

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Our Contribution



Meridian.

AUGUST 2023

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Our contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the pursuit of achieving the UN SDG Agenda 2030, matter.

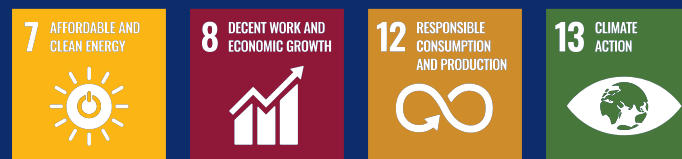
We focus on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that relate to our impacts on the economy, environment and people (including human rights).

By mapping the SDGs to the material impacts we have identified throughout our value chain and business relationships, we believe that the greatest contribution we can make as an energy company in a time when significant global, national and multi-sector decarbonisation is required is to:

- enable the expansion and access to affordable, efficient and clean energy. This includes enabling the decarbonisation of other sectors, our customers and our communities

- ensure we consume and manage resources responsibly in both our operations and development activities
- ensure we decarbonise our own operations meaningfully while adapting and building resilience to the risks posed by climate change
- ensure we contribute meaningfully to social wellbeing, fair commercial actions and respecting human rights in our operations and throughout our value chain.

Our four priority SDGs that reflect this are:





The other goals that are significant to us in relation to the way that we manage our impacts, or are important to stakeholders include:










You can read more about how we are contributing to our priority SDGs in the table on pages 2–4. These updates align with other activities reported in our Integrated Report for the year ending 30 June 2023.

Further information on the role of the Board and Executive Team in relation to setting and achieving our SDGs can be found in our Board Charter¹, Safety and Sustainability Committee Charter, Sustainability Policy² and Corporate Governance Statement³. These are all available on the Meridian Energy website at meridianenergy.co.nz.

1 www.meridianenergy.co.nz/about-us/investors/governance/charters
2 www.meridianenergy.co.nz/public/Investors/Governance/Policies/Sustainability-Policy.pdf
3 www.meridianenergy.co.nz/public/Investors/Governance/Meridian-Corporate-Governance-Statement-2023.pdf

SDG	SDG Target	How we contribute	Refer to our Intergrated Report 2023 to learn more
Affordable and Clean Energy 	7.2 Increase global percentage of renewable energy	<p>We continue to operate our renewable generation assets representing 30% of NZs electricity supply and are committed to increasing the supply of renewable energy via our ambitious development pipeline.</p> <p>Advancing our Southern Green Hydrogen Project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 26–27: A multi-decade commitment to renewable growth pg 69–70: Doubling our development ambitions pg 28: Advancing our southern green hydrogen project pg 68: Partners finalised for hydrogen developments
	7.3 Double the improvement in energy efficiency	<p>We are maximising demand flexibility so that we can help our electricity system to be used efficiently to manage peak loads – creating a more reliable, decarbonised and cost effective system.</p> <p>We are working with our customers to improve energy efficiency via the Energy Hardship team’s Energy Well being programme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 64: Managing key assets for value pg 66: Demand Response Agreement reached with NZAS pg 68: Partners finalised for hydrogen developments pg 73: Processing big changes pg 74: Electrification supports demand flexibility pg 110–111: Addressing Energy wellbeing
Decent Work and Economic Growth 	8.4 Improve resource efficiency in consumption and production	We are baking resource efficiency into the design of our new assets via procurement settings and collaboration and engagement with our supply chain – guided by our Sustainable Infrastructure Framework (SIF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 50: A new standard for sustainable infrastructure development
	8.5 Full employment and decent work with equal pay	We are ensuring that all our workers are paid a living wage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 135: Our approach to remunerating our people/ fixed remuneration
		We have relaunched our Belonging strategy – a strategy for ensuring we are inclusive, respectful, supportive and representative of the society and communities we operate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 31: Continuing to attract talented people pg 94–96: Building our sense of belonging
		We have received accreditation via the Gender Tick programme, the Accessibility Tick programme and Rainbow Tick as a workplace where people are free to be their authentic selves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 94–96: Building our sense of belonging pg 96–102: Addressing gender injustice
	8.6 Promote youth employment, education and training	We are providing career pathways for students into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 96: Addressing gender injustice
		We are working with schools to provide scholarships promoting tertiary education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 106: Connected to communities
8.7 End modern slavery, trafficking, and child labour	We have committed to aligning our practices with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights including all rights under the UN International Bill of Human Rights and the principles concerning fundamental rights in the International Labor Organization’s Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. We commenced our first Human Rights risk assessment in FY23 and will be focused on maturing our Human Rights due diligence, grievance and remediation processes in the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 103-104: Doing our part to respect human rights 	
	We have an internal Modern Slavery Framework and release annual Modern Slavery Statements. We ensure that procurement categories deemed to be high risk of modern slavery have mitigation measures in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 104: Doing our part to respect human rights 	
8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe working environments	We are committed to world class performance in safety, health and wellbeing. We provide safety and health standards, procedures and systems to reduce risk and prevent incidents, occupational illnesses and injuries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 32: Keeping our people safe from harm 	
	We require that all high risk procurement categories in our supply chain complete a Modern Slavery Questionnaire that includes asking suppliers about their policies relating to health and safety and labour rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 104: Doing our part to respect human rights 	

