

Climate risk disclosure

This document is an excerpt of the ANU Annual Report 2025.

Climate disclosure

The Commonwealth Climate Disclosure initiative is the Australian Government's policy requiring Commonwealth entities to publicly disclose their exposure to climate-related risks and opportunities, and the actions they are taking to manage them. This disclosure has been prepared in accordance with the Year 1 reporting requirements for Tranche 1 entities. In 2024, ANU voluntarily participated in the Commonwealth Climate Disclosure pilot, and the 2025 disclosure builds on that foundational work.

Governance

ANU governance approach

The governance structure of ANU is established under the ANU Act, which designates Council as the University's Accountable Authority for all University risks and their management, including climate-related risks. As a Corporate Commonwealth entity, ANU also meets obligations under the PGPA Act and its associated rules, ensuring the proper stewardship of public resources.

The University's approach to climate risk management aligns with our overall approach to risk as described in *Risk oversight & management* in the *Management & Accountability* chapter on page 132.

Under the PGPA Act, the ANU Corporate Plan 2025–2028 identified climate risk as a strategic risk – specifically recognising the consequences of failing to make anticipated progress toward the University's below-zero emissions target or to adapt effectively to the physical impacts of climate events, which could result in financial, operational and reputational repercussions. Emissions reduction is also included as a success measure in our corporate plan's Enabling Capabilities. In addition, the University Strategic Plan, *ANU by 2025*, states that ANU will strengthen our national mission and meet our unique responsibilities through our contribution to global environmental sustainability.

In 2025, ANU made progress in integrating climate risk considerations into institutional decision-making processes with further work in 2026 to ensure explicit consideration across major capital works, procurement and investment. Climate-related progress against the corporate plan is reported annually to Council and the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee.

The University's governance arrangements provide assurance to Council on the oversight, management and reporting of risks through Council committees and the Internal Audit Program. The Audit, Finance and Risk Committee advises Council on the appropriateness of financial and performance reporting, risk management and internal controls, including the management of climate-related risks and opportunities. The Vice-Chancellor holds responsibility for strategic risk management across the institution.

Table 18 Roles and climate-related risk responsibilities

Role	Risk responsibilities
ANU Council	Accountable authority for all risks, including climate-related risks and opportunities. Sets climate targets and receives annual updates on climate risk management and progress towards climate targets.
Audit, Finance and Risk Committee	Oversight of climate-related risks, controls and mitigation strategies as part of broader risk management arrangements, via annual updates, with urgent risks escalated as required.
Vice-Chancellor	Principal delegate responsible for overseeing climate-related risks and opportunities. Approves climate-related strategies, targets, policies and performance.
Chief Risk Officer	Oversees enterprise risk management framework, supporting the development of climate risk and opportunity register and integration into the framework.

Role	Risk responsibilities
Chief Environmental Sustainability Officer – Associate Director, Environmental Sustainability	Develops and implements climate strategy, including capability building and embedding of climate action into processes and decision-making. Supports identification, management and reporting of climate risk.
Environmental Sustainability Committee	Oversees climate targets and strategies to improve operational environmental performance based on the Environmental Management Plan 2022–25 (EMP) and, from 2026, the Environmental Sustainability Plan 2026–30 (ESP). Monitors progress on addressing climate risk quarterly.
Environmental Management Group	Leads implementation of the EMP and ESP. Monitors progress towards climate targets quarterly.
ANU Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions	Provides expertise, advice and support on climate risks, opportunities, and their management.
Climate Risk Working Group	Established in 2025 with representation from across the University. Applied the Climate Risk and Opportunity Management Program (CROMP) framework to identify and prioritise climate risks and opportunities, developing a new Climate Risk and Opportunity Register.
Climate Risk Owners	Responsible for managing, monitoring and reporting on climate risks and opportunities

Figure 1 ANU climate risk governance structure



Skills & competencies

ANU has extensive expertise in climate change, with more than 600 staff engaged in researching, teaching and communicating its diverse dimensions, including multiple contributors to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment reports. The ANU Institute for Climate, Energy and Disaster Solutions serves as the University's central hub for climate change engagement and delivers professional short courses on climate issues. The Environmental Sustainability team provides operational expertise in mitigation and adaptation, has undertaken climate risk training through the Department of Finance and the Australian Public Service Academy, and has led the development of sector-wide climate scenarios. This collective expertise has been integral to mapping and managing climate-related risks and opportunities across the University.

