

Water Use Efficiency Management Programme

MERIDIAN ENERGY LIMITED
2025

Water Use Efficiency Management Programme

Water is central to our business. We recognise that we have a responsibility to manage it in ways that balance the different economic, social, cultural and environmental implications of water use in Aotearoa New Zealand.

We use water daily in our offices, at existing generation assets, and on our construction sites as we build new assets.

Meridian Energy is working to continuously improve sustainable water use and embed water efficiency practices across the business, consistent with our Environment Policy.

Scope

Meridian's Water Use Efficiency Management Programme sets out our approach to managing day-to-day water consumption and wastewater, laying out actions we take or are planning to take to help meet our water efficiency targets. It helps us better understand our water use, take effective action to manage it as a critical resource, and demonstrate continuous improvement.

The Programme applies to Meridian's:

- Renewable development projects
- Operational sites (excluding water used for electricity generation)
- Corporate offices.

Efficient water use practices vary across the business to reflect different activities - see examples below. They are embedded in our operating, monitoring and decision-making processes wherever possible.

Though our primary use of water is for hydroelectric generation, which is crucial for transitioning Aotearoa to a low-emissions future, this is out of scope for the Programme. An overarching aim of regulations governing hydroelectric generation in New Zealand is to ensure efficient water use, but water management for hydroelectricity is also influenced by other factors, such as market compliance, maximising generation, and minimising spillage.¹

Programme pillars

The Programme has five pillars to focus action and improve water efficiency in a systematic way:

1. Water use assessments and actions to reduce water consumption
2. Actions to improve wastewater quality
3. Water reuse and recycling
4. Target setting and monitoring
5. Awareness raising for our people on water efficiency management and conservation.

Examples of day-to-day water related activities

- Renewable development project: Erosion/sediment control, concrete batching, water take to support construction, stored water for firefighting, cleaning materials and assets, drinking water, dust control, ablutions and wastewater.
- Generation assets: Cooling water, water for drinking, bathrooms, ablutions and wastewater, firefighting, planting, campgrounds, farm-related water use such as irrigation and stock water.
- Offices: Showers, bathrooms, kitchens, cleaning, and garden irrigation.

¹ The significance of Meridian's direct impacts on certain river systems as a result of modified water flows caused by hydro structures and water management is a material impact which continues to be recognised in our annual materiality assessment. See Meridian Annual Reports for further information on the management of this impact.

Water use assessments and actions to reduce water consumption

Meridian undertakes various assessments across different parts of the business to identify how we use water and key opportunities for improvement. This enables us to ensure we’re taking the right actions to reduce use and improve efficiency and wastewater practices.

Our water use assessment processes include:

- **Water use activity baseline:** A stock take of information on main uses, water sources, monitoring, and actions already underway across the company. This was last completed in FY25 to inform this programme.
- **Sustainability management plans (SMPs):** SMPs for each Meridian generation and renewable construction site, in line with Meridian’s Sustainable Infrastructure Framework. Development of each SMP requires a site-specific sustainability materiality assessment, including enhancing water use efficiency and mitigating wastewater impacts. Our main contractors must produce their own SMP, aligned with the site-wide SMP, and demonstrate how they’ll assess and mitigate water usage.
- **Farm action plans:** Farm action plans for all farms on Meridian-owned land. These include water use assessments by third-party tool Overseer to determine the actions required and monitor progress over time.
- **Pre-project compliance for renewable construction:** Meeting or exceeding construction project compliance requirements, including those related to assessment of environmental effects, cultural monitoring and water take, storage and use. We regularly monitor water use volumes, quality, and ecology.
- **Monthly water use monitoring:** Monthly monitoring of water use at Meridian’s corporate head office as part of our pursuit of Living Building Challenge Certification.

