

Aotearoa New Zealand's Methane Emissions Reduction Action Plan

This document summarises Aotearoa New Zealand's Methane Plan, communicated for the Global Methane Pledge. Participants in the Pledge have agreed to take voluntary actions to contribute to the collective effort towards a global 30 percent reduction in methane emissions by 2030.

Why reducing global methane emissions matters to Aotearoa New Zealand:

Limiting global warming to 1.5°C is at the heart of Aotearoa New Zealand's climate change response. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change advises that rapid, steep methane reductions, alongside bringing global carbon dioxide emissions to net zero by 2050, are needed to meet this temperature goal. Methane emissions last for a short time in the atmosphere relative to long-lived greenhouse gases, but make the world warmer than it would be otherwise over that period.

Aotearoa New Zealand is taking action on methane emissions internationally and domestically

International Action:

We play an active role in international fora on methane-related issues and through participation in initiatives, including:

Partnering with Environmental Defense Fund on the **MethaneSAT** space mission – to quantify and map global methane emissions

MethaneSAT could catalyse methane emissions reductions from oil and gas infrastructure globally by at least 45 percent by 2025, as well as from agricultural sources

Contributing and funding the **Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases** to support countries and research into agricultural mitigation

Contributing to the **Climate and Clean Air Coalition** to reduce methane emissions, including from livestock systems

Supporting international processes to improve the quantification of methane emissions in **Greenhouse Gas Inventories**

Contributing to the **Policy Dialogue on Accelerating Transition to Sustainable Agriculture** to encourage global best practice and investment in sustainable agriculture

Active participation and contributions to the OECD, including the **Trade and Agriculture Directorate**, to progress work on agricultural and other issues

Membership of the **Agricultural Innovation Mission for Climate** towards agricultural climate action and innovation

How are methane emissions priced?

Energy	✓	NZ ETS	Industry	✓	NZ ETS
Waste	✓	NZ ETS (partial coverage)	Agriculture	✗	To be priced from 2025

How we will work with others to support greater and faster global emissions reductions:

Aotearoa New Zealand is taking action on methane emissions, through:

- partnerships and international initiatives.
- a Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement to reduce net emissions by 50 percent below gross 2005 levels by 2030.
- setting domestic policies, emissions reduction budgets and targets:
 - » **2030:** we will reduce biogenic methane emissions by 10 percent below 2017 levels (equivalent to a reduction of 0.13 MtCH₄)
 - » **2050:** we will reduce biogenic methane emissions by between 24 to 47 percent below 2017 levels (equivalent to a reduction of between 0.32 and 0.63 MtCH₄) and achieve net zero emissions of all other greenhouse gases (including non-biogenic methane to 0 MtCH₄).

Domestic Action:

We are taking specific actions to target methane emissions relevant to key sectors:

Agriculture

- Price agricultural emissions by 1 January 2025
- Establish a new Centre for Climate Action on Agricultural Emissions to drive a step change in mitigation technology innovation and uptake on farms
- Support indigenous knowledge informed approaches to emissions reductions from agriculture
- Support clear and effective regulatory pathways for agricultural mitigation tools
- Develop further climate-focused extension and advisory services
- Support indigenous knowledge-based programmes to support needs and aspirations of Māori entities
- Build the evidence base for regenerative agriculture
- Reduce the emissions of our largest farmer state-owned enterprise
- Develop food and fibre science and indigenous knowledge-informed accelerators

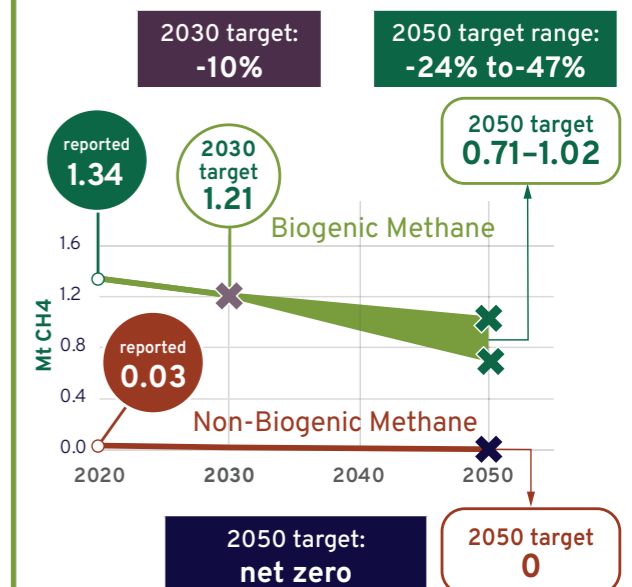
Energy and Industry

- Privately-led methane emissions reduction efforts due to the dispersed and comparatively small nature of these emissions in the energy and industry sectors
- Update information on historical coal mines to improve the accuracy of our reporting on fugitive methane emissions, including in our Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Waste

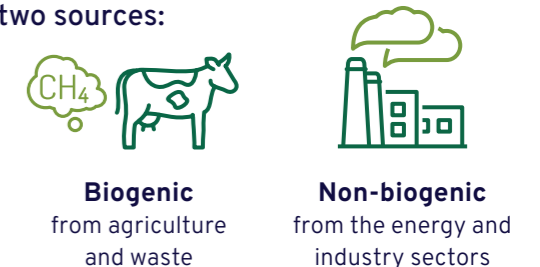
- Encourage behaviour to prevent waste from households
- Enable businesses to reduce food waste
- Support participation in improved kerbside collections
- Improve household kerbside collection of food and garden waste
- Invest in organic waste processing and resource recovery infrastructure
- Require the separation of organic waste
- Support the building and construction sector to minimise waste through research and improved capability
- Invest in sorting and processing infrastructure for construction and demolition waste
- Enable the separation of construction and demolition materials
- Investigate banning organic waste from landfill by 2030
- Regulations to require landfill gas capture at municipal landfills
- Feasibility studies to determine the need for additional landfill gas capture requirements
- Develop a national waste licensing scheme
- Improve information on greenhouse gas emissions from waste disposal
- Specific air quality regulations for the control of landfill methane
- Raise revenue via the Waste Disposal Levy for the promotion and achievement of waste minimisation
- Direct Waste Minimisation Funds to reduce emissions from waste

Methane emissions at target year in MtCH₄



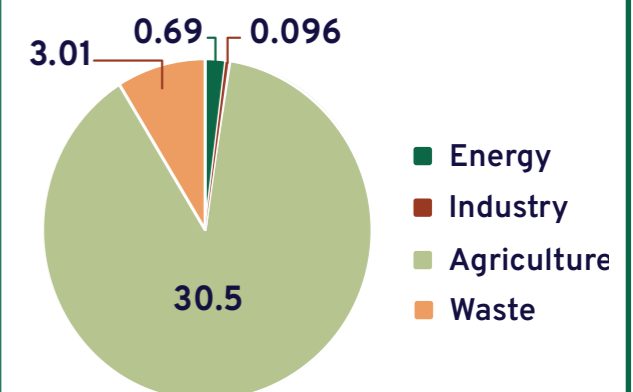
Our emissions profile:

Methane emissions come from two sources:



In 2020, Aotearoa New Zealand's gross methane emissions contributed 43.5 percent of our country's total greenhouse gas emissions, or 34.3 MtCO₂e.

The chart below shows the breakdown of our methane emissions by sector in MtCO₂e:



While biogenic methane represents a significant proportion of our total emissions, non-biogenic methane does not.