In 2025, ANU continued to build climate-related skills and competencies across the University. ANU strengthened institutional capability in climate risk management through workshops delivered to the Climate Risk Working Group and through targeted education and engagement with governance bodies and risk owners. The appointment of a Chief Risk Officer in mid-2025 further enhanced the University's capacity to manage climate-related and strategic risks. More work will be undertaken in 2026 to further connect existing climate expertise with risk owners, building organisational capacity via internal training on climate risks, opportunities and their management.

Strategy & risk management

Climate risk as a strategic priority

In 2025, the University's climate-related strategy continued to be guided by the ANU Corporate Plan 2025–2028 and the ANU Strategic Plan, *ANU by 2025*, both of which identified climate risk as a strategic priority. The ANU Environmental Management Plan 2022–2025 also informed our approach to climate mitigation and adaptation, shaping both operational practices and long-term decision-making.

ANU risk management framework

The University is committed to embedding a robust risk management culture that enables it to be agile and responsive to known and emerging risks in the higher education landscape, while securing maximum benefit from creating opportunity and innovation. ANU operates in an inherently complex and dynamic risk environment where staff are encouraged to embrace informed risk-taking in pursuit of our strategic and organisational imperatives and are supported by evidence-based decisions that comply with legislation, policy and operational guidelines.

The University Risk Management Framework and Policy outline the approach to risk oversight and management. They are designed in accordance with Section 16 of the PGPA Act, the Commonwealth Risk Management Policy and the Australian and New Zealand accepted International Standard Risk Management – Guidelines (ISO 31000: 2018). The University also has a documented risk appetite that outlines how informed risk-taking is managed, and further work will be undertaken in 2026 to outline how risks are prioritised relative to one another.

Understanding climate risks across the sector

From 2024–25, ANU co-chaired an Australian Campuses Towards Sustainability cross-sector working group of 12 universities to explore how climate change could affect Australia's tertiary education sector. More than 150 researchers, professional staff and students contributed to 10 workshops across five locations, including at ANU, to develop plausible, science-informed climate scenarios. These narrative scenarios – rather than forecasts – illustrate how compound and cascading risks arising from the interactions of climate change with factors such as artificial intelligence, geopolitical instability and migration, could shape deeply uncertain futures.

The resulting report, *Navigating Climate Change – Scenarios for Australia's Tertiary Education Sector* (June 2025), presents four scenarios based on two temperature pathways (1.5°C and 3.6°C by 2100¹) across three timeframes (2030s, 2060s and 2090s). A central conclusion is that climate change will affect all aspects of the sector. Universities will need to adapt how they operate, teach, research, manage campuses and fund services.

¹ Temperature pathways are based on Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Shared Socio-Economic Pathways (SSPs). The lower pathway (1.5°C by 2100) reflects SSP1-1.9 and SSP1-2.6, while the higher pathway (3.6°C by 2100) reflects SSP3-7.0.

At the same time, the sector has a critical role in preparing Australia for the future – building the capacity of future leaders, supporting low-carbon innovation and providing policy and governance expertise to mitigate emerging risks. These sector-wide scenarios informed the University's own climate-risk assessment.

ANU Climate risk and opportunity assessment

In 2025, ANU established a cross-University Climate Risk Working Group to identify and prioritise climate-related risks and opportunities. Using the Climate Risk and Opportunity Management Program (CROMP) framework, the Working Group undertook the University's first organisation-wide climate risk and opportunity assessment.

The assessment examined organisational risks and opportunities in relation to the University's values at risk – including research, teaching, the University's national role, staff and student wellbeing and productivity, infrastructure and the campus environment, services and systems, financial sustainability and reputation – ensuring alignment with the corporate and strategic plans.

The assessment covered ANU locations in the ACT (Acton Campus, Mount Stromlo Observatory and Spring Valley Farm), NSW (Kioloa Coastal Campus and Siding Spring Observatory) and the Northern Territory (North Australia Research Unit and Warramunga). Consistent with the CROMP methodology, risks and opportunities were assessed over the short-term (2030) and medium-term (2050s), although many of these risks are also long-term (out to 2090s). In addition to the sector scenarios, the assessment drew on multiple evidence sources, including:

- past climate events affecting ANU, including drought, bushfires and hailstorms
- climate projections from the ACT State of Environment Report, the Adapt NSW, Northern Territory – State of the science and climate change impacts and the IPCC 6th Assessment Report
- the National Climate Risk Assessment.

While there is considerable uncertainty about how climate impacts may eventuate, uncertainty was managed by considering four sector climate scenarios, two temperature pathways and multiple climate-data sources.

