

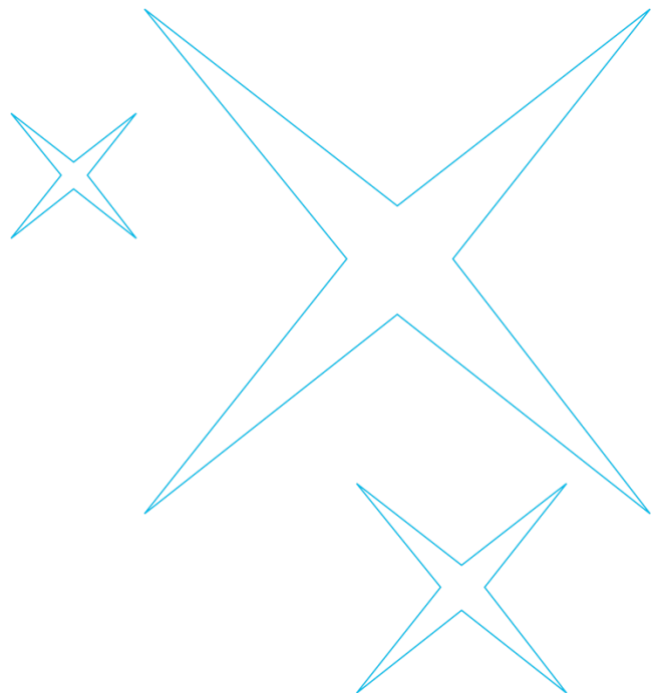
June 2026

Aotearoa New Zealand Sustainable Finance Taxonomy

Energy sector

Climate change adaptation and resilience Whitelist

Draft for public consultation





Energy sector-specific Whitelist for climate change adaptation and resilience – draft for public consult

This section presents the draft sector-specific Whitelist for climate change adaptation and resilience as they apply to the Energy sector for the NZ Taxonomy.

The Whitelist is part of the Substantial Contribution criteria for this sector. SC criteria define the requirements that an economic activity or measure must meet to be considered as making a substantial contribution to an environmental objective – in this case, climate change adaptation and resilience.

The development of the climate change adaptation and resilience criteria is intended to accelerate investment to support businesses to anticipate, prepare for and respond effectively to the impacts of climate change and/or strengthen long-term resilience in a changing climate.

The climate change adaptation and resilience SC criteria provide two options for assessing the performance of activities:

1. a cross-sectoral Process-Based Approach (PBA); and
2. a sector-specific Whitelist.

In an earlier phase, the NZ Taxonomy has developed a cross-sectoral PBA for climate change adaptation and resilience. You can review this [here](#). The PBA reflects the highly contextual nature of appropriate activities/measures to build adaptive capacity and resilience and outlines the steps that must be taken for development of a robust adaptation and resilience activity. If a business has followed the process, any resulting adaptation and resilience activity can be considered NZ Taxonomy-aligned.

The sector-specific Whitelist provides a list of low-risk, pre-approved adaptation and resilience measures that can be applied to an activity to substantially increase adaptive capacity and resiliency.

The activities/measures on the Whitelist are automatically deemed eligible for NZ Taxonomy-alignment and do not require a full assessment against the PBA criteria.

All adaptation and resilience activities are classified as Green.

The Technical Experts Group (TEG) have sought to maximise the application of these adaptation and resilience criteria to a broad range of potential investments, while maintaining credibility. Activities and measures under the Energy-specific Whitelist may also provide additional benefits to users beyond building adaptive capacity and resilience. This does not exclude NZ Taxonomy alignment, provided all applicable criteria are met.

The Energy sector Whitelist is available for feedback in this consult.

Whitelist of climate change adaptation and resilience measures for Aotearoa New Zealand's Energy sector

Investment (i.e., measure)	Investment type	Sub-sector(s)	Main climate hazard(s)
1. Designing and integrating evacuation routes in existing assets to ensure safe evacuation under climate hazard conditions	Energy infrastructure	Renewable energy/electricity generation	Flood damage Storm damage Mass movement damage
2. Installing safety and emergency systems to energy infrastructure to ensure continued supply of energy during flood/storm damage	Energy infrastructure	Renewable energy/electricity generation Electricity transmission & distribution	Flood damage Storm damage
3. Managing vegetation around the perimeter of the transmission and distribution lines/electricity generation assets to limit exposure to climate hazards (note: the measure may not be applied on high-carbon stock land or areas of high biodiversity)	Energy infrastructure	Renewable energy/electricity generation Electricity transmission & distribution	Storm damage Wildfire damage
4. Reinforcement/relocation/retrofitting of energy infrastructure assets, such as poles or solar panels, to reduce exposure to climate risks	Energy infrastructure	Renewable energy/electricity generation Electricity transmission & distribution	Flood damage Storm damage Mass movement damage
5. Hardening and upgrading access infrastructure for renewable energy and T&D assets to ensure operational continuity and maintenance during or after climate hazards events	Energy infrastructure	Renewable energy/electricity generation Electricity transmission & distribution	Flood damage Storm damage Mass movement damage Wildfire damage

