

WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2024-27

Our Climate Pathway

He Rongoā Āhuarangi



He panehe toki, ka tū te tangitangi kai

A small axe with perseverance can tackle a big obstacle.

Our whakataukī reflects metaphorically that the small steps we take are important, and through collaboration, perseverance and many small actions, collectively we can tackle the large challenge that faces our district. This encourages us all to make an effort to address our behaviours, to nurture the taiao (environment).

A pathway for our district

Te ara whakamua



Responding to the impacts of climate change on the district and doing our bit to reduce future climate change impacts is the responsibility of each of us, individually and collectively. Therefore, this document presents Whakatāne District's first community climate strategy – Our Climate Pathway.

This strategy seeks to carve a pathway for us to work together as one, to shape sustainable, low-emission, climate resilient communities, and has been informed by feedback from our community. The pathway includes targets and actions for the community to work towards together. In recognition of Whakatāne District Council's leadership role in the district, this pathway includes specific targets and actions for the Whakatāne District Council to work towards.

Working together on 'Our' Climate Pathway

Throughout this document 'we' and 'our' includes the Whakatāne District community as a whole.



This document is supported by extensive documentation available on Council's website.
whakatane.govt.nz/climate-change

Message from the Mayor

He kupu nā te Koromatua



I would like to thank those from our community who have collaborated to develop this document for their hard work, dedication and wisdom. Over the last year, Council has been working with members of a Climate Change Community Panel, Youth Panel, Technical Advisory Group and Steering Group, which has resulted in a pathway for the district that seeks to balance community, industry and science.

We know the sooner the world transitions away from a fossil fuel based society, the less we humans will need to adapt to the impacts of a changing climate and fewer devastating extreme weather events that will ultimately impact our communities. The effects of climate change will be felt across our communities and reach into homes, neighbourhoods, and businesses. We can build resilience, capacity to recover from difficulties, and prepare for change, but to be effective we must act together.

As Mayor of the Whakatāne District, I have aspirations regarding how, by working together, we can make a step-change in our emissions profile as a district and increase our resilience.

As a community we need to work together to support initiatives such as:

- Greater uptake of solar power and smarter more resilient energy systems in our communities.
- Working in partnership throughout the district to support a 'just transition'.
- Increasing climate change awareness and education, ensuring people have the knowledge and power to take action.
- Creating a fund that community groups can apply to, with an aim of supporting community climate action.
- Developing community-led plans to respond to the effects of a changing climate on our most vulnerable communities.

The Council will continue to lead by example through:

- Embracing solar power on Council facilities.
- Ensuring climate change is a key consideration in all Council work.
- Transitioning the fleet of Council vehicles to low-carbon options.
- Continuing to manage Council's energy use.
- Increasing the resilience of essential Council infrastructure to the impacts of climate change.

As a district, we've had our fair share of natural disasters. As I reflect on the severe weather events that have affected our communities, I'm concerned to think about the frequency and severity of these events increasing due to our changing climate. Let it not take a crisis to make us act with urgency.

We still have a long way to go as a district, and to truly make a difference, we must all be part of the solution. This document seeks to carve a pathway for us all to work together as one, to shape sustainable, low-emission climate resilient communities.

Whakatāne District Mayor, Dr Victor Luca

The Whakatāne District Council's climate journey

Te haerenga āhuarangi o te Kaunihera

Whakatāne District Council has been on a climate change journey since 2017 when the Mayor of the time signed the New Zealand Local Government Leaders' Climate Change Declaration. In 2019, following extensive community consultation, Council adopted a set of Climate Principles and in 2020, following further consultation, Council adopted the first Climate Change Strategy and Action Plans. As a result of strong community demand, the Climate Change Strategy 2020-23 set ambitious targets for both the Council as an organisation, and the wider Whakatāne District. As a Council, Whakatāne was recognised in the local government sector as one of the forerunners in the climate space. But the Council knows that there is so much more to do, and whilst we start from a strong base, delivery on significant action is needed to make a meaningful difference for our communities.

