

More Statistics for Sustainability and Climate Change

- Two thirds (66 per cent) of SMEs said they believe New Zealand businesses have a responsibility and therefore should play a larger role in helping to mitigate climate change
- 71 per cent believe businesses are responsible for acting on climate change (IAG, Adapting to Climate Change 2021 survey)
- Over 40 per cent of SMEs do not have the systems and processes in place to measure their carbon footprint despite 82 per cent being concerned by climate change (MYOB)
- In a survey of 864 Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) members, 62 per cent of those surveyed said accountants should understand organisation's social and environmental impact and help them improve risk management. 75 per cent said their own organisations needed to do more to address social inequalities, and 85 per cent wanted their organisations to do less environmental damage. In a survey of 1,140 Chartered Accountants Australia New Zealand members, 83 per cent said they wanted increased sustainability education

What can you do:

- Identify your material impact
- Understand your carbon footprint
- Set targets to reduce emissions and share them
- Establish positive environmental, social and economic contributions and impacts via your business model
- Build capability of your staff on sustainability.

Recommendations for businesses to reduce carbon emissions:

- Buy products made with recycled materials or supporting renewable energy
- Explore energy efficient appliances for lighting, water heating, air conditioning
- Switch to a 'green' energy provider who provide renewable energy and / or look at installing solar panels
- Switch your fleet to a 'cleaner' fleet with electric, hybrid cars, and if individuals have their own vehicles, explore how your staff can share pool cars
- Reduce business travel, encourage working from home and public transport use for commuting, and use online meeting forums where possible
- Optimise paper usage / digitise where possible and reduce waste to landfill
- Develop processes for tracking and accountability for carbon