6. Installing and operating off-grid or distributed renewable energy (e.g., solar panels, batteries), to provide autonomous back-up power for critical energy systems during extreme weather events (e.g., storms, heavy rainfall, flooding, landslides)	Energy infrastructure	Renewable energy/electricity generation Energy storage Demand response	Flood damage Storm damage Mass movement damage
7. Implementation of firebreaks and T&D asset corridors in/around non-native forests to manage storm- and wildfire-related risks	Energy infrastructure	Electricity transmission & distribution	Storm damage Wildfire damage
8. Installing underground electricity lines for renewable energy (excluding in areas subject to coastal erosion/landslip risks) to make power transmission and distribution more resilient to flood, storm, and wildfire damage	Energy infrastructure	Electricity transmission & distribution	Flood damage Storm damage Wildfire damage
9. Installing automated grid controls/smart grids to build resilience to storm damage	Energy infrastructure	Electricity transmission & distribution Demand response	Storm damage
10. Development and deployment of wind speed and duration forecasting analytics for renewable energy plants to build system resilience to storm damage	ICT infrastructure (Energy-specific)	Data & information services Renewable energy/electricity generation	Storm damage
11. Integration of real-time wind speed monitoring data with risk assessment platforms to improve the resilience of renewable energy plants to storm damage	ICT infrastructure (Energy-specific)	Data and information services Renewable energy/electricity generation	Storm damage
12. Installing and operating daily precipitation information software in vulnerable networks for improved climate risk management	ICT infrastructure (Energy-specific)	Data & information services Electricity transmission & distribution	Flood damage Storm damage
13. Implementation of energy use/demand monitoring, forecasting, and modelling systems to make power	ICT infrastructure (Energy-specific)	Data & information services	Flood damage Storm damage

transmission and distribution more resilient to climate impacts		Electricity transmission & distribution Demand response	Heat stress
14. Creation, development, installation, integration and/or use of drought risk data with long-term water resource planning, prediction software and management to improve resilience to water stress	ICT infrastructure (general)	Data & information services; should be used for: – Renewable energy/electricity generation; or – Electricity transmission & distribution	Water stress
15. Development and integration of heatwave-specific early action protocols in existing disaster management frameworks	ICT infrastructure (general)	Data & information services; should be used for: – Renewable energy/electricity generation; or – Electricity transmission & distribution	Heat stress
16. Development of high-resolution wildfire risk and fuel load maps using remote sensing data or behaviour modelling tools to improve resilience to wildfires	ICT infrastructure (general)	Data & information services; should be used for: – Renewable energy/electricity generation; or – Electricity transmission & distribution	Wildfire damage
17. Creation, development, installation and/or use of erosion data measurement systems/tools to build resilience to climate-induced coastal and river erosion, as well as mass movement risks	ICT infrastructure (general)	Data & information services; should be used for: – Renewable energy/electricity generation; or – Electricity transmission & distribution	Coastal and river erosion Mass movement damage

<p>18. Creation, development, installation and/or use of distributed sensing technology for ground-truthed moisture measurement or lake-/catchment-level monitoring and forecasting for improved flood/storm risk management</p>	<p>ICT infrastructure (general)</p>	<p>Data & information services; should be used for: – Renewable energy/electricity generation; or – Electricity transmission & distribution</p>	<p>Flood damage Storm damage</p>
<p>19. Creation, development, installation and/or use of sophisticated data-driven storm models, forecasting, and real time or satellite-based monitoring tools to improve resilience to flood/storm damage and water stress</p>	<p>ICT infrastructure (general)</p>	<p>Data & information services; should be used for: – Renewable energy/electricity generation; or – Electricity transmission & distribution</p>	<p>Flood damage Storm damage Water stress</p>
<p>20. Creation, development, installation and/or use of real time weather data analytics, maps, high-resolution topographic and bathymetric data, as well as visualisation tools to improve resilience to flood damage, storm damage, drought, heat stress and wildfire risks</p>	<p>ICT infrastructure (general)</p>	<p>Data & information services; should be used for: – Renewable energy/electricity generation; or – Electricity transmission & distribution</p>	<p>Flood damage Storm damage Water stress Heat stress Wildfire damage</p>
<p>21. Creation, development, installation and/or use of data-driven early warning systems software for extreme weather and climate hazards (including precipitation, lightning, heat stress, and wildfire risks) to improve climate risk management</p>	<p>ICT infrastructure (general)</p>	<p>Data & information services; should be used for: – Renewable energy/electricity generation; or – Electricity transmission & distribution</p>	<p>Flood damage Storm damage Water stress Heat stress Wildfire damage</p>



The consultation is open from Monday 8 June – Friday 10 July 2026.
Please contact taxonomy@sustainablefinance.nz for any questions or assistance.