The Council has worked collaboratively with the community to produce a strategy for the whole district, which Council can work towards alongside community groups, partners, organisations and everyone in the District. The Council now adopts Our Climate Pathway as the strategy that will guide the Council's Climate Change Programme, superseding the Climate Change Strategy 2020-23.

This strategy and 'our climate change action plan' include a broad range of actions. Some of which will be led and delivered by the Council, others that will be initiated and driven by the community and many that will involve a collective effort. The Council is committed to work towards and support many of the actions identified, but acknowledges that not all actions are currently funded within existing budgets. The Council is committed to identifying opportunities to fund and deliver its part in the actions that have been identified and prioritised through this collaborative process.






What a changing climate will mean for the Whakatāne District

Ngā whakaaweawetanga o te huringa āhuarangi ki te rohe nei

Climate is about so much more than just weather. For us as a community, the things we love about this place we call home are at risk, including swimming in our waterways, our cultural taonga and historic places, tramping in our bush, fishing in our ocean, abundant food production, even the homes we live in. Our climate directly impacts on our local culture, economy, wellbeing, health and environment.




The Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana, in collaboration with councils in the region, have commissioned a Regional Risk Assessment, to help show how a changing climate may look for the Whakatāne District.

Summary of projected changes to the Whakatāne climate by 2090¹:

Climate hazard/ variable	RCP 4.5 (2090)	RCP 8.5 (2090)	Sub-district variation
Air temperature 	↑ 1 - 1.5°C *	↑ 2.5 - 3°C*	Consistent mean temperature increases within Whakatāne District.
Hot days 	↑ 20 - 40 more hot days	↑ 40 - 90 more hot days	↑ ↑ Most of Whakatāne District is projected to experience large increases in number of hot days, particularly along the Rangitāiki and Tarawera Rivers.
Drought 	↑ 80 - 14mm of Potential Evaporation Deficit (PED) (coastal) ↑ 60 - 100mm of PED (inland)	↑ 120 - 160mm of PED (coastal and Rangitāiki River) ↑ 60 - 120mm of PED (elevated)	Coastal Whakatāne District and inland areas surrounding the Rangitāiki River are projected to experience relatively large increases in of PED (which indicates an increased potential for drought).

¹ Bay of Plenty Regional Risk Assessment: <https://www.boprc.govt.nz/environment/climate-change/regional-risk-assessment>

* Mean temperature increases relative to recent 1986 - 2005 baseline

Climate hazard/ variable	RCP 4.5 (2090)	RCP 8.5 (2090)	Sub-district variation
Frost days 	↓ 2 - 6 days (coastal areas) ↓ ↓ 2 - 5 days (inland)	↑ 6 - 8 days (coastal areas) ↑ ↑ 4 - 30 days (inland)	Inland elevated areas experience the greatest number of frost days at present and are projected to experience the greatest in frost days in future.
Rainfall 	↑ 0 - 8% increase in winter rainfall ↓ 0 - 10% decrease in spring rainfall	↑ 2.8% increase in winter rainfall ↓ 4 - 10% decrease in spring and summertime rainfall	↑ Winter rainfall increases the most near the coast. ↓ Summer rainfall decreases the most inland areas. Extreme rainfall events across the region are projected to become three times more frequent under RCP 8.5.
Sea level rise 	↑ 0.55 m	↑ 0.74 m	Vertical land movement (VLM) may influence the effect of sea level rise on land areas as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ōtamarākau approx. +2.8mm/year (uplift) • Matatā approx. -3mm/year (subsidence) • Whakatāne and Ōhiwa Harbour +/- 1mm/ year (neutral)

Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) is a greenhouse gas concentration trajectory adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the two scenarios used in this modelling include the 'Fossil-fuel intensive scenario' (RCP8.5) and the 'Middle of the road scenario' (RCP4.5). Refer to the Bay of Plenty Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment -District Summaries for more information.

