

## Coal being cleaned out of schools and hospitals

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### State Schools, hospitals and science institutes are moving out of coal

Finance minister Grant Robertson announced yesterday that \$200 million was being provided for “public estate decarbonisation”, which will be used to replace coal-fired boilers in schools and hospitals.

And anti-fossil fuel activists have discovered that state-owned science organisations are also moving away from coal.

Coal Action Network and 350 Aotearoa say documents obtained under the Official Information Act show that nearly all the country’s Crown Research Institutes are no longer using coal.

### Many steps

The only remaining coal-fired boiler, at the Lincoln Science Centre, supplying Plant and Food Research and Landcare Research, is in the process of being replaced with electric heating.

“Stopping burning coal in our research institutes must be the first step of many for this Government to reduce New Zealand’s fossil-fuel use,” said 350 spokesperson Claudia Palmer.

“However, it is also vital that Government-owned funds such as ACC and NZ Super Fund live up to climate principles. These public funds must stop investing in fossil-fuel companies and reinvest in industries that provide solutions to transitioning to a zero-carbon economy.”

The State-owned Accident Insurance Corporation has [\\$1 billion invested](#) in fossil fuel companies.

Details on the funding for schools and hospital will be announced next year.

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