



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

**POLICY
OR00.00.03**

DETAILS OF DOCUMENT AMENDMENT No.00	
Section amended	Description of amendment

The latest amendments are marked with a vertical line against the left margin. New text is red and removed text that has been left for clarity is green.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Orion New Zealand Limited owns and operates the electricity distribution network in central Canterbury. Our network covers a diverse area including Christchurch, farming communities and the high country area. We transport electricity to more than 175,000 homes and businesses.

Orion's policy is to work towards environmental sustainability in our operations. Our policy fits within our principal objective, which is to operate as a successful business and to be financially sustainable. The following principles guide us toward environmental sustainability.

2. STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

We will actively consult with stakeholders in our decision making where material trade-offs exist between environmental, social and financial issues.

We will seek to meet stakeholder needs, however Orion's principal objective is to operate as a successful business and as such we need to be financially sustainable.

We will proactively meet our commitments under current law.

3. PROTECTION OF THE BIOSPHERE

We will take all practicable steps in our operations to prevent and minimise the release of any pollutant that may cause environmental damage.

4. SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

We aim to use natural resources in a sustainable way.

In planning, building and operating our network we will take all practicable steps to minimise harmful effects on the environment.

We will seek partnerships with stakeholders that share similar environmental values.

We will actively facilitate the connection of renewable energy sources to our electricity distribution network.

5. REDUCTION AND DISPOSAL OF WASTE

We aim to minimise waste, especially hazardous waste, and wherever practicable recycle materials in our operations.

We will dispose of our waste through safe and responsible methods.

We will seek to purchase long-life network assets and assets that can be re-used within our community.

6. WISE USE OF ENERGY

We will take all practicable steps to use environmentally safe and sustainable energy sources to meet our needs.

We will invest in improved energy efficiency and conservation in our operations.

In planning, building and operating our electricity distribution network we will use good industry practice to minimise network losses.

We will actively work with stakeholders to improve the energy efficiency of our community.

We recognise the importance of warm and dry homes to improve health and social outcomes in our community.

7. RISK REDUCTION

We will seek to understand the risks to the environment that our operations pose and, based on those risks, prioritise our efforts to eliminate or minimise potential environmental hazards caused by our operations.

We will take all practicable steps to employ safe technologies and operating procedures and we will proactively prepare for emergencies.

We aim for continuous improvement in our environmental management performance.

8. RESTORATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Where we have directly caused harm to the environment through operating other than in accordance with good industry practice we will take all practicable steps to restore the environment to its previous unharmed state.

9. DISCLOSURE

We will ensure that our employees are aware of all known “Orion significant environmental risks” within their area of work.

We will annually disclose to the public our overall performance against environmental targets and any incidents that cause significant environmental harm.

10. COMMITMENT OF MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

We will commit financial and management resources to maintain these principles, including training resources to meet these principles.

11. REVIEW

We will work toward the timely creation of sustainable management procedures that will be reviewed on a regular basis. The results of these audits will be made available to stakeholders.