Risks and opportunities were evaluated using the ANU Enterprise Risk Management Framework, with prioritisation focused on those with the greatest potential short-term impact (2030s). The Climate Risk Working Group identified risk owners across the University, who documented existing controls and developed additional mitigation and adaptation treatments. These actions are captured in the University's Climate Risk and Opportunity Register.

From 2026, risk owners will report on progress in climate risk management to the Environmental Sustainability Committee (quarterly) and the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee (annually).

Findings of the assessment

The material climate-related risks and opportunities identified through this work, summarised in Table 19 below, meet the progressive implementation requirements of the Commonwealth Climate Disclosure framework.

Findings indicate that climate change is expected to affect all areas of the University across all locations, presenting risks to health and safety, infrastructure integrity, business continuity and financial stability. The transition to a decarbonised economy presents additional risks and opportunities driven by policy, regulatory, economic and technological change, as well as shifting market and community expectations.

Responding to these changes will require sustained adaptation efforts and continued emissions reduction. ANU must prepare for more frequent and severe heatwaves, increasingly extreme weather events, higher bushfire risk and less predictable water availability. Strengthening campus resilience and improving the reliability of critical systems is essential to safeguarding the University community and minimising future disruption.

Climate change also presents significant opportunities for the University. It enables ANU to strengthen decision-making, enhance climate-related capability across the institution, and equip staff and students with the skills needed to contribute to a low-carbon, climate-adaptive economy. Demand for climate-literate graduates, expert policy advice and research into climate solutions is expected to grow, positioning ANU as a leading contributor to Australia's transition to net zero and broader climate resilience.

Table 19 Material climate risks and opportunities

Drivers	Risk statement	Type of risk	Time horizon
Rising temperatures/ extreme events	Extreme heat and severe weather events – including extreme wind, rain, flooding, storms and hail – cause negative health and wellbeing and significantly reduce productivity.	Physical risk	Short- to long-term
Extreme events	Severe weather events lead to higher costs to insure, repair or replace physical assets, and may render some assets uninsurable altogether, placing additional pressure on University budgets.	Physical risk	Short- to long-term
Rising temperatures/ extreme events	Extreme heat and severe weather events lead to power outages or equipment failures, disrupting teaching, research, and operations.	Physical risk	Short- to long-term
Changes to the water cycle	Long-term drought and extended dry periods can increase operating expenses, reduce staff and student wellbeing, and cause significant damage to campus landscapes.	Physical risk	Short- to long-term
Extreme events, policy and market shifts	Changes in supply-chain dynamics – driven by severe weather events, increased demand and/or price premiums – interrupt the flow of goods and services, resulting in higher costs and delays in delivering critical services or infrastructure.	Physical and transition risk	Short- to long-term
Regulation	Carbon pricing increases operating costs, creating additional fiscal pressures for the University.	Transition risk	Short- to long-term
Market shifts	Failure to make progress on decarbonisation leads to reputational damage or strong climate action improves reputation, leading to increased student demand and increased revenue.	Transition risk/ transition opportunity	Short- to long-term
Policy and market shifts	Increasing demand from governments, industry and communities for research, policy engagement, collaboration and leadership on climate solutions presents significant opportunities for the University. This demand enables ANU to enhance and expand our research and engagement activities, strengthening our influence, building reputation and generating additional revenue.	Transition opportunity	Short- to long-term
Market shifts	Increasing demand for climate-related education creates opportunities for the University to broaden and deepen our teaching on diverse dimensions of climate solutions. Expanding course offerings strengthen the University's reputation, attract more students and contribute to long-term revenue growth.	Transition opportunity	Short- to long-term
Technology	Technological advancements improve energy and resource efficiency, creating opportunities for cost savings, emissions reduction and greater operational resilience across the University.	Transition opportunity	Short- to long-term

Risk
 Risk and opportunity
 Opportunity

Targets and metrics

In addition to the University's annual report, ANU publishes comprehensive environmental sustainability reporting each year, including greenhouse gas emissions (Scopes 1, 2 and 3).

Overall emission targets

The University's long-term climate ambition is to achieve net zero emissions by 2040 across our entire value chain (Scopes 1, 2 and 3) – requiring a 90 per cent gross reduction in emissions² from a 2019 base year.³ While global mitigation efforts and policy settings continue to evolve with uncertain outcomes, this ambition is aligned with a 1.5°C trajectory under the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement and reflects the University's commitment to mitigating the further impacts of climate change.

