

March 2021

Email info@nzgbc.org.nz
Phone +64 9 3793996
Web www.nzgbc.org.nz
Post PO Box 5286 /
Victoria Street W / Auckland /
New Zealand



Hon James Shaw
Minister for Climate Change

Tēnā koe Minister

We represent some of Aotearoa's largest and most significant companies in the property and construction sector, and we are writing to you to urge you to deliver on a key pledge, of which we see little progress, made during the last election campaign.

Standing in a 5 Green Star rated building, [you promised that](#) a “zero carbon Aotearoa is only possible if we go further and faster than we have been able to this term, and take urgent action to cut emissions from all buildings.”

The Greens' plan for sustainable buildings included a commitment to “ensure new government buildings are built to high environmental standards”. As government is the largest and most significant owner and occupier of buildings in Aotearoa, this commitment is key to cutting carbon pollution from all buildings.

A commitment that government will only build to “high environmental standards”, such as Green Star, will send a clear signal to all in the building and construction sector that our industry is going to play an important part in achieving a zero carbon Aotearoa.

This is an urgent matter. New Zealand's built environment is responsible for approximately [20 percent of the country's carbon emissions](#), and the [climate change pollution from construction soared](#) in the September quarter to record levels. We know that our sector is playing a key role in boosting the economy, but we also want our sector to play a similar role in a greener, healthier, zero carbon Aotearoa. Without a clear government commitment to only build green we may not be able to do so.

Green Star is how the sector certifies our buildings, and we strongly suggest government do so too. As you have said “[The Green Star system is ... the best system we have got.](#)”

Labour made a similar election pledge, with a commitment requiring “[Government-funded construction projects to meet Green Star 5 or 6 or equivalent](#)”.

Given the agreement between the Greens and Labour on this issue, the election promises by both parties, and the urgency of the issue, we hope to see in the very near future a public commitment that all new government buildings are built to be healthy, green, low carbon places.

Ngā mihi

Architectural Designers New Zealand (ADNZ)
Architectus Limited
Argosy Property Limited
Augusta Capital Limited
Aurecon New Zealand Limited
Bayleys Real Estate Limited
Beca Limited
Black Interiors Limited
Brewer Davidson Limited
CBRE New Zealand Limited
Carbon and Energy Professionals New Zealand
Chow:Hill Architects Limited
Consumer NZ
Cosgroves Limited
Dominion Constructors Limited
Ecubed Limited
Environmental Choice New Zealand
Energy Solutions Providers Limited (ESP)
Fagerhult (NZ) Limited
Fletcher Building Limited
Facilities Management Association Of NZ
Green Gorilla
Haydn & Rollett Limited
Ignite Architects Limited
Inzide Commercial Limited
Infrastructure Sustainability Council Of Australia
Jackson Engineering Limited
Jasmax Limited
JLL New Zealand
Johnson Controls New Zealand
Kingspan Insulation NZ Limited
Kwanto Limited
Maltbys Limited
LT McGuinness Limited
Mesh Consulting Limited
Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Air-Conditioners
Australia Pty Limited
Naylor Love Construction Limited
Ngāi Tahu Property
Norman Disney & Young
Nuralite Waterproofing Ltd
Powell Fenwick Consultants Limited
Pure Advantage Incorporated
Rawlinsons Limited
RDT Pacific Limited
Resene Paints Limited
Rubix Limited
Russell Property Group Limited
Stephenson & Turner New Zealand Limited
Symonite Panels Limited
Sustainable Business Council
Sustainable Business Network
New Zealand Institute Of Architects
University of Otago
Victoria University of Wellington
Warren and Mahoney Architects Limited
Waste Management New Zealand Limited
Window & Glass Association New Zealand
WSP New Zealand Limited