



CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2020-23

TE RAUTAKI HURINGA ĀHUARANGI





Whakatauki
Proverb

*Whatungarongaro te tangata,
toitū te whenua*
*As man disappears from sight,
the land remains*



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Message from the Mayor

Kupu whakataki o te Tumuaki

E huri ana te ao – he whaiwāhitanga kei mua i a tātou.

I te tau 2019, i tū ai ngā rangatahi i te tautohe “School Strike for Climate”. I te mate urutā o COVID-19, i whakaatu mai te kaupapa kua hāpaitia e ngā take āhuarangi mō ngā tau e maha; arā, i ngā mate mōrearea, me huri te kei o tō tātou waka.

He raru nui te Huringa Āhuarangi i tō tātou ao. I te rohe o Whakatāne, kua whakahoki kōrero mai ngā hapori ki te whakamanawanui ki ngā take āhuarangi. Ahakoa kāore anō tātou kia mōhio ki ngā raru katoa o te huringa āhuarangi, kua pā kē mai tēnei take ki a tātou.

Kua hīkina te mānuka e tō tātou rohe i ngā tau kua tata ake nei, ka mutu kua whakaohoho au i te piringa tahi o te hapori. He mea whakahirahira ki te hono tahi i a tātou e anga ana ki te huringa āhuarangi.

I te tau 2019, i riro i te Kaunihera o Whakatāne ngā Mātāpono Huringa Āhuarangi kia whaiwhakaaro ai te kaunihera ki ngā āhuatanga Huringa Āhuarangi i ngā whakataunga katoa. E arataki ana tēnei rautaki Huringa Āhuarangi, me ngā mātāpono o roto, i ā mātou mahi mō ngā wero me ngā whaiwāhitanga i puta mai i te huringa āhuarangi. Kei te mōhio mātou i tēnei ao hurihuri, ehara i a mātou ngā whakautu katoa, engari e mōhio ana mātou me mahi wawe mātou, ka mutu me ako, me whakawhiti kōrero, me whakapai hoki ā mātou mahi i a mātou e haere ana. Ka arotake anō ki tēnei rautaki i ngā tau e toru i muri mai, kia ū tonu te rautaki ki tēnei mahi, ka mutu me whakakaha mātou i ētahi kaupapa mātāmua o tēnei rautaki, hei tauira, te whakaurunga o te mātauranga Māori me ngā hua o ngā utu.

Ka pupuri mātou ki tēnei whaiwāhitanga kia piki te ora o Papatūānuku, kia mā ake ai, kia taurite ai te porihanga whānui. Ka mahi mātou ki te whakahaumako te ora o tō tātou hapori kia puāwai ngā hua. Ki te whai hua, me whakarite mātou i te hapori mō ngā panonitanga e heke mai nei, ka pohewatia anō tō tātou rohe i tēnei ao hurihuri.

Kua tae te wā – me mahi tahi tātou.

A lot is changing in the world around us. Now is our window of opportunity.

In 2019, millions of youth worldwide called for climate action as part of the ‘School Strike for Climate’ movement. Then, the global response to COVID-19 demonstrated what the climate movement has been advocating for years; that when faced with a crisis, we must act by making changes to the way we live our lives.

Climate change is one of the most significant issues facing the world today. Across the Whakatāne District, communities have voiced the urgency of taking real and early climate action. The implications of climate change are significant, and while there are many things we do not yet know, we do know that impacts of climate change are already felt.

Our district has faced its fair share of challenges over the years, and I’ve been inspired by the way the community comes together in response. This is more important than ever in the face of climate change, and we all have a role to play.

In 2019, Whakatāne District Council adopted a set of Climate Change Principles to ensure that climate change is considered in all our decisions. This Climate Change Strategy, guided by our Principles, sets the direction for our response to the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change. We acknowledge that in this ever evolving space we will never have all of the answers, but we know that we must continue to act with urgency, whilst at the same time learning, sharing and enhancing as we go. This strategy will be reviewed in 3 years to reflect the evolving nature of this work and we will look to enhance core aspects of this strategy over time, for example better incorporating te ao Māori, and identifying cost implications.

We want to take this window of opportunity to build a greener, cleaner, more equal future. Working to enhance the wellbeing of our community we can realise many mutual benefits through actions that have multiple positive outcomes. To do that, we must acknowledge and plan for the changes that are coming, reimagining the future of our District in a changing climate.

Now is our opportunity – let’s do it together.

