CENTRE FOR
Sustainable
Finance
TOITŪ TAHUA

Aotearoa New Zealand Sustainable Finance Taxonomy (NZ Taxonomy)

Construction and Buildings Technical Advisory Group (TAG) members recruitment

Why develop a sustainable finance taxonomy?

A sustainable finance taxonomy is a classification system which labels economic activities based on their contributions to meeting environmental goals.

The NZ Taxonomy intends to create a common language between investors and businesses.

It enables investors and financial institutions to more easily identify credible green and transition aligned investment opportunities, with decreased cost, risks and friction, thus intends to increase the flows of capital into them.

It helps businesses identify opportunities to access sustainability-focused capital and establishes standardised, transparent, and credible performance criteria for telling their sustainability stories.

Globally, sustainable finance taxonomies are implemented or under development in 50+ jurisdictions.

Aotearoa New Zealand is in a global competition for capital and is an optional market.

As the global financial sector adopts sustainable finance taxonomies to identify, assess and measure the environmental credibility of investments, taxonomies will be a prerequisite.

By developing an NZ-specific taxonomy, we ensure classifications and criteria applied to New Zealand businesses are relevant and appropriate in our domestic context, while remaining interoperable.

Global Landscape of Sustainable Finance Taxonomies

Last update May, 2025

Authors: Adriana Bazán Fuster, Joshua Joseph Pangelinan, Anthony Mena

STATUS: Developed and implemented | Under development | Plan to develop

CCAP

Benefits to NZ

A well-designed NZ Taxonomy should:

- Increase NZ's pool of capital for green and transition opportunities.
- Lower friction and costs in financing green and transitional activities.
- Enhance transparency, credibility and investor confidence.
- Mitigate risks of greenwashing.
- Align with international standards and best practices (trans-Tasman alignment) while recognising NZ-specific activities.

NZ Taxonomy use cases

For businesses:

- Support to shift towards lower-emission and climate-resilient operations.
- Provide greater/easier access to finance for environmental initiatives.
- Recognition for sustainability efforts.
- Clear, consistent guidelines on what qualifies as sustainable practices.

For financial institutions:

- A clear and common standard for assessing sustainable investments in New Zealand.
- Reduced costs and greater efficiency in evaluating green and transition finance opportunities.
- Alignment with international sustainable finance standards, helping attract global capital inflows.
- A safeguard against greenwashing.

Developing robust climate change mitigation and adaptation & resilience (A&R) criteria within the NZ Taxonomy is essential to ensure the Construction and Buildings sector plays a full role in achieving national climate and energy objectives.

On the climate side:

- Construction and Buildings account for a significant portion of New Zealand's emissions — around 15% of the country's total carbon footprint. Half of this comes from embodied carbon – the emissions tied to the materials and products used to construct them. To meet New Zealand's commitments under the Paris Agreement, these embodied emissions must be substantially reduced.
- Buildings are also increasingly vulnerable to climate impacts such as flooding, sea-level rise, and extreme weather.

On the energy side: Construction and Buildings is one of New Zealand's largest energy users, driving substantial demand for electricity and gas.

- Commercial and residential buildings already consume about 15% of New Zealand's gas supply, and without intervention this could triple within a decade – competing directly with industrial users and threatening jobs, exports, and community resilience. Peak electricity demand, driven largely by space and water heating in buildings, is also rising.
- Modern technologies and building practices can dramatically reduce peak demand, free up energy for industry, and strengthen the nation's resilience to supply shocks.
- As the NZ Taxonomy advances work on Energy sector criteria, it is timely to extend this to Construction and Buildings, ensuring that New Zealand defines not only how energy is produced sustainably, but also how it is used efficiently and responsibly across one of the highest-demand sectors.

The opportunity is clear: If we design and retrofit smarter, we can cut emissions, increase climate resilience, ease energy pressures, and lower living costs – all at once.