Snapshot of climate change hazards in the Whakatāne District

He whakarāpopototanga o ngā matepā huringa āhuarangi i te rohe o Whakatāne

KEY ● Marae locations — State Highway ++ Railway ■ River and surface flooding ■ Coastal flooding

ELEMENTS AT RISK

Communities and settlements

Whakatāne and other coastal settlements within Whakatāne District may be exposed to increasing coastal hazards.

Horticulture

Kiwifruit and avocado orchards on the Rangitāiki Plains may face increased flooding, groundwater rise and salinity stress. Orchards may also suffer from reduced winter chill, drought and increasing damage from severe weather.

Agriculture

Farms on the Rangitāiki Plains may face increased flooding, increasing heat stress and increased pests and diseases.

Forestry

Kāingaroa Forest is at risk of damage from increasing extreme weather, drought, landslides and fire risk, as well as disruption to logging connections due to flooding of transport routes.

Native ecosystems

Native forests within Te Urewera ranges and the frost flats are at risk from increasing temperatures. Increasing rainfall may increase sediment in rivers and cause sediment plumes to discharge, causing damage to coastal ecosystems.

Transport

The roading network may face increasing damage and disruption from inundation, surface flooding, landslides, slips and sea level rise closing or damaging many rural roads, State Highway 2, low lying roads (such as Wainui and Thornton Roads), bridge structures and culverts, increasing disruptions and maintenance costs and leading to people being isolated. The Murupara and Matatā rail lines and the Whakatāne Airport may also face increased damage and disruption.

HAZARDS

☀ Increased temperature
 🌳 Drought

🔥 Increased fire weather
 🌊 Coastal hazards
 🌊 Inland flooding

☁ Extreme weather
 🏠 Landslide

Adapted from Bay of Plenty Regional Risk Assessment: www.boprc.govt.nz/environment/climate-change/regional-risk-assessment

* This map does not represent a comprehensive identification of locations of hazards and elements at risk for the district.

How we're contributing to a changing climate

Ā tātau tāpaetanga ki te whakaiti i te tapuwae waro

As a district, we all have a role to play in looking to reduce our individual and collective footprint. This document seeks to outline a pathway to reducing our emissions, collaboratively.

Whakatāne District emissions

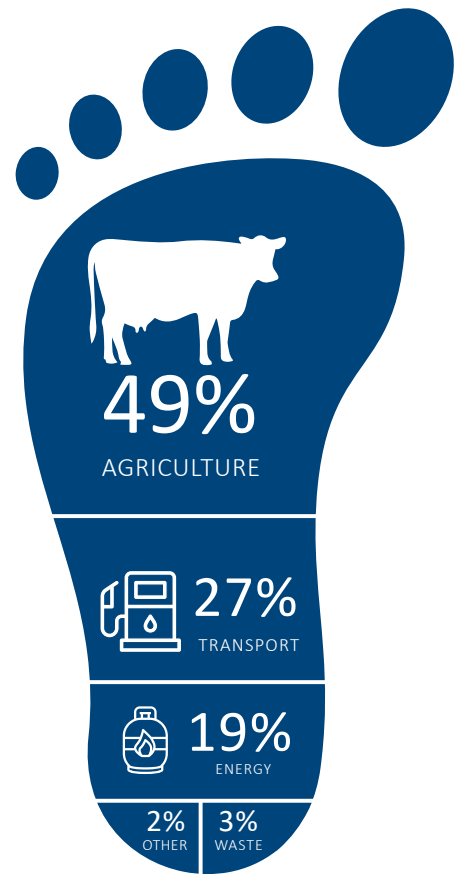
Ngā tukunga parakino o Whakatāne

The district's emission profile was steadily increasing between 2016 and 2019, however the impact of COVID-19 on our District resulted in a reduction in emissions, particularly in the transport and agriculture sectors in 2020. Agriculture emissions reduced due to a reduction in live-stock during this period.

As a percentage of the District's emissions, agriculture has reduced from 55 percent in 2016, to 49 percent in 2021. More recent data is not yet available to understand how this trend will continue.

The Whakatāne District Community Carbon Footprint Report is part of a wider collaborative project across Bay of Plenty councils to identify the regional carbon footprint.

Copies of the [District Footprint Report](#) are available on [Whakatāne District Council website](#).