Naku noa, nā

Judy Turner
Mayor, Whakatāne District

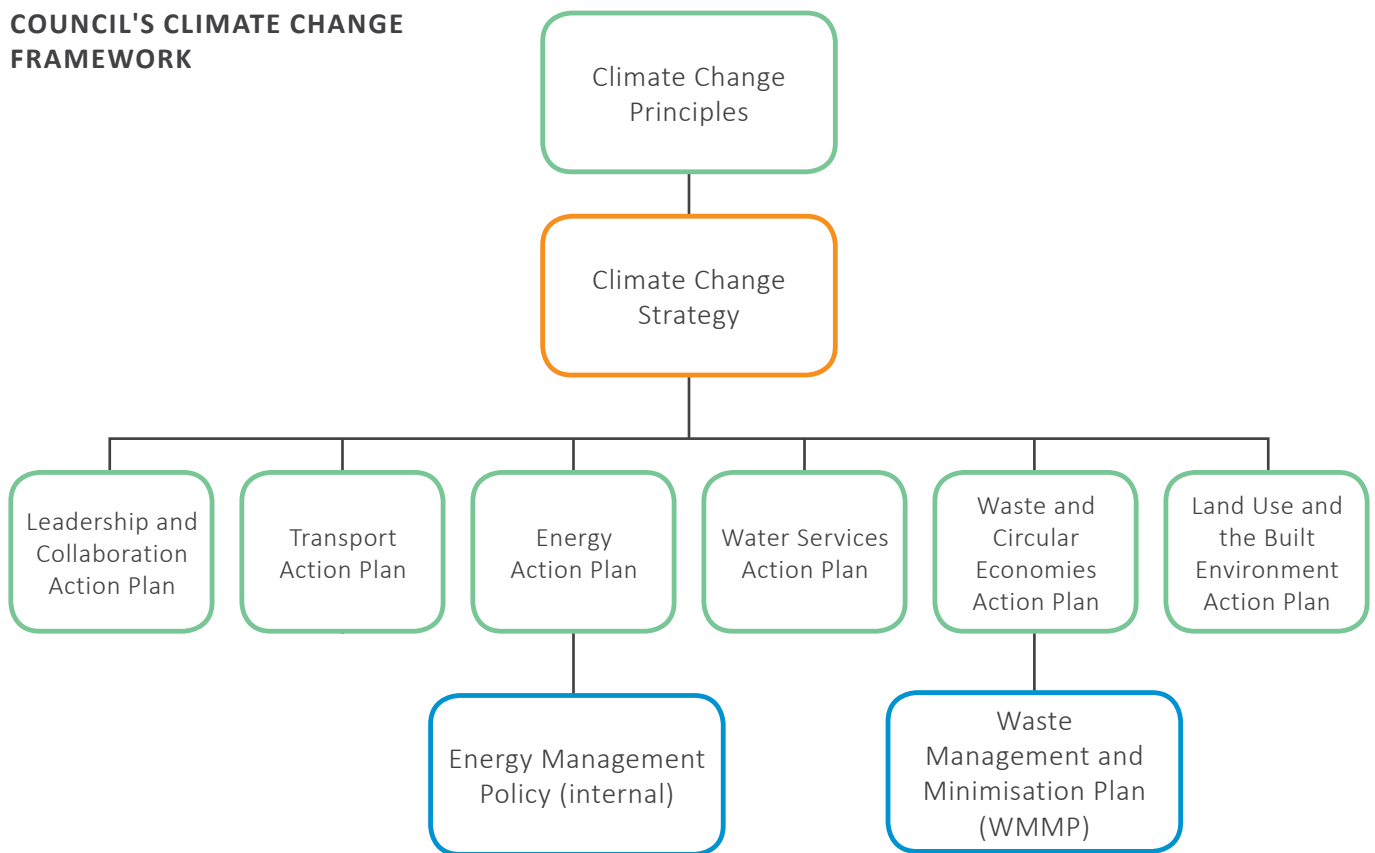
Our Climate Change Project

Te pou tarāwaho Huringa Āhuarangi

At Whakatāne District Council, we acknowledge the role we need to take to respond to climate change.

In 2019, the Council adopted a set of climate change principles, which provide the foundation for our climate change response. This strategy, guided by our principles, is our roadmap for reaching our climate change targets. The action plans show the specific steps we will take to get there.

COUNCIL'S CLIMATE CHANGE FRAMEWORK



Our climate change framework focuses on both mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

Mitigation is about reducing the amount of change to our climate that we will experience in the future, through minimising or preventing the emission of greenhouse gases. Although a certain level of climate change is “locked in” due to greenhouse gases that have already been emitted, we can reduce emissions now so that future impacts from climate change are reduced. The Government has set national targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. See page 9 for information about the targets.

Adaptation is modifying the way we live and do things as a result of the changes we will experience, to reduce the impacts of climate change. While there is uncertainty about exactly how the effects of climate change will play out, it is certain that things will change and that change has already begun. How we are able to plan, respond, adapt and change will affect the level to which climate change poses a risk or an opportunity for our communities.



Our Climate Change Vision

Whakatāne District Council will actively lead and support the Whakatāne District to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change to be great ancestors for future generations.

Te Huapae

Ka arahi, ka tautoko hoki te Kaunihera o Whakatāne i te rohe o Whakatāne ki te whakaiti me te urutau ki te pā mai o ngā huringa āhuarangi mō ngā reanga anamata.

Strategy purpose

Te take mō te rautaki

The purpose of this strategy is to align the work already underway throughout Whakatāne District Council activities in relation to climate change. This strategy also seeks to provide a framework for collaboration across the Whakatāne District and beyond, amongst neighbouring Councils, iwi partners, local and central government, private industry, NGOs, education, our communities and people.

Strategy objectives

Ngā whāinga o te rautaki

- Integrate and coordinate climate change-related work throughout different areas of Council.
- Raise awareness of climate change and its impacts in the community.
- Show leadership on the issue of climate change.
- Provide a starting-point for community conversations.
- Provide a framework for the prioritisation and commencement of action.

What is climate change?

Carbon dioxide and other gases in the atmosphere trap heat from the sun, which is necessary to keep earth warm. However, as the level of gases in the atmosphere increases, more heat is trapped, warming the earth at an unprecedented rate. This process is known as climate change.

For more information about climate change see our project page: whakatane.govt.nz/climate-change

How the community has shaped this Strategy and our Action Plans

Kua whakaahuatia tēnei Rautaki me ngā Mahere mahi e te hapori

This strategy has been shaped by feedback that the community has shared with us about climate change, and how we – as a Council and as a District- need to respond. In 2019, we talked to the community about our draft Climate Change Principles, with over 800 people getting involved. We used feedback received to finalise the Principles, and also to create a draft version of this Strategy. Then, in August and early September 2020, we asked the community what they thought about the draft Strategy and Action Plans. The final versions of the documents include several changes in response to feedback and suggestions that we received.

