



From the very beginning, **YEALANDS WINE GROUP** had a vision to become the world's most sustainable wine producer. Caring for the environment ensures healthier vines, robust grapes, a more productive harvest and ultimately, award-winning wines. To complement this commitment, Yealands are a founding member of the **Zero Carbon–Climate Action Group (ZCCAG)**, helping to inspire action for a better environment. As part of this group, they are measuring, managing and offsetting their carbon impacts and striving every day towards their goal of becoming energy self-sufficient and carbon neutral.

## Zero Carbon– Climate Action Group

ZCCAG is a collaboration of leading New Zealand businesses whose purpose is to inspire the decarbonisation of business by transitioning to a zero carbon economy. The group aims to increase awareness of accurate and efficient emissions measurement, management and reduction through driving demand in procurement and supply chains. ZCCAG is part of a greater community of businesses and organisations, brought together by the Sustainable Business Council, which are undertaking collective action to deliver emissions reduction between now and 2020.

Yealands opened their landmark Yealands Estate Winery in 2008 and have achieved more than 1,200 awards within 8 vintages – testament to their successful approach to winemaking. With the very foundation of their business – growing grapes – reliant on the environment, addressing climate change through sustainable winegrowing practices is their deeply-rooted commitment. They have a diverse range of green initiatives including renewable energy, fuel reduction projects and are carbonZero<sup>Cert™</sup> certified for their organisation, selected wine products and total grape supply. Known internationally as a leader in sustainable winemaking, they constantly strive to reduce their climate impacts and influence other organisations to do the same.



## Renewable Energy

Yealands use a mix of renewable energy sources to help power the winery. By using renewable energy sources, this avoids coal-based energy production and reduces carbon emissions.

The Yealands Estate winery roof is home to New Zealand's largest solar power installation. There are more than 1,300 solar panels in total that supply 33% of the winery's electricity usage. The solar array produces more than half a million kilowatt hours (kWh) of power per year – enough to power 86 average kiwi homes! Each year, the vines are pruned – producing a ready-made biofuel source. They are collected, baled and then seasoned in readiness for clean burning. This process avoids over 81 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions (carbon dioxide equivalent) each year, results in more than \$100,000 annual energy savings in LPG use and supports approximately 70% of the hot water requirements in winery operations.



**33% electricity**  
from solar energy



**1,500 sheep** to  
reduce mowing



## Fuel Reduction

A large source of carbon emissions in vineyards can be fuel for on-site vehicles, such as mowers. Yealands have thought outside the box for solutions to this problem. Babydoll sheep were first introduced into the vineyards in 2009. As a miniature breed, they are short enough that they can't reach the grapes on the vines and as such are able to graze down the grass year round. At approximately 1,500 sheep, the flock needs to grow a bit more to reach the 10,000 estimated to eliminate all mowing. A more recent edition to the menagerie are the small breed kune kune pigs. They are being trialled as additional lawnmowers and initial results look promising as they don't dig up the ground like other breeds.





"Sustainability is a self-renewing process of continual improvement, bound only by the limitations of our imagination"



## carboNZero certification

The carboNZero programme is third party certification of an organisation's carbon measurement, reduction and neutrality claims. Yealands is the world's first winery to be carboNZero certified from inception. Achieving carboNZero certification means that Yealands has met international best practice in measuring their carbon footprint and then reducing this as much as possible. They then took the next step to offset their remaining unavoidable emissions with carbon credits, to create a net zero emissions balance. They have done this for their organisation as well as the full life cycle of a number of their wine products. Further information about the certification can be found at [www.enviro-mark.com](http://www.enviro-mark.com).



The world's first winery to be carboNZero certified since inception

## Smart Technology

The winery building itself was designed with sustainability in mind from the outset. The use of innovative technology means that energy efficiency can be maximised throughout their operations. Heat recovery units ensure that heat generated from refrigeration can be captured and used to heat water for the winery. Insulated pipelines further improve efficiency by reducing heat loss or gain. There are also a range of other initiatives including variable speed drives, improved design of evaporative condensers, and lighting sensor monitors. In addition, all tanks are housed within a fully insulated building, enabling Yealands to become four times more energy efficient than the industry average for a similar site.

The sustainably designed winery can process over 20,000 tonnes of wine grapes at full production.





Yealands  
— WINE GROUP —  
NEW ZEALAND

*THINK BOLDLY,  
TREAD LIGHTLY AND  
NEVER SAY IT CAN'T  
BE DONE.*

**ZERO  
CARBON**  
CLIMATE ACTION GROUP

Founding members of the Zero Carbon–Climate Action group are demonstrating business advantages of the low carbon economy. Yealands Wine Group has found that in committing to zero carbon, they are more resilient, profitable, and competitive.

If your organisation is ready to commit to zero carbon, contact the ZCCAG representative, Josephine Rudkin-Binks to find out more:

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Yealands Wine Group is recognised internationally as a sustainability leader throughout the wine industry and beyond. With a long term vision to be energy self-sufficient and carbon negative, they are striving for improvement and innovation in the way they produce wine. But they don't just stop at home; founder Peter Yealands encourages everyone to act for a better environment, "think boldly, tread lightly, and never say it can't be done".

Find out more about Yealands' sustainability initiatives here at [www.yealands.co.nz](http://www.yealands.co.nz)