Detailed information on the University's approach to greenhouse gas emissions reduction, including emission sources, metrics, organisational boundary, carbon accounting methodology and progress reporting against our targets, is available on the ANU website in the following:

- ANU Environmental Management Plan 2022–2025
- ANU Environmental Sustainability Report 2025
- ANU Carbon Accounting Methodology 2025.

Interim targets current in 2025

The following interim targets were in effect throughout 2025:

- 100 per cent electrification of buildings by the end of 2040
- 100 per cent electrification of fleet by the end of 2030
- 100 per cent market-based renewable electricity usage by the end of 2024
- 50 per cent reduction in university travel emissions by the end of 2025 (2019 base year)
- 60 per cent reduction in hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) used as refrigerants by the end of 2035 (2019 base year).

New interim targets for 2030

In November 2025, as part of the development of the Environmental Sustainability Plan 2026–2030, Council endorsed a new set of interim 2030 emissions reduction targets. These targets were informed by both Australian and international policy settings and the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) Net Zero Standard, aligned with the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C goal. In line with current practice across the higher-education sector – and noting the absence of a sector-specific decarbonisation pathway – the target methodology has not been subject to independent third-party assurance.

² The metric used is tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e). The emissions reduction ambition is absolute rather than intensity-based and applies to the full organisational boundary of the University, as defined in the ANU Carbon Accounting Methodology 2025. The following greenhouse gas emissions are included: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆) and nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃), in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.

³ The 2019 base year covers Scope 1, Scope 2 and limited Scope 3 emissions. The base year for full Scope 3 emissions is being updated to align with expansion of emissions sources included in the University's greenhouse gas inventory.

The 2030 targets are:

- Reduce direct (Scope 1) and electricity-related (Scope 2) emissions by 87 per cent by 2030 (2019 base year)⁴:
 - Reduce Scope 1 emissions by 24 per cent
 - Reduce Scope 2 emissions (market based) by 100 per cent
- Reduce emissions from selected value chain sources (Scope 3) by 2030 (2024 base year):
 - Reduce waste-related emissions by 55 per cent
 - Reduce local staff and student commuting emissions by 25 per cent.⁵
 - Reduce University travel emissions by 10 per cent, building on 26 per cent reduction achieved 2019–2024.
- Set and achieve 2030 emissions reduction targets for procured goods and services.⁶

A mid-term review will be conducted in 2028 to assess and consider any necessary adjustments.

Progress against targets

A summary of progress against emissions reduction targets is included in the *Year in Review* section under *Environmental Sustainability* (page 16). Further detail is available in the *ANU Environmental Sustainability Report 2025*.

In 2025, ANU direct, electricity-related and partial value chain (Scope 1, 2 and partial Scope 3) emissions fell by approximately 13 per cent compared with the previous year, driven by reductions in electricity-related and University travel emissions. Measured against the 2019 base year, the University's emissions have now fallen by around 72 per cent, a reduction achieved largely through the ACT Government's renewable electricity policy.

Further reductions in electricity-related emissions in 2025 was achieved through renewable electricity agreements covering ANU sites outside the ACT from 1 January. Through these agreements, the University purchased renewable energy certificates and GreenPower equivalent to its total electricity consumed, achieving 100 per cent renewable electricity across all campuses for the first time.

Travel-related emissions for the year were approximately 38 per cent below 2019 levels, reflecting sustained changes in travel behaviour linked to reduced budgets and the continued implementation of the Carbon Smart Travel approach. New electric vehicle charging infrastructure was installed on campus, supporting fleet electrification and facilitating lower-emissions transport options for staff, students and visitors.

Progress continued on electrifying buildings, including works at Mount Stromlo Observatory and the transition of University House to full electrification ahead of its reopening in 2026. A new electric glass furnace was installed at the School of Art & Design, replacing a traditional gas system and demonstrating how specialist teaching and research infrastructure can transition away from fossil fuels.

Energy efficiency improvements were delivered by adjusting building control systems, upgrading equipment and using buildings and space more efficiently. Approximately 6,500 square metres of underused space was mothballed, reducing energy demand while improving resource efficiency and lowering operating costs.

Metrics

In accordance with the Commonwealth Climate Disclosure Framework, the University reports greenhouse gas emissions for Scope 1, Scope 2, and selected Scope 3 categories. Reporting includes all required emissions sources, as well as additional Scope 3 sources beyond minimum disclosure requirements.