Key feedback themes

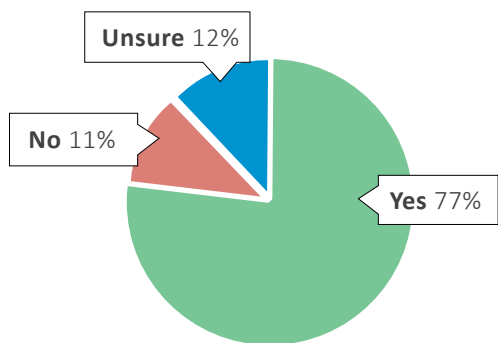
Ngā kaupapa matua o te whakahoki kōrero

- While there were a small number of submissions stating that climate change does not exist, or that it is not the Council's role to respond, a large amount of feedback requested that the Council show leadership on climate change.
- Many people noted the importance of working with the community to make changes required.
- There was support for strong and ambitious targets, with some submissions noting that targets are aspirational, not realistic.
- Some submissions thought the commitment from Council was not urgent enough and that some of the targets should be brought forward
- Many people referred to the vulnerability of the District to a range of climate change and natural hazards, particularly sea-level rise.
- Many in the community, and in particular youth, want to see the Council play an active role in educating and raising awareness of climate change.
- Submissions were received wanting to see more use of Te Reo Māori, Māori tikanga, and indigenous indicator species throughout the documents, or reference to these.
- Cost was raised as a key concern. Many comments discussed the challenge of balancing the need for action with affordability.
- Many people want the Council to encourage active transport, and in particular to provide safe cycling routes. Many suggestions were in line with the Council's [Active Whakatāne Strategy](#).
- Several suggestions were in line with the development of Council's 2021-27 Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, including investigation of foodwaste collections and processing.
- Caring for the natural environment was a strong theme of feedback.

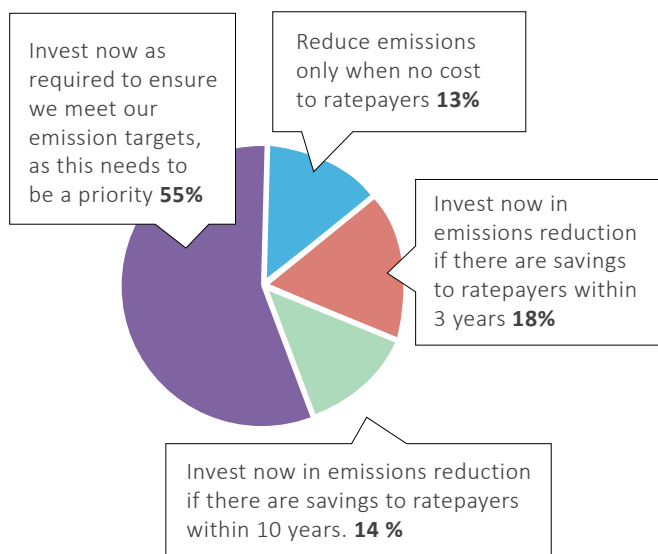
You told us

Te whakahoki kōrero

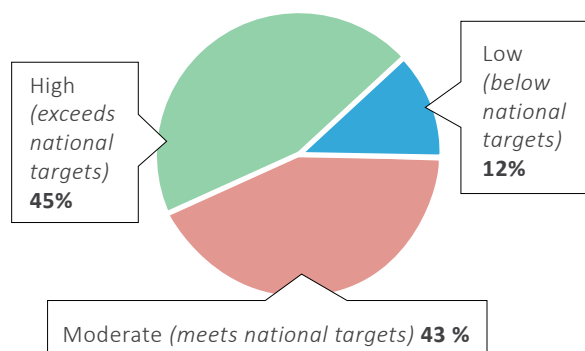
Do you think climate change is a significant issue for our District now?



In terms of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions (climate change mitigation), Whakatāne District Council should...



How ambitious do you think the Whakatāne District Council response to climate change should be?



“We strongly support the strategy to identify communities at risk from natural hazards and engage with those communities as to potential solutions.”

“Collaborate with stakeholders actively and right away. Relationships take time to build so the time to act is now.”

“The goal is to promote a built environment that is resilient to climate change. That will present challenges as some decisions will be controversial. It is important to inform the community what the risks are in respect of their properties.”

“The role of the Council is to be a leader and to provide public education and plans for action NOW.”

“History shows that the climate has always changed naturally and mankind has little to do with it.”

“I believe that adequate responses to the issue of climate change will reduce levels of inequality in our district.”

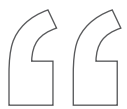
“We need our mokopuna to live in a country that would be recognisable to their great grandparents.”

“...We have the chance and ability to make a difference if everyone finally realizes it's the equivalent of a global pandemic.”

“Indigenous methods are only starting to be recognized, their warnings have been ignored for years and is only now that it affects us directly that people take notice. Go back to basics, listen, learn and involve the indigenous, they are key to our survival.”

The international context

Horopaki o te ao



Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth... these are one and the same fight. We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security, and women's empowerment. Solutions to one problem must be solutions for all.

— Ban Ki-moon (United Nation's eighth Secretary-General)



There are three main international policies that guide our climate change adaptation and mitigation work.