The New Zealand Green Building Council (NZGBC) Sustainable Finance Guide is already in use voluntarily by the market. However, developing NZ Taxonomy criteria for Construction and Buildings was recommended by the ITAG and considered both valuable and necessary for several key reasons:

- **International credibility and investor confidence:** The NZ Taxonomy is designed to be interoperable with taxonomies in other jurisdictions (EU, ASEAN, Australia, etc.), ensuring that New Zealand-specific activities/practices are recognised as credible and comparable on the global stage. This is critical for attracting international capital and for avoiding greenwashing or inconsistencies between New Zealand frameworks and overseas benchmarks.
- **Integration and interoperability across sectors:** The Taxonomy ensures that Construction and Buildings sector criteria are consistent with related sectors – e.g., Energy, Industrial Manufacturing, Transport – enabling a coherent, cross-sector approach to climate change mitigation and resilience.
- **Activity-level focus:** The Taxonomy evaluates individual activities within a building, rather than the building as a whole. Even if a building is not fully "green", activities that significantly reduce emissions or enhance climate resilience can still achieve taxonomy alignment, providing more opportunities for sector participants.
- **Complementing, not duplicating NZGBC tools:** Where relevant, the NZ Taxonomy will reference NZGBC certifications (e.g., Green Star, Homestar, NABERSNZ) and guidance as evidence of alignment. The intent is to leverage existing standards and provide further support, detail, and options for the sector – not to create additional compliance burdens.

NZ Taxonomy development

Click for the full recommendations report

This work began in 2024...

Following initial scoping and stakeholder engagement led by CSF and the Ministry for the Environment (MfE), the Minister of Climate Change invited CSF to provide recommendations on key design considerations for the NZ Taxonomy.

In July 2024, CSF presented 18 recommendations – developed by an Independent Technical Advisory Group (ITAG) – to the Minister in a formal report.

Building on these recommendations, the Minister directed work to begin on the NZ Taxonomy's climate change mitigation and adaptation & resilience (A&R) criteria, starting with the Agriculture and Forestry sectors in November 2024, followed by Energy in October 2025, and Construction and Buildings in Q1 2026.

Read the ITAG recommendations report here – full report | executive summary.

Ministerial directions

Based on the ITAG recommendations, the Minister of Climate Change has made several key decisions about the NZ Taxonomy.

These will guide the Construction and Building Sector TAG process in developing relevant criteria.

Minister agreed with the:

- **Purpose** and **five guiding principles**.
- Six **environmental objectives**.
- Embedding **iwi/Māori rights and knowledge** into the Taxonomy's design.
- Use of **ANZSIC** codes for classification.
- Inclusion of **a separate transition category**, to encourage substantial movements towards a 1.5-degree pathway for a defined and limited list of sectors/activities that are material and relevant to New Zealand, for activities within a pre-determined period of time and that have no low-carbon alternative.
- Adoption of an eligibility approach based on **technical screening criteria** that are binary, credible, internationally recognised, and **complemented by whitelists** where data is lacking.
- The NZ Taxonomy should be **initially voluntary**, with scope to become mandatory – noting that where taxonomies are part of mandatory frameworks, the mandatory aspect applies to financial institutions' reporting on alignment.

Prioritised:

- The environmental objectives of **climate change mitigation**, and **climate change adaptation and resilience**, to have criteria developed first.
- The **Agricultural and Forestry sectors** as the first sectors for NZ Taxonomy development in Q4 2024 – followed by **Energy** in Q4 2025, and **Construction and Buildings** in Q1 2026.