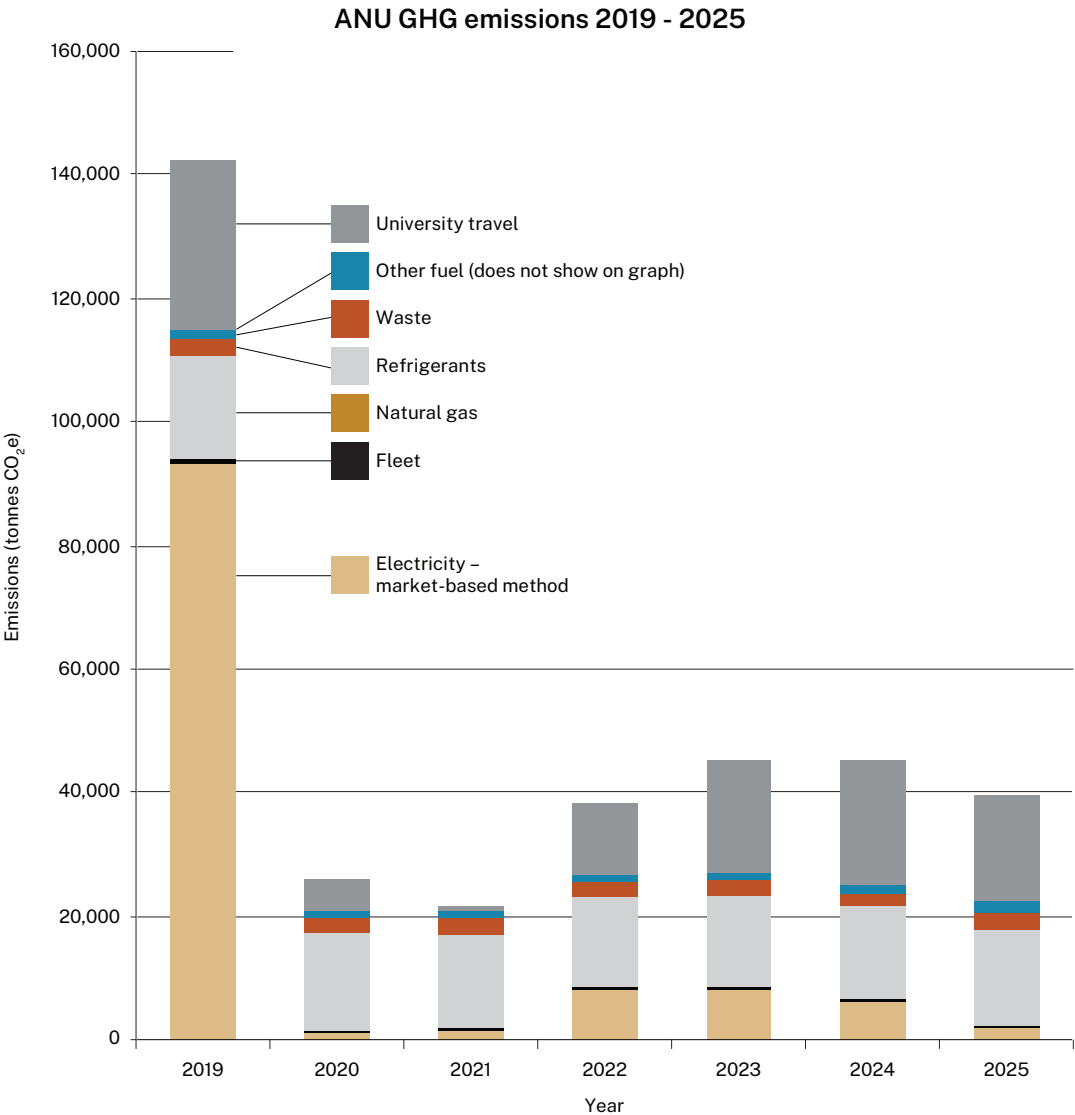
⁴ Scope 1 and 2 emissions were 78% below 2019 base year in 2024.

⁵ Aspirational targets have been set for University travel and commuting to inspire behavioural change.

⁶ Investments have not been included in the Environmental Sustainability Plan 2026–2030 and are addressed through the ANU Socially Responsible Investment Policy.

Figure 2 ANU Scope 1, 2 and partial Scope 3 (travel and waste) emissions (2019–2025)

This presents the University’s Scope 1, Scope 2 and partial Scope 3 emissions (travel and waste) relative to the 2019 base year.