1. The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC): an international environmental treaty with the objective to:
“Stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic¹ interference with the climate system”
The UNFCCC was adopted by over 185 countries, including New Zealand, at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.
2. The **Kyoto Protocol**: an international treaty in 1997 that extends the 1992 UNFCCC and commits state parties to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, based on the scientific consensus that:
 - Global warming is occurring
 - It's extremely likely that human emitted CO₂ emissions have predominantly caused it.
3. The **Paris Agreement**: an agreement within the UNFCCC signed in Paris in 2016. The central aim of the Paris agreement is to:
“Strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.”



¹**Anthropogenic = Resulting from or produced by human activities, as defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**



***There is perhaps
no better example
of our absolute
interdependence
than the issue of
climate change.***



— New Zealand Prime Minister
Jacinda Ardern, United Nations
General Assembly 2019

The national context

Horopaki taiwhenua

Our climate is already changing

Kei te panoni te āhuarangi

In New Zealand, changes in climate – such as temperature and rainfall – are already occurring. These changes will occur to different extents across the country throughout this century and beyond. This will impact our economy, environment and way of life. While we can't be certain about the timeframes and the scale of the changes we will see, we do know that planning for the future means planning for a different climate. Based on the latest projections, by the end of this century we are likely to experience²:

- Higher temperatures
 - Greater increases in the North Island, particularly in the northeast
 - The amount of warming in New Zealand is likely to be lower than the global average
- Rising sea levels
- More frequent extreme weather events
 - Droughts (especially in the east of New Zealand)
 - Floods
- A change in rainfall patterns
 - Increased summer rainfall in the north and east of the North Island
 - Increased winter rainfall in many parts of the South Island.

² Ministry for the Environment, [Likely climate change impacts in New Zealand](#).



Current New Zealand legislation

Te ture o Aotearoa

New Zealand has a piece of legislation called the [Climate Change Response Act 2002](#). In 2019, this was updated through the [Climate Change Response \(Zero Carbon\) Amendment Act 2019](#).

The updates:

- Set a new domestic greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for New Zealand to:
 - Reduce net emissions of all greenhouse gases (except biogenic methane) to zero by 2050.
 - Reduce emissions of biogenic methane to 24–47 per cent below 2017 levels by 2050, including to 10 per cent below 2017 levels by 2030.
- Establish a system of emissions budgets to act as stepping stones towards the long-term target.
- Require the government to develop and implement policies for climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Establish a new, independent Climate Change Commission to provide expert advice and monitoring to help keep successive governments on track to meeting long-term goals.

The [Resource Management Act 1991 \(RMA\)](#) is another piece of key legislation in New Zealand. Under the RMA, local government is required to consider the effects of a changing climate on communities, and to incorporate climate change into existing frameworks, plans, projects and standard decision-making procedures. The RMA is a key guiding document for how the Council considers climate change.

The local context

Horopaki ā-rohe



Globally, insufficient work is being done to slow runaway climate change, it's better to adopt early than play catchup. Early adoption of changes spreads the cost and risk over time.

— Whakatāne District resident



The Whakatāne District is already vulnerable to natural hazards including slips, flooding and coastal erosion. Climate change is likely to make the consequences of these hazards worse. Locally and globally, community awareness and concern for this issue is growing. Whakatāne Ki Mua³ feedback, protests and public movements, alongside political prioritisation, is showing us that people across our district are concerned about climate change and its impacts on the place we call home, and people want to see action. A recent study⁴ lead by LGNZ and Tonkin and Taylor found that in the Whakatāne District alone, almost \$130 million of Council-owned assets (including things like water and transport infrastructure) are exposed to risks from sea-level rise by the end of this century.

While we know things are going to change, our biggest risks exist from not taking action fast enough. However, if we can adjust our way of living to respond to the challenges ahead, this presents some real opportunities for our future.

The cost of mitigating and adapting to climate change, whilst presenting a challenge for our community, is small compared to the cost for future generations of not acting.

By taking action now, we can reduce risks for future communities, maximise opportunities, build climate resilience and work towards a new, low carbon economy. Tackling the climate crisis needs local action. This will require leadership, courage and ‘good old kiwi ingenuity’. As a community we can show the country and the world that it’s possible to adapt to a changing climate, a changing economy and a changing lifestyle, and this needs to be done with fairness and equity in mind.

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, with the country operating under various alert levels, we have clearly seen what our district and the country is capable of achieving if we all work together towards a common goal. Many of the lifestyle and business changes we have put in place in response to the COVID-19 crisis would put us in good stead to reduce our emissions and be a more resilient and adaptive community.



³ Whakatāne Ki Mua is a Community Visioning project that, in 2017, heard the views of nearly 3,000 people, raising 18,000 comments about the Whakatāne District.

⁴ Tom Simonson and Grace Hall, LGNZ. [Vulnerable: the quantum of local government infrastructure exposed to sea level rise.](#)

Likely impacts of climate change for the Bay of Plenty⁵

Ngā putanga o ngā take Huringa Āhuarangi i te Waiariki



UP TO 1.0°C INCREASE BY 2040s⁵

1.0°C to 3.5°C warmer by 2090s depending on the level of greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere



MORE HOT DAYS (>25°C) AND EXTREME HOT DAYS (> 30°C)

Depending on greenhouse gas emissions, up to 70-80 more hot days and 10-14 more extreme hot days per year by 2090



FROSTS RARE BY 2090s

Decrease of 10-25 frost days can affect the winter chilling of some crops like Hayward kiwifruit, affecting fruit production



CHANGING CROP DIVERSITY

Opportunities to diversify crop types grown in the region due to the change in climate conditions. It might be difficult to continue to grow some crop types



RAINFALL WILL VARY LOCALLY WITHIN THE REGION

Little change in mean annual rainfall, but change in season pattern. Ex-tropical cyclones will likely be stronger and bring heavy rainfall



MORE DROUGHT CONDITIONS

Experience more drought conditions in the future, with implications for pasture growth and crops



INCREASED FLOODING RISKS

The depth currently projected for a 1-in-100-year rainfall event is projected to become a 1-in-34-year event by 2090.



