

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Emissions Reduction Plan

Acknowledgement of Country

The Tertiary Education and Quality Standards Agency 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 Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) is committed to the achievement of the Government's APS Net Zero 2030 target. TEQSA 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 TEQSA is taking to reduce our operational emissions and contribute to the APS Net Zero 2030 target.



Adrienne Nieuwenhuis
Acting Chief Commissioner

06 November 2024



Stephen Somogyi
Commissioner

06 November 2024

Emissions Reduction Plan

Purpose

TEQSA 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 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 TEQSA 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 TEQSA 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 our control.

Governance and reporting

Progress against actions identified within this Emissions Reduction 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 TEQSA 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.

TEQSA's operational context

TEQSA is Australia's independent regulatory and quality assurance agency for higher education. Established under the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011 (the Act)*, it protects and enhances the integrity, quality, and reputation of Australian higher education, ensuring the quality of teaching and learning outcomes that benefit students and the wider Australian economy.

TEQSA's key activities include:

- registering regulated entities as higher education providers and accrediting courses of study
- conducting compliance and quality assessments

- conducting accreditation assessments of courses developed by providers without self-accrediting authority
- providing advice and making recommendations to the Minister responsible for higher education on matters relating to the quality and regulation of higher education providers
- cooperating with similar agencies in other countries
- collecting, analysing, interpreting and disseminating information relating to quality assurance practice and quality improvement in higher education.

TEQSA's office is based in Melbourne, with approximately 110 personnel both Melbourne-based and interstate-based working at the agency. TEQSA's facilities include office spaces, which includes a range of environmental performance initiatives that align with the APS Net Zero 2030 target.

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 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 TEQSA are presented in our 2022-23 annual report.

Baseline year	Financial year 2022-23
Scope 1 emissions	N/A
Scope 2 emissions	26,646 tCO ₂ e
Total emissions	26,646 tCO ₂ e

Engagement

In the development of this plan, TEQSA 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
- Portfolio – where possible shared considerations could be addressed to lower emissions across the portfolio
- Neighbouring Tenants – to discuss options for shared locations and any associated and relevant outcomes to lower emissions
- Property Service Provider (PSP) – To coordinate leasing services and facilities management services to achieve relevant outcomes to lower emissions. TEQSA's current PSP is Jones Lang LaSalle.

Emissions reduction targets

TEQSA 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. Where possible, TEQSA will commit to reducing emissions where it has direct control over the impacts.

Priorities and actions

For TEQSA 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 summarised in the following points, with further detail provided below:

- Improving building standards

Additional actions include:

- Reducing domestic airfares where possible, and rely on virtual meetings
- Light globe recycling
- Battery recycling

Buildings

TEQSA participates in a range of environmental performance initiatives put in place during the fit-out of its Melbourne premises and as part of the overall initiatives provided by building management.

- Implementing no under-desk bins and the availability of several bin stations with different waste streams
- An on-site organic waste dehydrator
- Battery recycling
- E-waste collection
- Light globe recycling
- Adherence to NABERS waste rating

ACTION: The Corporate Services Division in TEQSA will continue to monitor its environmental performance initiatives, and look to further building initiatives to meet the APS Net Zero 2030 target.

Involved participants

The following areas of TEQSA have been involved in the development of this plan:

Division	Branch
Corporate Services	Finance

OFFICIAL

Title	Emission Reductions Plan template			
Created By	Climate Action in Government Operations (CAiGO)			
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Maintained By	Climate Action in Government Operations (CAiGO)			
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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