Tables 20 and 21 provide detailed greenhouse gas emissions inventories, including all required emissions sources and additional sources across the University’s value chain.

Table 20 2025 ANU greenhouse gas emissions inventory (location-based method)

Table 20 reports electricity-related emissions using the location-based method, reflecting emissions associated with electricity supplied to ANU via the grid.

Emission source	Scope 1 tCO ₂ -e	Scope 2 tCO ₂ -e	Scope 3 tCO ₂ -e	Total tCO ₂ -e
Electricity (location-based method)	n/a	67,986	3,664	71,650
Natural gas	12,371	n/a	3,145	15,516
Other energy	80	n/a	20	100
Fleet and other vehicles	256	n/a	67	323
Refrigerants	2,714	n/a	n/a	2,714
Solid waste	n/a	n/a	1,827	1,827
Water and wastewater	n/a	n/a	325	325
Goods and services	n/a	n/a	32,523	32,523
Capital goods	n/a	n/a	18,945	18,945
Postage & freight	n/a	n/a	2,047	2,047
University travel – air	n/a	n/a	15,050	15,050
University travel – non-air	n/a	n/a	1,767	1,767
University travel - accommodation	n/a	n/a	313	313
Employee commute	n/a	n/a	3,367	3,367
Employee work from home	n/a	n/a	408	408
Student commute	n/a	n/a	34,057	34,057
Upstream leased assets	n/a	n/a	815	815
Non-ANU student accommodation	n/a	n/a	2,971	2,971
Investments	n/a	n/a	46,859	46,859
Total tCO₂-e	15,421	67,986	168,171	251,578

Note: tCO₂-e = tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent.

Table 21 2025 ANU electricity-related greenhouse gas emissions (location-based and market-based methods)

This presents electricity-related emissions using both location and market-based accounting methods. The market-based method reflects emissions associated with electricity purchased through contractual instruments such as large-scale generation certificates (LGCs) and GreenPower.

Emission Source	Scope 2 tCO ₂ -e	Scope 3 tCO ₂ -e	Total tCO ₂ -e	Electricity kWh
Electricity (Location-based method)	67,985.88	3,663.81	71,649.68	104,602,075.00
Electricity (Market-based method)	1,807.89	245.52	2,053.40	2,129,208.66
Total renewable electricity consumed	n/a	n/a	n/a	103,010,413.34
<i>Renewable Power Percentage⁷</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	18,734,231.63
<i>Jurisdictional Renewable Power⁸</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	82,007,922.70
<i>GreenPower</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	41,712.00
<i>Large-scale generation certificates</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	1,689,000.00
<i>Behind-the-meter solar</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	537,547.00
Total renewable electricity produced	n/a	n/a	n/a	561,639.00
<i>Large-scale generation certificates</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	-
<i>Behind-the-meter solar</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	561,639.00

The ANU Carbon Accounting Methodology 2025 outlines the metrics, organisational boundary and measurement approaches used to calculate greenhouse gas emissions. This methodology is broadly aligned with the approach published in the 2024–2025 Net Zero in Government Operations Annual Progress Report, with minor, documented variations.⁹

Reporting under environment protection legislation

Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)* requires the University to report annually on how our activities accord with and contribute to the principles of ecologically sustainable development. This includes outlining the environmental impacts of University operations and the actions taken to minimise those impacts.

The University’s goals, targets and initiatives to address environmental impacts are set out in our Environmental Management Plan 2022–2025, which covers the following seven key pillars of activity:

greenhouse gases | waste | energy | buildings | climate risk | biodiversity | conservation

Progress against these areas is detailed in the ANU Environmental Sustainability Report 2025, which documents the University’s performance, actions and improvements in environmental sustainability during the reporting year.

7 The renewable power percentage (RPP) represents the proportion of grid-supplied electricity attributable to renewable generation under the Renewable Energy Target (RET).

8 The jurisdictional renewable power percentage (JRPP) represents the proportion of grid-supplied electricity attributable to jurisdiction-wide renewable electricity arrangements. The Australian Capital Territory is currently the only Australian jurisdiction with a defined JRPP.

9 Key methodological variations include: (a) the jurisdictional renewable power percentage (JRPP) used for market-based electricity accounting is averaged across two financial years to align with the ANU calendar year; (b) refrigerant emissions are estimated using the Greenhouse gas Protocol lifecycle stage approach, which provides greater accuracy; and (c) emissions from University air travel include international flights and radiative forcing effects.





Australian National University

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Annual Report available online at

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