INCREASED COASTAL EROSION / FLOODING

Storms originating from the sub-tropics in the summer may have more intense circulation, likely leading to stronger winds, greater storm surge, saltwater incursion and higher rainfall accumulations



HIGHER BIOSECURITY RISKS FROM PESTS

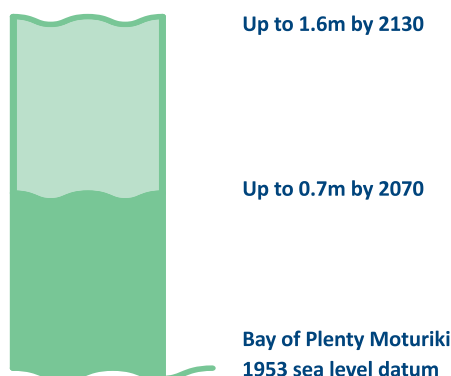
Increasing temperatures are likely to result in higher biosecurity risks in the Bay of Plenty, through pest incursions (both animal and plant pests)



IMPACT ON HUMAN HEALTH

Direct impacts include injury from floods, extreme heat and storms. Indirect effects include microbial contamination, mosquito-borne diseases, algal blooms, mental health and air quality

PLANNING FOR SEA LEVEL RISE⁶



⁵ Bay of Plenty Regional Council. 'Climate Change projections and impacts for the Bay of Plenty Region', October 2019

⁶ Projection based on the 'potential' sea-level in the 2017 NIWA report "[Tauranga Harbour extreme sea level analysis](#)"

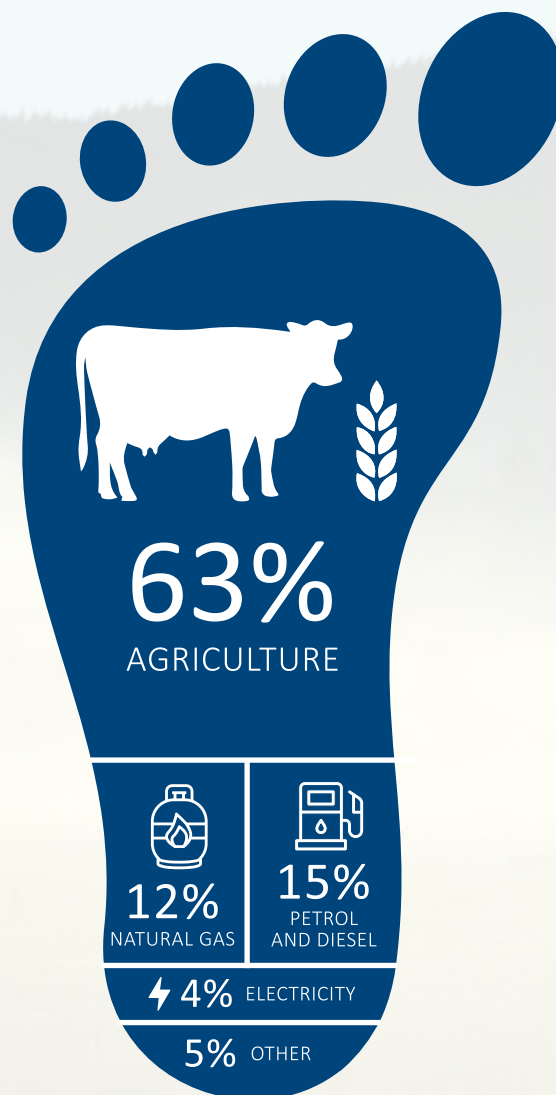
Carbon emissions from the Whakatāne District

Tukunga Waro o te rohe o Whakatāne

In 2015/16, the Whakatāne District emitted 1,000,227 tonnes of CO₂e⁷ gross emissions. This is approximately 24.5% of the Bay of Plenty's gross emissions⁸. This footprint shows the largest sources of greenhouse emissions for the Whakatāne District. By far, the largest emitter in our district is the agricultural sector (63%). These emissions are generated mainly by dairy and beef farming, an industry working hard to embrace innovation and new ways of working to curb some of the emissions it produces⁹.

Another large segment of emissions is made up of natural gas (12%), diesel (9%) and petrol (6%). The majority of natural gas emissions are generated by commercial and industrial processes¹⁰, whereas the diesel and petrol are primarily used by road transportation (including both private and industry)¹¹. These figures reflect the rural nature of our district, highlighting the travel distances between urban centres.

We need to work together to address our district's carbon emissions. In our climate change action plans, we outline what we will do to reduce the Council's emissions, and how we will work with our communities to reduce our district's overall footprint. More information about the action plans is available on page 14 of this strategy.



I think we have got to work together more, start thinking about climate change and how it will affect us.

— Local Whakatāne resident



GROSS CARBON FOOTPRINT
1,000,227 TCO₂e

WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COMMUNITY
CARBON FOOTPRINT 2015/16

⁷ CO₂e, or carbon dioxide equivalent, is a measure for how much global warming a given type and amount of greenhouse gas causes, using the equivalent amount of carbon dioxide as the reference.

⁸ AECOM Consulting Services, [Bay of Plenty Carbon Footprint 2015/16](#), page 43.