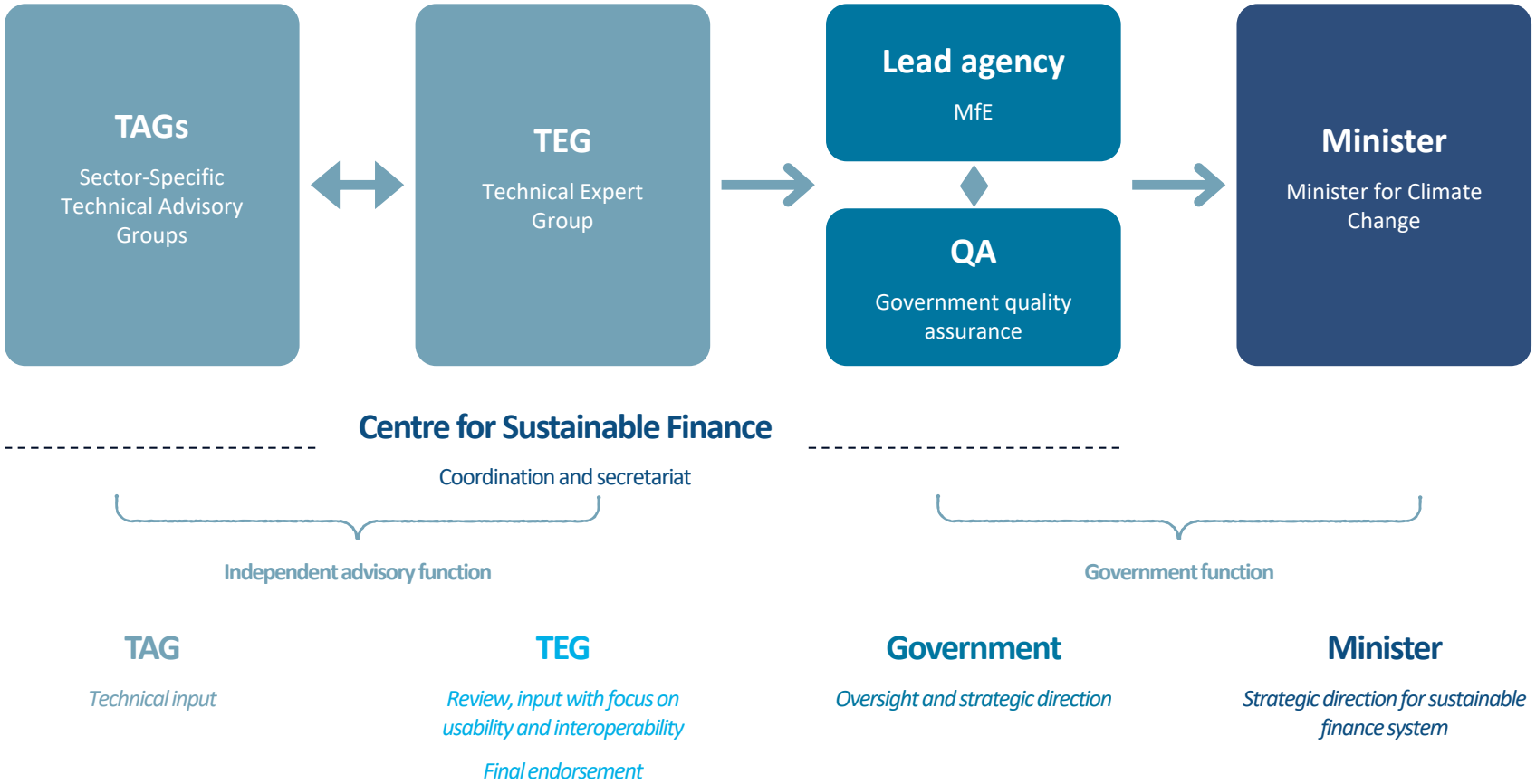
Directed (via the 2024 2+2 climate and finance dialogue):

- Strong trans-Tasman alignment between the NZ and Australian taxonomies.

