

Energy Consumption in New Zealand

BACKGROUND

New Zealand has a variety of energy sources, including renewable sources (e.g., hydro-electricity, geothermal energy, biogas, and wind and solar power) as well as non-renewable sources of energy (e.g., fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas). The consumption of energy is a major source of air pollution, as the burning of fossil fuels releases particulate matter (such as PM10) and gases, which can have negative effects on health (Kjellström 2004). Furthermore, the use of fossil fuels adds to carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, contributing to greenhouse gases and potentially climate change, which has the potential to affect health.

Energy consumed is defined as the amount of energy consumed by final users, and does not include energy used or lost while generating more energy, or bringing energy to final users (Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment, 2008). Energy is measured in petajoules (PJ = 1×10^{15} J). The indicator examines consumption of energy in New Zealand, by fuel type and sector. These data are available from the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment 2012), as part of the Energy Data File publications.

References

- Kjellström T. (2004). Air Quality and Health. In: Cromar N, Cameron S, Fallowfield H. (eds.). Environmental Health in Australia and New Zealand. Melbourne: Oxford University Press:274-92.
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- Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment. (2008). Climate change solutions. Wellington: Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment.

