

Free climate data platform targets more partners as it looks to build coverage

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By Michael Hurley

The organisation developing the Net-Zero Data Public Utility (NZDPU) is seeking to use its partnership with the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) as a model for working with regulators and other data organisations as it seeks to boost its coverage.

[A consultation on the NZDPU](#), which had been due to end this month, was recently extended to 1 April, feedback from which it hopes will help it devise a “roadmap to build a full model” out of its existing ‘proof of concept’.

Simone Kramer, head of product of the NZDPU, told *Environmental Finance*: “To integrate more data over time, and to grow our coverage... collaborations with third-party disclosure platforms and like-minded initiatives are going to enable us to do that.

“We hope that through this pilot with [MAS’s] Project Greenprint, we can establish a rule book and lessons learnt that can be scaled to other collaborations in future.”

Last year, it announced a collaboration with MAS and Singapore Exchange, to enable companies that report into MAS Project Greenprint’s data portal to also provide this information to NZDPU.

The NZDPU currently covers 382 companies. Its ‘foundational layer’ of data was provided by disclosure platform CDP.

Meanwhile, Kramer said the NZDPU is considering how best to answer its users’ requests for more detailed information on assurance and verification, so it can show

assurers' comments on individual fields within disclosures and not just on the whole report.

“The feedback we frequently get is: ‘We want to start seeing that at the field level’. Ideally, ... as this space becomes a bit more material, we begin to see more proliferation of detailed assurance and verification practises,” she said.

The NZDPU runs a ‘focus group’ for assurance, verification and service providers to provide input to the initiative.

It also wants future iterations of the free-to-use platform to contain information on use of carbon credits and offsets, as well as financial institution emissions’ reduction targets.

“Key there is ensuring that the elements we include in the tool have achieved a certain state of maturity that will enable us to define a data model that is ultimately scalable,” Kramer added.

Asked what the NZDPU might do if it faces criticism of the quality of data it contains, Kramer said: “The priority of the utility is transparency ... We're going to discover that there are challenges – and that's kind of the point, to identify areas that require further development in the space and then work collaboratively with other stakeholders to think about new solutions.

“A lot of the time, what you learn when you flatten something out, is you start to see all the different pieces that are missing,” Kramer said.