⁹ [Beef + Lamb New Zealand, Fonterra](#)

¹⁰ Ibid, page 45

¹¹ Ibid, page 47

Carbon emissions from the Whakatāne District Council

Tukunga Waro o te Kaunihera o Whakatāne

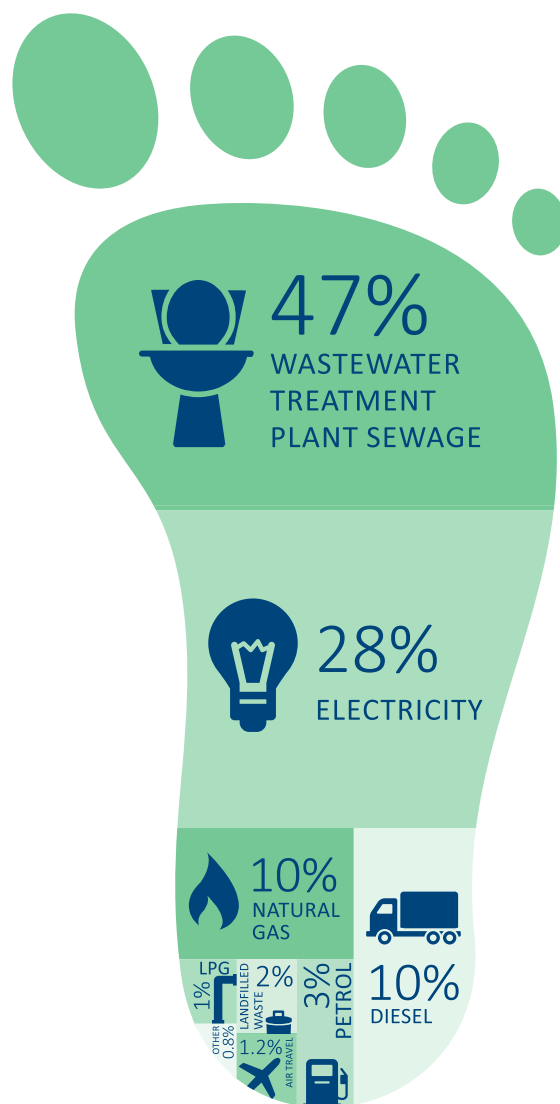
In preparation for the development of this strategy, the Council undertook a carbon footprint. This showed that in 2017/18, Whakatāne District Council was responsible for 3,292 tonnes of CO₂e¹² gross emissions.

The large majority of the Council's emissions come from wastewater treatment plants. This is because the Council is accounting for the emissions from all wastewater-connected households in the district. Council's wastewater consents expire in 2026, and work is underway to understand upgrades that will be required as part of this process. Sustainability and carbon emissions will be a consideration as part of these projects.

Energy consumption through electricity and natural gas makes up almost 40% of the Council's emissions. Energy is required for administrative functions and a large range of public facilities and services. The Council now has a large focus on energy management, and is starting to see some savings emerge.

Diesel accounts for 10% of the Council's footprint. The Council owns about 90 vehicles, including large machinery for mowing and vegetation control across the district. The Council is considering options for converting some of the corporate fleet to electric vehicles where possible.

We have identified many opportunities to reduce our emissions going forward. These are included in our climate change action plans.



GROSS CARBON FOOTPRINT
3,292.37 tCO₂e

WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL
CARBON FOOTPRINT 2017/18

¹² CO₂e, or carbon dioxide equivalent, is a measure for how much global warming a given type and amount of greenhouse gas causes, using the equivalent amount of carbon dioxide as the reference.

Whakatāne District Council's role

Te mahi a te Kaunihera o Whakatāne

We have been considering climate change and its impacts for some time, including through our Infrastructure Strategy, District Plan, and a range of specific projects. As a Council, we have specific responsibilities to consider the impacts of climate change and to promote social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being. These responsibilities help to outline our role in responding to this complex issue.

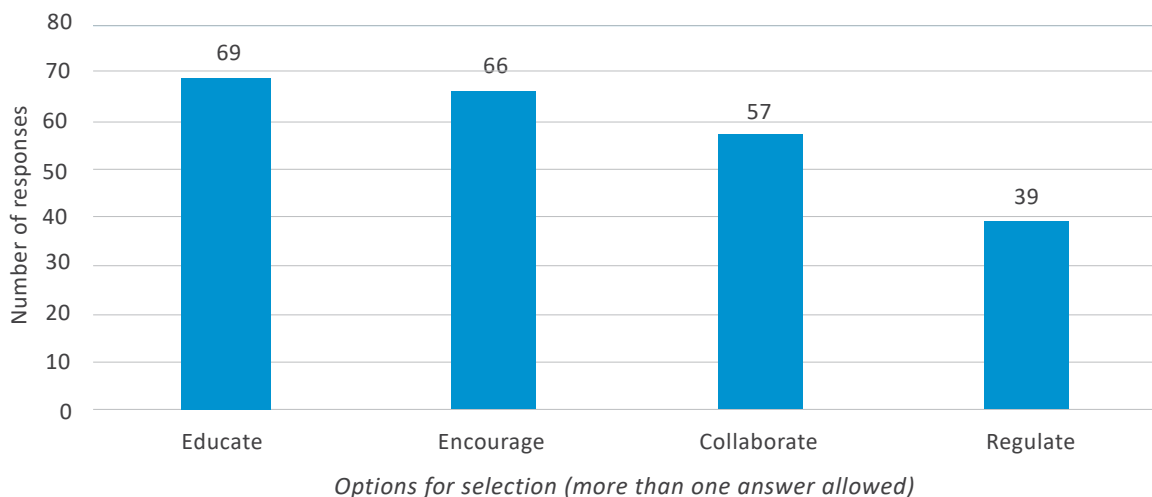
In 2017, we signed the New Zealand Local Government Leaders' Climate Change Declaration. This committed us to develop and implement ambitious action plans that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support resilience within Council and for our local communities. It also committed us to work with our communities to understand, prepare for and respond to the physical impacts of climate change, and with Central Government to deliver on national emission reduction targets and support resilience in our communities.

