Sustainability for Genesis means caring for the environment and building strong communities while powering New Zealand towards a positive, sustainable future. It’s about ensuring our business is viable for the long term, delivers value for our shareholders, innovates for our customers, inspires our people and contributes lasting benefits to society. We adopt a holistic approach that requires an understanding of our impact on people and the environment, and that incorporates consideration of social, economic and environmental risks and benefits into our business decision-making.

Our people, our communities
Genesis recognises that our staff make it happen, and we are committed to providing a supportive workplace where people can be themselves. We value the individuality of our people, and are actively working to ensure diversity of thought and experience across all levels of our business. Our teams work together to innovate, coming up with better products, services and ideas with our customers – and go the extra mile to keep one another safe. Genesis cares about the communities we operate in and live in, which are vital to our success as a business, and the country as a whole. We are committed to doing good, and working alongside communities to help them prosper. Our community investment approach is about collaboration and partnership, with a particular focus on education relating to energy, and the balanced use and management of resources. Genesis staff are actively engaged in these initiatives, as we are part of those communities too, and it’s essential we work together to face the myriad of challenges our people and environment face. A wide range of New Zealanders have an interest in our generation activities. We seek to engage with them all in an active, transparent and productive way, and to ensure their safety when around our operations. In particular, we foster robust, long-term relationships with Tangata Whenua, including through initiatives that promote the balanced use of natural resources.

Caring for our environment
Genesis is committed to the principle of kaitiakitanga, and we see ourselves in partnership with key stakeholders and communities, seeking collaborative solutions to manage the effects of our operations. We strive to reduce the environmental footprint of all aspects of our business, including both energy generation and office activities. Water is essential to our country, our business, and to the communities we operate in. We believe that every drop counts and strive for continual improvements in the efficiency of our operations that utilise water. We support multiple uses of water while ensuring cultural and ecological requirements are met. Genesis is committed to ongoing participation in programmes that improve the ecological health and mauri of our waterways.

The challenge for Genesis is to help New Zealand transition to a low carbon future, while ensuring a secure electricity supply. We provide transparent reporting of our generation emissions and offsets through diverse investments. We are proud of the significant reductions we have made in our carbon emissions in the past decade, and are committed to further reductions in both generation and non-generation emissions. This is supported by our intention to end the sector’s reliance on coal by 2030. We are committed to climate action and we aim to lead the conversation and do our part as New Zealand moves towards a low carbon future.

Powering New Zealand
Genesis acknowledges the critical role we play in our customers’ daily lives, and our collective ability to make different decisions and cut our carbon emissions – while exploring the future of energy. That is why Genesis is working to help our customers make better energy choices, by giving them better visibility of their energy usage. We put control in our customers’ hands to empower them to make sustainable decisions and create positive outcomes for New Zealand. We recognise the fact that our generation facilities allow all energy companies to keep their lights on for customers across the country, and we take that responsibility seriously. Secure electricity supply is critical to a strong and sustainable economy. The energy challenge in all countries is about balancing security of supply, affordable prices, and environmental impact – and we have to play a key role in creating balanced solutions for this challenge. Genesis is exploring the future of energy, both through our Local Energy Project (testing renewable energy sources and energy monitoring) and our development of the energy innovators of tomorrow, through School-gen.

Read our Sustainability Framework FY19 for specifics around what we’re doing to bring this statement to life.