range of projects to support both commercial and residential sectors. Master Electricians is one of the key partners

we have identified for supporting home energy efficiency and demand flexibility advice for consumers under our public engagement work programme. Our joint work programme includes increasing the capability and knowledge of the sector around new technologies to ensure electricians are confident to meet the evolving market

We are launching the partnership with research undertaken by EECA that explores tradespeople's knowledge and perspectives on emerging energy technology. When finalised we will supply a copy of the research to your office.

Future public engagement activity

The focus of this work programme is to ensure New Zealanders have the information they need to make informed choices to get the most out of the energy they use while saving money.

Ahead of your meeting with EECA officials on Wednesday 23 October, we have appended a slide deck outlining planned activity, including the purpose, key messages and early creative, where available. Please refer to Appendix One for the slides.

We have a strong focus on value for money, supporting consumers with the information they need to make informed decisions. This activity will deliver value by being highly targeted and not using expensive mass broadcast media such as TV.

The content is fuel agnostic and focuses on supporting consumers with information around highly efficient technology, actions they can take in their home to reduce energy use, and tools that allow them to make decisions that work best for their own situation and priorities.

4. Ministerial servicing updates

4.1 EECA officials meeting

9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

- | [Redacted]
- | [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

4.2 Current and upcoming advice to the Minister

Strategic priority	Title	Purpose	Action and timing
[Redacted]	9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]	[Redacted]	In progress
[Redacted]	9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]	[Redacted]	In progress

4.3 Official Information Act requests

Requestor	Request	Date Received	Date due
9(2)(a) [Redacted]	Advice to Ministers on the Low Emissions Heavy Vehicle Fund.	10 October 2024	8 November 2024

9(2)(a) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	(In relation to electric motors) How many fines has EECA issued?	15 October 2024	13 November 2024
9(2)(a) [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	Any CIPA or analysis on the emissions impact of the Low Emissions Heavy Vehicle Fund.	17 October 2024	15 November 2024

4.4 Proactive releases

Name of document	Date of release
EECA Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Energy – 9 August 2024	11 October 2024
EECA Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Energy – 23 August	11 October 2024
List of papers sent to the Minister for Energy – August 2024	11 October 2024

4.5 Consultations underway

Strategic priority	Title	Purpose	Action and timing
Supercharging EV Infrastructure Taskforce	<i>Request for Information:</i> Approaches to Government co-investment in public electric vehicle charging infrastructure	To gather information to inform a recommended co-investment approach to be considered by Cabinet.	Submissions close 25 October

4.6 E3 and regulatory consultations

Programme/ strategic area	Topic	Timing
E3	Options to expand the scope of distribution transformers.	Closes 6 December 2024.

4.6 Communications and events calendar

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

Date	Type	Activity/Event	Opportunities for engagement
October 2024	PR/event	9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
October 2024	Possible PR/site visit	9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
October 2024	PR	We are publishing the Taranaki RETA report alongside an accompanying PR with support from Venture Taranaki,	The report identifies the potential for biomass and electricity – including electricity to create green hydrogen – as fuel sources in

			the region. There are opportunities for regional decarbonisation and biomass market development.
October 2024	Programme launch	As part of our Sector Decarbonisation programme, we will launch the <i>Packhouse and Cool Stores Sector Pathway</i> . This pathway focuses on increasing energy efficiency and encouraging demand reduction within the sector.	The pathway was developed with participation from the sector; there is an opportunity to engage with businesses undertaking demand reduction and fuel switching activities.

Appendix One withheld under 9(2)(f)(iv)