Groups developing the NZ Taxonomy

- CSF has convened, through an open expression of interest (EoI) process, a Technical Expert Group (TEG) to co-design the NZ Taxonomy criteria with sector-specific Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs). The TEG is a high-level decision-making body that oversees the Taxonomy's development to make sure it is usable and interoperable. Since November 2024, the group has been working on the methodological design and on criteria for the Agriculture and Forestry sectors.
- CSF has engaged the Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI) as the technical partners for the development of the NZ Taxonomy. CBI has led the development of sustainable finance taxonomies globally, including in the EU, ASEAN, Brazil and Australia.
- CSF is now seeking to convene, through this EoI, a sector-specific TAG to provide technical inputs on the development of the Construction and Buildings sector criteria.

Governance


TAGs
Sector-Specific Technical Advisory Groups
TEG
Technical Expert Group
Lead agency
MfE
QA
Government quality assurance
Minister
Minister for Climate Change
Centre for Sustainable Finance
Coordination and secretariat
Independent advisory function
Government function
TAG
Technical input
TEG
Review, input with focus on usability and interoperability
Final endorsement
Government
Oversight and strategic direction
Minister
Strategic direction for sustainable finance system

TEG members – 2025 term

Note: 2026 term TEG members will be announced by EOY 2025

TEG co-Chairs

1. Andy Reisinger, Independent Climate Change Expert
2. Pip Best, Partner – Climate Change & Sustainability Services, EY Oceania

TEG members

3. Adam Coxhead, Head of Sustainable Finance, Bank of New Zealand
4. Amelia Sharman, Director – Sustainability Reporting, External Reporting Board (XRB) (from July 2025)
5. Caroline Poujol, Director - Sustainable Finance (NZ), ANZ
6. David Hall, Policy Director, Toha Network
7. David Woods, Independent
8. Feng Hu, International Specialist, United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI); Founder and Director, silkroad.earth
9. Fonteyn Moses-Te Kani, Pou Tiaki – Director Māori Strategy & Indigenous Inclusion, Westpac New Zealand
10. Greg Munford, Senior Investment Strategist – Sustainable Investment, New Zealand Superannuation Fund
11. James Paterson, Head of Sustainable Finance, ASB
12. Jeremie Madamour, Principal Advisor - Climate Change & Sustainability Reporting, External Reporting Board (XRB) (until July 2025)
13. Joanna Silver, Head of Sustainable Finance, Westpac New Zealand
14. Jono Broome, Associate Director – Client Advisory APAC, Morningstar Sustainalytics
15. Jorge Waayman, Manager – ESG Research, Harbour Asset Management
16. Julia Langley, Managing Director – Switzerland & New Zealand, Green Wave Advisory
17. June McCabe, Independent Director; Pou Tahua Representative, National Iwi Chairs Forum (NICF)
18. Sean Fullan, Resilience and Recovery Manager, Insurance Council of New Zealand (ICNZ)
19. Stefan Gray, Manager – Strategic Climate Initiatives, Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ)

NZ Taxonomy Construction and Buildings sector criteria development timeline

Feb 26

- Construction and Buildings TAG established
- First Construction and Buildings TAG meeting

Mar 26

- Construction and Buildings sector climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience criteria development begins

Mar-Jun 26

- Construction and Buildings sector climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience criteria developed
- Draft public consultation paper endorsed by the TEG (content)

Jul 26

- Draft public consultation paper endorsed by the Government quality assurance function (process)
- **Public consultation opens**

Aug 26

- **Public consultation closes**

Sep–Oct 26

- Construction and Buildings sector climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience criteria revised
- Revision to consultation draft endorsed by the TEG (content)

Nov 26

- Revision to consultation draft endorsed by the Government quality assurance function (process)
- **Construction and Buildings sector climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience criteria published**

Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder groups	Purpose	Techniques
Government agencies	Oversight and advice	Regular meetings and email updates Periodic briefings Quality assurance reviews
Technical Expert Group	Decision-making	Regular meetings Off-session discussions Papers-only sessions
Sector-specific Technical Advisory Group	Advisory	
Financial sector participants	Information and input	Via TEG/TAG Discussion session(s) Bilateral meeting(s) Public consultation(s) Targeted comms
Iwi and sector-relevant Māori organisations		
Environmental NGOs		
Real economy participants for specific sectors underdevelopment		
Interested public	Information and feedback	Public consultation(s) Informational webinar(s) General comms