After signing the declaration, we started a specific climate change project, and have adopted a set of climate change principles to guide our work. The principles are summarised on the next page. More information about our climate change project is available at whakatane.govt.nz/climate-change.

We have heard very clearly from the community that climate change is an important issue to residents across our District. When we talked to the community about our Draft Climate Change Principles in 2019, about 800 people were directly involved, and the community provided over 1,100 pieces of feedback about climate change. Our draft Climate Change Strategy was shaped by that feedback. We then incorporated feedback on the draft Strategy into this final version.

Education is a key component of delivering on our climate change aspirations. We need to continue to learn more about climate change as an organisation, as well as share, encourage and enable community education on this evolving topic. The feedback we received from the community on this strategy clearly identified 'education' as a priority role for the Council, as shown by the chart below.

Whakatāne District Council's role in increasing the community resilience to climate change (adaption) should be...



Our Climate Change Principles

Ngā Mātāpono Huringa Āhuarangi

The Local Government New Zealand Leaders' [Climate Change Declaration](#) sets out seven principles to provide guidance for decision-making on climate change. We have adopted a version of these principles, along with some additional guiding statements, to ensure that climate change is considered in all of our decision-making. This page provides an overview of the seven principles. You can view the full climate change principles document on our website: whakatane.govt.nz/climate-change



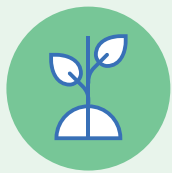
1. We will act now

Ka mahi mātou ināianei



5. We will learn

Ka ako mātou



2. We will care for and protect the environment

Ka manaaki, ka tiaki mātou i te taiao



6. We will be part of the solution

Ka āwhina mātou ki te whakatika i ngā raru



3. We will acknowledge those most affected

Ka mihi mātou ki a rātou kua pā mārika i ngā take Huringa Āhuarangi



7. We will build capacity to recover from difficulties

Ka whakakaha mātou i a tātou



4. We will think and act long term

Ka whakaaro pae tawhiti, ka mahi pae tawhiti mātou

Our Climate Change Targets

Ngā whāinga tiritiringa Huringa Āhuarangi

We have set the below targets to achieve through our Climate Change Project. Some of the targets are specifically for us as an organisation. Other targets are for the District, or show how we will work with the community and with our contractors. The actions we will take to reach these targets are set out in our Climate Change Action Plans. Council aims to achieve the short/medium term targets through the specific actions identified in the Action Plans, whilst the long term targets set an aspirational target for the Council and the community to work towards. There is more information about the Action Plans on the next page.

When we engaged with the community on these targets, the main comment raised was a concern about what is achievable for the Council and what the cost implications are. However, when asked about the level of financial commitment for climate change mitigation, 55% of respondents selected the option 'the Council should invest now in an effort to achieve our emission reduction targets as this needs to be a priority.'

Targets		Adaptation	Mitigation
Short/medium term (2020-24)	Organisation	Will make sound planning decisions in consideration of the likely effects of climate change.	Will reduce its carbon footprint by 15% by 2022, excluding biogenic methane ¹³ and nitrous oxide. ¹⁴
	District	Will develop a matrix to identify the communities most at risk from climate-related natural hazards by 2022.	* Progress towards long-term district target
Long term (2025-50)	Organisation	Will ensure infrastructure is resilient to the effects of climate change.	Will be a net carbon zero organisation by 2030, excluding biogenic methane and nitrous oxide.
			Organisational biogenic methane emissions reduction of 24% to 47% by 2050
		Will realise our climate change vision by delivering on our climate change principles.	
	District	Will develop community-led adaptation plans for the communities most at risk from climate change by 2025.	Net carbon zero district by 2030, excluding biogenic methane and nitrous oxide.
		District biogenic methane emissions reduction of; (i) 10% by 2030; and (ii) 24% to 47% by 2050.	
	Will actively prepare for a changing climate.		

For more information on these targets, see our targets fact sheet on our climate change project page whakatane.govt.nz/climate-change

¹³ Biogenic methane is produced from biological (plant and animal) sources. Biogenic methane is emitted by livestock, waste treatment and wetlands, for example. mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/climate-change-guidance/about-methane-and-other-major-greenhouse-gases (accessed 9 July, 2020)

¹⁴ Nitrous oxide is emitted from breakdown of animal dung and urine in soil. toitu.co.nz/tools-and-resources/faqs-and-glossary/glossary (accessed 9 July, 2020)

Climate Change Action Plans

Ngā Mahere Mahi Huringa Āhuarangi



I want you to act like you would in a crisis. I want you to act like your house is on fire, because it is.

— Greta Thunberg



We have developed a set of Action Plans to list the steps we will take to reach the targets in this Strategy. Our actions have been identified through the Council's Climate Change Project, energy management programme, Toitū carbonreduce certification, and feedback from the community. This includes feedback received during conversations about our Climate Change Principles, through an online Climate Change survey in 2019, at the Youth Strikes for Climate, at Envirohub's Sustainable Backyards months in 2019 and 2020 and engagement on our draft Strategy and Action Plans in August 2020.

There are separate action plans for six key focus areas, and while each has specific outcomes and goals, there are many connections and opportunities that work across more than one action plan. Our action plans are 'living documents' which will be continuously updated over time.