SDG	SDG Target	How we contribute	Refer to our Intergrated Report 2023 to learn more
Responsible Consumption and Production 	12.2 Sustainable management and use of natural resources	We are baking resource efficiency into the design of our new assets via procurement settings and collaboration and engagement with our supply chain. Guided by our Sustainable Infrastructure Framework (SIF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 50: A new standard for sustainable infrastructure development
	12.4 Responsible management of chemicals and waste	We have developed our internal Circular Economy Framework, designed to help us start delivering on circular outcomes including minimising the generation of hazardous waste and ensuring that all hazardous waste is managed in accordance with agreed international frameworks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 47–48: Thinking Full Circle
	12.5 Substantially reduce waste generation	<p>We have developed an internal Circular Economy Framework (as above) – this includes a focus on minimising our production of hazardous and non-hazardous waste, and maximising the amount of waste re-used, and recycled.</p> <p>Our Half by 30 commitment – includes a focus on waste reduction – refer to Climate Action Plan for our waste targets and initiatives.</p> <p>We use our Sustainable Infrastructure Framework (SIF) to identify and manage the waste impacts of our development projects. Those responsible estimate, identify and implement initiatives to ensure that waste is either designed out or that reduction is optimised following the avoid, reduce, re-use, recycle hierarchy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 47–48: Thinking Full Circle pg 50: A new standard for sustainable infrastructure development
Climate Action 	13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related disasters	We have voluntarily disclosed the financial impacts of climate-related issues since 2019. In FY23 significant effort was made to align reporting with the Aotearoa New Zealand Climate Standards, this included a greater focus on adaptation. This includes assessment of actual/potential risk to elements: Financial, People, Strategic, Reputation, Environment. Of note – we consider the risks of the built environment, impacts from Meridian assets, and impacts on assets owned by others which we depend on.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 46: Aiming for best disclosure on climate
	13.2 Integrate climate change measures into policy and planning	<p>We are taking action on our Half by 30 and near term Science Based Target. We are ensuring these targets are integrated into our strategy, risk management, planning and project management processes. You can read more in our Climate Action Plan – our road map for achieving our climate targets.</p> <p>A key priority in our Climate Action Plan is decarbonising our customers. This includes helping businesses to electrify process heat, investing in EV infrastructure and supporting demand flexibility.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 46: Fully scoping our emission reductions pg 71: Zero to 200+in next to no time pg 72: Certified renewable energy promotes decarbonisation pg73: Processing big changes
Gender Equality 	5.5 Ensure full participation in leadership and decision-making	We have set a goal to achieve gender balance in diversity with a focus on leadership and senior roles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 96: Addressing Gender injustice
Clean Water and Sanitation 	6.6 Protect and restore water-related ecosystems	We have a Biodiversity and Deforestation Commitment which outlines our commitment to comply with all environmental legislation including resource consent conditions across our assets. In addition, we have our avoidance, remediation, mitigation restoration and compensation programmes designed to mitigate our impact on water catchments and the extent of change to water-related ecosystems over time. Highlights include – Project River Recovery, and Collaboration with Guardians of the Lake.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 37–39: Preserving Water Quality pg 40–41: Broadening our commitment to nature and biodiversity