Construction and Buildings TAG recruitment

Role and remit of the Construction and Buildings TAG

Purpose

- To design the content of the NZ Taxonomy

Role

- Provide technical input into taxonomy definitions for TEG endorsement
- Feed back on TEG technical methodologies for TEG consideration and endorsement

Skills required

- Expert climate change mitigation and/or adaptation and resilience knowledge (required)
- Construction and Buildings sector knowledge (required)
- Financial services users (optional)
- Science, policy and regulation (optional)
- Human rights and supply chain risk (optional)
- Indigenous rights and interests (optional)

Time commitment

- Attend up to nine 2-hour meetings (minimum six), with at least 1 hour of preparation per meeting
- Participate in papers-only sessions and attend additional ad-hoc meetings as needed
- Prepare draft technical documents for TEG endorsement
- Participate in targeted stakeholder engagement on draft technical documents, facilitated by CSF

>> Estimated total time commitment:
48 hours (6 business days)

Selection process and criteria

The selection of Construction and Buildings TAG members will be conducted through an EoI process. This approach is designed to ensure a fair, transparent, inclusive, and robust selection, with the goal of forming a technically strong and diverse group that reflects both the finance and real economy sectors.

Final appointments will be made by CSF in consultation with MfE and the TEG. In assessing candidates, the following considerations will apply :

- **Skills mix and experience:** Alignment with the skills matrix outlined in the Terms of Reference, including individual competencies and the organisational perspective the candidate brings.
- **Understanding of sustainable finance:** Familiarity with both global and domestic sustainable finance landscape.
- **Inclusion of indigenous knowledge/perspectives:** Representation of tangata whenua perspectives, including mātauranga Māori and iwi/Māori expertise in climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience.
- **Commitment and availability:** Ability to commit the time required to discharge the duties of the Construction and Buildings TAG, as well as willingness and capacity to support the Construction and Buildings TAG's role in developing robust and credible climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience criteria for public consultation.
- **Collaborative track record:** Evidence of working constructively with others to achieve shared outcomes, particularly in multi-stakeholder and/or technical environments.
- Candidates' **other positions or commitments** (including potential conflicts of interest).
- The **overall diversity** of the Construction and Buildings TAG.

Applicants submit EoI

(17 Nov 2025– 30 Jan 2026)

CSF selects members based on the above criteria

(2 Feb – 4 Feb 2026)

MfE and TEG endorse CSF proposed list

(5 Feb – 11 Feb 2026)

CSF finalises members list and notifies successful applicants

(12 Feb – 13 Feb 2026)

EoI timelines and milestones

Public call for EoIs

Monday 17 November 2025 – Friday 30 January 2026 (11 weeks)

Membership confirmation deadline for successful applicants

Friday 13 February 2026

First Construction and Buildings TAG meeting

Thursday 19 February 2026

How to apply

Please read the Terms of Reference before you apply.

Please submit:

- Expression of interest of no more than 350 words (please outline your relevant expertise and suitability);
- Your CV; and
- A letter of endorsement from your organisation (note, TAG members will represent their personal, not organisational views in meetings; however, must have been endorsed by their organisations to undertake this work).

Click to apply

Applications close at **5pm NZT, Friday 30 January 2026**.

Thank you

If you have questions about the EoI process, please contact taxonomy@sustainablefinance.nz

The Centre for Sustainable Finance: Toitū Tahua (CSF) was established in 2021 to advance progress toward the 2030 vision and Roadmap of the Sustainable Finance Forum

The forum was an initiative of Sir Rob Fenwick's The Aotearoa Circle