These Action Plans are now feeding through into Council's planning processes, ensuring that actions identified are being incorporated in Council's Asset Management Plans, Infrastructure Strategy and Long Term Plan 2021-31. This strategy will be reviewed every three years in line with the Council's Long Term Plan planning cycle.

For the complete action plans, visit whakatane.govt.nz/climate-change.



Leadership and collaboration

Hautūtanga me te mahi tahi

Outcomes

1. The Council shows climate change leadership, working in partnership with local iwi, key stakeholders, and our communities to address the challenge of climate change.
2. The community has an increased understanding of climate change, and takes an active role in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Goals

1. Align the Council's culture, key documents and decisions with our Climate Change Principles
2. Build the Council's organisational knowledge about climate change, mitigation and adaptation
3. Collaborate with stakeholders, partners and the community, for a unified approach to the climate crisis
4. Build community awareness about matters relating to climate change, including the Council's response



Transport *Waka*

Outcomes

1. Reduce transport-related carbon emissions
2. Improve the resilience of transport infrastructure

Goals

1. Promote travel efficiency
2. Enable and encourage active transport
3. Increase low carbon transport options
4. Manage climate change risks to existing transport infrastructure
5. Build future transport infrastructure for a changing climate

Council Transport Target

20% reduction in the Council's total purchased petrol and diesel by 2021 (compared to 2017/18).



Energy *Pūngao*

Outcomes

1. Reduce energy-related carbon emissions
2. Build energy supply resilience of the Whakatāne District

Goals

1. Enhance energy efficiency
2. Encourage low carbon energy options
3. Encourage the development of resilient low carbon energy options

Council Energy Target

Ensure Council delivers the benefits of 1 GWH p.a. energy savings by June 2022 (based on June 2017 to May 2018 baseline).



Water services Ratonga wai

Outcomes

1. Reduce the adverse environmental impacts and greenhouse gas emissions from existing water and wastewater services.
2. Ensure the resilience of our water supply and wastewater (sewerage) infrastructure

Goals

1. Manage water responsibly and sustainably
2. Reduce and manage greenhouse gas emissions from water supply and wastewater services
3. Manage climate change risks to existing water supply and wastewater services
4. Incorporate climate change considerations into future water supply and wastewater services



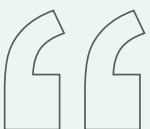
Waste and circular economies Para me te Ōhanga āmiomio

Outcomes

1. Reduce waste-related carbon emissions
2. Ensure the resilience of our waste infrastructure

Goals

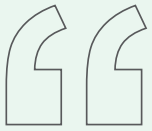
1. Reduce the amount of waste generated by the Council
2. Move community waste patterns up the waste hierarchy
3. Reduce waste transportation emissions
4. Manage climate change risks to existing and future waste services



Climate change is an issue that requires community discussion and affirmative direction and leadership by those in power.

— Whakatāne District resident





I think that all of the actions have their own importance and so should collectively be pushed through. However any actions that are the easiest to implement, require the least resources and staff, could be prioritized first as this would mean quick progress can be made and will show the community that Council are taking things seriously.

— Whakatāne District resident



Land use and the built environment

Whenua me te taiao waihanga

Outcomes:

1. Land use activities are resilient to anticipated climate change impacts.
2. Improve the resilience of community infrastructure.
3. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions as a result of land use and building activities.

Goals:

1. Identify, understand and reduce climate change risk to existing building and infrastructure including stormwater services, the airport and wharf assets, community buildings such as halls, public toilets, the Civic Centre, museum and library.
2. Enhance resilience through land use decisions
3. Recognise cultural heritage and values in land use decisions
4. Promote a built environment which is resilient to climate change impacts
5. Care for biodiversity and ecosystems, and protect them from the impacts of climate change.
6. Promote low emission and sustainable land use, building practises and day-to-day operations



I'm a student so I'm going to be around for a while and I don't want to live in a world where we're doing nothing about climate change, and I think it's important for future generations.

— Whakatāne District resident



Measuring the success of this strategy

E arotake ana i te angitūtanga o tēnei rautaki

This strategy applies to all Whakatāne District Council activities and operations, as part of applying a climate change lens to all levels of decision-making. Internal promotion of the strategy will be undertaken to ensure consideration of climate change is embedded throughout all Council business and day-to-day activities.

The six action plans that support this strategy include specific short, medium and long-term actions. We will monitor progress against these and celebrate our steps in the right direction as we move towards our targets.

The Council's Strategy and Policy Committee will receive quarterly updates on actions completed, and annual updates on progress towards the targets set out in this strategy.

A report on the climate change project will also be included in the annual report following each financial year.

Strategy review

Te arotake rautaki

Due to the broad nature of this strategy and the impact it has across all of Council's operations and activities, this strategy will be reviewed every three years (or earlier if required). The quickly evolving information about climate change and its global impacts requires targets to be continually reviewed.

Future reviews will involve key local stakeholders in the process and give consideration to their policies and objectives. All reviews will be in line with Central Government's carbon budgets and New Zealand's national targets under the Paris Agreement.



“ Educate both
the young
and the old. ”



Your feedback has shaped this Climate Change Strategy. To stay informed about our Climate Change Project, visit whakatane.govt.nz/climate-change.

Our community
said...

“ I think we should be doing everything
we can to avoid climate change or
slow it down at the very least. ”

“ I hope we, as people in our own lives,
contribute in small ways like using public
transport, planting our own trees and generally
being responsible for our actions. As if we do
not try as individuals, nothing will change.
We can't just rely on the government. ”

“ If we are to limit warming to
1.5 degrees, this requires
transformation - across all sectors. ”