SDG	SDG Target	How we contribute	Refer to our Intergrated Report 2023 to learn more
Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure 	9.4 Upgrade all industries and infrastructures for sustainability	<p>We are contributing to the increase in the amount of renewable energy needed for the expanded electrification of Aotearoa's energy grid via our ambitious development pipeline.</p> <p>We have a range of commitments and active work programmes to achieve decarbonisation for our customers beyond renewable energy generation. Our Energy Innovation work programme focuses on: Transport, Distribution and Storage, Process Heat and Demand Flexibility.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 26: A multi-decade commitment to renewable growth pg 28: advancing our southern green hydrogen project pg 68: partners finalised for hydrogen developments
		<p>We have launched our Sustainable Infrastructure framework - designed to help our asset development projects to identify and mitigate their most material impacts via a Sustainability Management Plan. This includes, but is not limited to, setting KPIs on the reduction of embodied emissions and waste.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 28: Advancing our Southern Green Hydrogen Project pg 29: Contingencies in place for the NZAS contract pg 66: Demand Response Agreement reached with NZAS pg 71: Zero to 200+in next to no time pg 72: Certified renewable energy promotes decarbonisation pg73: Processing big changes pg 50: A new standard for sustainable infrastructure development pg 79: A new standard for low-carbon construction
Reduced Inequalities 	10.3 Ensure equal opportunities and end discrimination	<p>We have relaunched Meridian's Belonging strategy - a strategy for ensuring we are inclusive, respectful, supportive and representative of the society and communities we operate. Our diversity and inclusion programme centres on seven focus areas: Te Ao Maori, Accessibility, Gender, Rainbow, Ethnicity, Inclusion and Wellbeing. We are also members of the Mind the Gap programme which means we are committed to providing pay gap data for both gender and ethnicity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 31: Continuing to attract talented people pg 94–95: Building our sense of belonging pg 96–100: Addressing gender injustice
Life on Land 	15.2 End deforestation and restore degraded forests	<p>We are contributing to afforestation via our Forever Forests planting programme – an emission removal commitment with biodiversity and social benefits based on adopting a mixed exotic/native forest model, transitioning to 100% natives over time.</p> <p>We have launched our no net deforestation commitment for our operations (excluding wilding conifers).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 40–41: Broadening our commitment to nature and biodiversity pg 50: A new standard for sustainable infrastructure development
	15.5 Protect biodiversity and natural habitats	<p>We are committed to the Kākāpo recovery programme – a partnership with the Department of Conservation and Ngāi Tahu, to bring the Kākāpo back from the brink of extinction via a breeding programme and predator free islands.</p> <p>We are contributing to the Project River Recovery project in partnership with DOC. This project focuses on intensive weed control, predator control, wetland construction, and research and monitoring programs in order to protect the birds, fish and invertebrates reliant on the rivers which are under threat from declining water quality, introduced predators and habitat loss.</p> <p>In the Waiau catchment we continue to work closely with the Waiau Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust to enhance stream and wetland habitats for fisheries and wildlife.</p> <p>We are committed to the Elver Trap and Transfer programme - a mitigation programme designed to manage the impacts our hydro dams have on Elver (young Tuna) – providing a sustainable population of eel in the Waiau and Waitaki catchments by moving thousands of tuna each year in partnership with Ngāi Tahu and other local stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 37–39: Preserving water quality pg 40–41: Broadening our commitment to nature and biodiversity pg 108: Expanding our productive partnerships
	15.8 Prevent invasive alien species on land and in water ecosystems	<p>We are contributing to the Project River Recovery project in partnership with DOC. This project focuses on intensive weed control, predator control, wetland construction, and research and monitoring programs in order to protect the birds, fish and invertebrates reliant on the rivers which are under threat from declining water quality, introduced predators and habitat loss.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg 37–39: Preserving water quality pg 40–41: Broadening our commitment to nature and biodiversity



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