

Hon Dr Megan Woods

MP for Wigram

Minister of Housing

Minister of Energy and Resources

Minister for Building and Construction

Associate Minister of Finance



Chuck Schooner

fyi-request-19379-85ce9f3f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA22-064

Dear Mr Schooner

I refer to your email of 17 May 2022 to the Office of Hon James Shaw, which was transferred to my office on 24 May 2022 in my capacity as Minister of Energy and Resources. You requested the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) (numbering added for clarity):

1. *Total number of electric charging stations on government sites across New Zealand*
2. *Please provide how many of these charging stations are powered by fossil fuels*
3. *Please provide all of the suburbs across New Zealand that have the infrastructure to charge an electric vehicle in every household in the suburb*
If there are no suburbs across New Zealand please provide the indicative cost to upgrade the infrastructure in that suburb - just one sample area would be fine
4. *Please provide total energy generation in New Zealand*
5. *% energy fossil fuels and cost per unit*
6. *% energy renewables and cost per unit*
7. *Please provide the total dollar amount of government subsidies to renewable energy providers across the last ten years in New Zealand...*
8. *and can you please tell me the proportion of my hard earned money that you require to change the temperature? I'm figuring money is the only way you can do this because every single day the government requires more of my money.*
9. *Could the government finance the change to 100% green / renewables and then pay it back themselves? If renewables are the future why don't the government fund it with borrowed money and then pay it back with industry profits?*

On 2 June 2022, staff in my office wrote to you seeking clarification on your request, specifically seeking to understand what you meant by 'government sites' in question one, 'renewable energy providers' in question eight and whether any official information was actually being sought in question nine given its hypothetical nature.

On 3 June 2022, you wrote back confirming that:

- in question one, 'government sites' should include Crown land;
- in question eight, the subsidies include specified renewable energy providers 'and any others'; and
- that question nine was a rhetorical question.

You also added an additional question, asking:

10. *To add to this request please provide all alternative energy sources identified in reports available to market gardeners and farmers that would replace - tractors / diesel*

- motorbikes / petrol
- trucks - supply chains etc

Just basic alternative sources of energy for these basic activities to get food for New Zealanders

- horse & cart?
- slaves?

I have decided to respond to each part of your request in turn.

1. Total number of electric charging stations on government sites (or Crown land) across New Zealand

1167 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations have been identified on government sites, a further 10 Crown land sites have been identified as having charging stations.

2. Please provide how many of these charging stations are powered by fossil fuels

EV charging stations use electricity which is provided from generators who supply to New Zealand's national grid or from distributed renewable generation, such as solar panels that are connected to the local distribution network. New Zealand has an internationally high percentage of renewable electricity generation at around 83 per cent.

3. Please provide all of the suburbs across New Zealand that have the infrastructure to charge an electric vehicle in every household in the suburb

There are no suburbs that have a suitable location in every household to charge an EV. As EV charging infrastructure is developed we will see a range of charging solutions for private EV owners. Many will use home chargers where suitable locations on site are available, however others may utilise local public charging. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

4. If there are no suburbs across New Zealand please provide the indicative cost to upgrade the infrastructure in that suburb - just one sample area would be fine

The cost of providing suitable EV charging infrastructure for a specific suburb has not been estimated at this point. The cost will depend on the housing density and the number of households that can already access a suitable charging outlet at their residence. In New Zealand we are already seeing an increasing amount of public EV charging, being installed and operated by private firms. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

5. Please provide total energy generation in New Zealand

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) publishes data on energy generation by type on a quarterly basis. You can find this information at the following link: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/building-and-energy/energy-and-natural-resources/energy-statistics-and-modelling/energy-statistics/electricity-statistics/>. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is publicly available.

6. Per cent of energy that is fossil fuels and its cost per unit

We do not hold the specific cost per unit cost of fossil fuels per unit, however, MBIE publishes the prices of different fuels on a quarterly basis, which you can find here:

<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/building-and-energy/energy-and-natural-resources/energy-statistics-and-modelling/energy-statistics/energy-prices/>. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is publicly available.

7. Per cent of energy that is renewables and its cost per unit

As with fossil fuels, this information is not held on a cost per unit basis, therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist. However, the data published online in my response to question five includes a calculation of the percentage of energy generated by renewables.

8. Please provide the total dollar amount of government subsidies to renewable energy providers across the last ten years in New Zealand...

I have identified the following projects that have received government funding for renewable energy generation. I note that the main retailers, such as Meridian, Genesis etc, do not receive subsidies for the production of renewable electricity.

Project	Govt Co-funding
Wood Energy South funding to Niagara Sawmills for a feasibility study into potential for Niagara to produce wood pellets for commercial sale. Niagara has successfully developed a wood pellet supply business subsequently.	\$13,875
Funding to EFI/Pioneer energy in 2013 to determine feasibility of using refinery oil and carbon wastes as fuels at the refinery at Marsden Point as part of a proposal to lower energy costs, reduce emissions and utilise process wastes	\$58,000
Funding to EFI to convert coal boiler to biomass for supply of renewable heat energy to Clyde Hospital.	\$40,000
Funding (GIDI R2) to Pioneer Energy for commissioning of biomass boiler at Washdyke Energy Centre for supply of renewable heat to DB Breweries and other customers.	\$900,000
Technology Demonstration funding to Findlater Sawmilling Ltd for production of woodfuel briquettes. Findlater are using it internally to displace coal but plan to sell excess briquettes to industry in future.	\$56,689
Ngāti Rangiteaorere Koromatua Geothermal Power project. Drilling of a Ngāti Rangiteaorere geothermal bore located in the Tikitere field, and then connection to a modular system to produce geothermal power.	\$15,500
Hydrogen Supply Infrastructure Feasibility Study. To further progress front end engineering design, planning and cost estimation to support investment decisions on the establishment of hydrogen supply infrastructure in the Taranaki region.	\$950,000
Hiringa - trial a long haul minimum viable network of four hydrogen refuelling stations in Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, and Palmerston North	\$16,000,000

Note: not all funding for this project was for renewable energy generation, and was provided as part of the COVID-19 Recovery and Response Fund	
Taheke Geothermal Project – building a 25MW power plant	\$11,900,000
Total	\$29,934,064

9. **and can you please tell me the proportion of my hard earned money that you require to change the temperature? I'm figuring money is the only way you can do this because every single day the government requires more of my money. Could the government finance the change to 100% green / renewables and then pay it back themselves? If renewables are the future why don't the government fund it with borrowed money and then pay it back with industry profits?**

As per your email of 3 June 2022, no additional information is required.

10. **To add to this request please provide all alternative energy sources identified in reports available to market gardeners and farmers that would replace**

- tractors / diesel
- motorbikes / petrol
- trucks - supply chains etc

Just basic alternative sources of energy for these basic activities to get food for New Zealanders

- horse & cart?
- slaves?

I note the Government is not seeking to replace tractors, motorbikes, trucks or supply chains. Instead, we are taking steps to introduce more sustainable fuel sources. You can access the Cabinet paper on the Sustainable Biofuels Mandate, which I believe is the advice to which your question refers to, on the following website: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/18372-sustainable-biofuels-mandate-final-policy-design-regulatory-impact-statement-proactiverelease-pdf>.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of my decision to refuse parts of your request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Warm regards

Hon Dr Megan Woods
Minister of Energy and Resources