



Environmental Sustainability Background Information



What does the symbol represent?

The WorkWell environmental sustainability symbol represents actions that contribute to improving environmental sustainability of the workplace.

The environmental sustainability symbol has been applied to actions in the following resources:

- Priority Wellbeing Area Checklists
- Priority Wellbeing Area Example Action and Evaluation Plans
- Multi level approval Action Plan examples in the Kete

How do I use the symbol?

When creating your Action and Evaluation Plan you are encouraged to apply the symbol to appropriate actions that relate to improving environmental sustainability. For example, it can be applied to an action that promotes the use of active transport.

Why is it important?

Workplaces have many opportunities to improve their practices and support their staff to become environmentally friendly. We all need to do our part to reduce the impact of our actions on the environment and have a planet that can sustain us in the future.

Implementing environmentally sustainable actions also helps contribute to meeting [Sustainable Development Goals](#) 11, 12 and 13.

Facts:

Changing to more sustainable energy solutions and practices, along with supporting your staff to make environmentally friendly choices is in the best interest of your workplace. The [benefits to your workplace](#) include:

- Reducing costs - by changing to more energy efficient products the workplace can spend less on energy and transport bills.
- Attracting more customers - more frequently customers are seeking environmentally friendly services and/or want to work with workplaces who have sustainable practices.
- Social licence – environmentally friendly practices can improve reputation with socially responsible customers, staff and investors.
- Compliance – the workplace can be proactive and stay ahead of climate change regulations.

Key messages for your workplace

- Workplaces are responsible for [40% of New Zealand's](#) energy related emissions, therefore, they are an important part of the response to reducing the impact of climate change.
- Creating a workplace that supports staff to make sustainable transport, energy and waste choices can help contribute to reaching carbon reduction goals and has been linked to improving [mental wellbeing](#).