To further support the above, we’ve implemented the following processes to reduce water consumption:

- **Enhanced water consumption data:** Installation of water meters at construction sites, operational sites (including farms) and offices (where feasible)² to improve data over time and ongoing monitoring, aid in early leak detection, and demonstrate compliance with consenting requirements.
- **Efficient design:** Incorporation of water efficiency and low water use into the design for new assets and existing asset upgrades, for example in our operations and maintenance buildings.
- **Tools to support decision-making:** Development of a water use efficiency options matrix to support on-site decisions about priority actions. The matrix will be piloted in FY26 at one hydro and one wind site to assess the value of a wider rollout.
- **Resource consent compliance:** Compliance with resource consent requirements that limit water use and drive efficiency (e.g., stream take allowance). We have construction environmental plans and dust management plans in place for all resource consents where water use and efficiency are a consideration.
- **Direct actions to minimise water use at construction sites:** For example, closed-loop concrete batching and lower water use dust control practices. We have on-site environment and sustainability staff and regularly monitor water use to detect leaks early. Quarterly sustainability audits are completed against all site SMPs, which include water use actions and KPIs.
- **Low-flow fixtures and fittings:** Installation of efficient fixtures and fittings at our offices, such as dishwashers, taps, and showers. This commenced at the Old Bank Wellington office in pursuit of Living Building Challenge Certification and we will explore

Actions to improve wastewater quality

Steps to improve wastewater and discharge water quality, include:

- **Wastewater treatment systems:** Appropriate wastewater treatment systems at our sites, based on effluent characteristics. This includes treatment systems upgrades across 12 sites in our Waitaki Power Scheme (to be completed in FY26), through to composting toilets at remote Forever Forest locations.
- **Run-off impact mitigation:** Assessment of, and planning for, potential wastewater run-off impacts at construction sites. For example, restricting cement washout at batching plants, removing excess concrete from sites, and the use of stormwater retention ponds.
- **Spill prevention and response:** Implementation of procedures to respond to emergencies and prevent hazardous material, wet concrete and sediment spills.
- **Compliance:** Compliance with regulatory requirements and permits across our assets and construction sites.
- **Monitoring and maintenance:** Monitoring of streams on our sites to measure water quality. We inspect and maintain our treatment facilities to meet or exceed regional council discharge requirements.

²Will require assessment of practicalities to install at building and/or tenancy level versus other considerations (eg technical limitations such as space, water pressure issues, or installation costs versus water consumption).

Water reuse and recycling

Water recycling and reuse initiatives to reduce demand and reliance on water sources include:

- **Rainwater collection:** Rainwater collection at all wind sites for potable and non-potable uses, with regular filter replacement and water quality monitoring.
- **Concrete washout reuse:** Reuse of water from concrete washout at construction sites.
- **Onsite water sources and stormwater capture:** Creation of onsite water sources for farm use, irrigation, and firefighting, where appropriate (e.g., Harapaki pond, Ruakākā stormwater retention pond). When planning a project, we explore opportunities for collaboration with the community and other stakeholders to reduce water use and ensure readily available water resources.
- **Rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling:** Optimisation of rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling systems during the design phase of new projects and when maintaining or upgrading existing assets

Target setting and monitoring

Meridian sets targets to reduce water use and assess performance annually. These targets help us to:

- Establish benchmarks to measure current water use and work towards specific targets for incremental improvements
- Show progress over time through regular monitoring
- Raise awareness across the business about our water efficiency focus and the role everyone can play.

You can find our water targets and performance against these in Meridian’s latest [Integrated Report Data Pack](#), available on our website (see the ‘Other ESG information’ tab).

Awareness raising for our people on water efficiency management and conservation.

Engaging and educating our team on water efficiency management and conservation will help them understand the role they can play in improving sustainable water use practices.

Company-wide messaging on the importance and benefits of sustainable water use can be supported by tailored, audience-specific approaches to raise awareness across different parts of the business. This will help integrate practices into existing operations wherever possible.

Key actions to raise awareness of the importance and benefits of sustainable water use include:

- **Sharing lessons:** Sharing of insights on reducing water impacts from each construction project and across our operational sites. Meridian’s Sustainable Infrastructure Framework and sustainability management plans ensure these lessons are applied to future projects.
- **Development sites:** Engagement of teams and contractors on SMP requirements and embedding of requirements into site practices . We also conduct on-site environment and sustainability inductions, hold toolbox talks with contractors (highlighting water use), and display site signage on water use management such as the use of toilets and taps.
- **Generation assets (including farms);** Engagement of site teams on SMP requirements and embedding of requirements into site practices. We also display signage on water use management, such as the use of toilets and taps, and support farmers in developing farm action plans.
- **Corporate offices:** Use of Living Building Challenge actions at our Old Bank Wellington office as a benchmark for other offices.