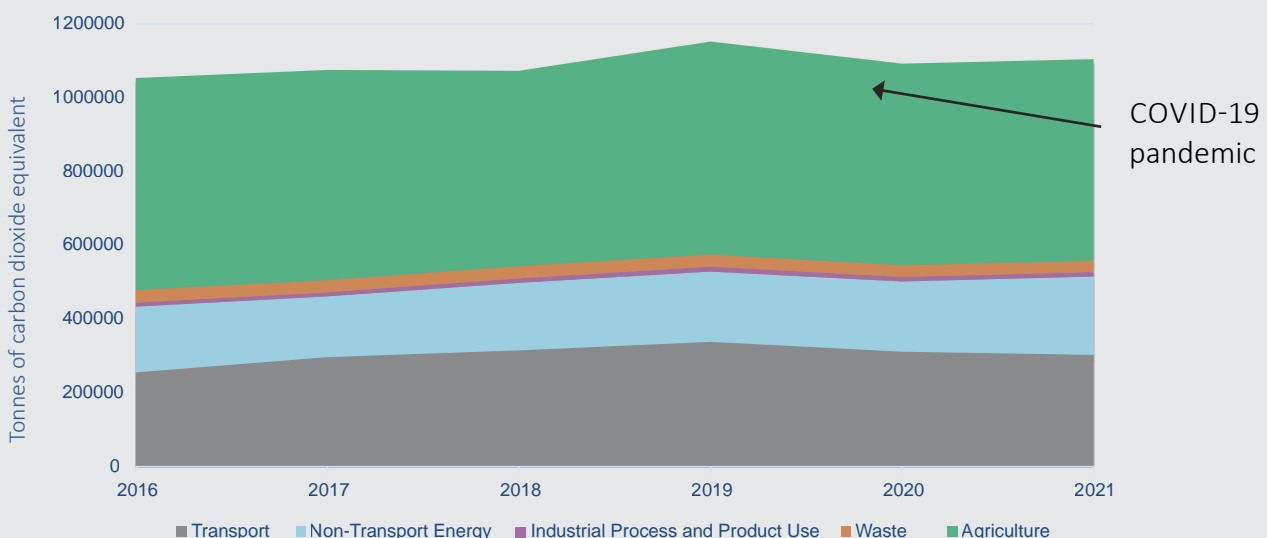


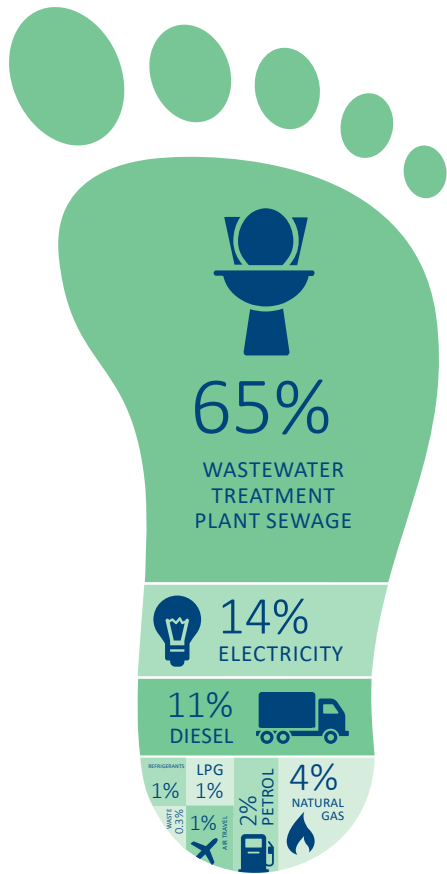
WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT EMISSIONS

Gross carbon footprint. 1,103,952 (tCO₂e*) 2021

*Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent

Whakatāne District Gross Emissions





Whakatāne District Council emissions

Ngā tukunga parakino o te Kaunihera

Council emissions are a subset of the wider district footprint. The Council has been recording its organisation emissions since 2018. New emission sources were added to Council’s emission inventory in 2022, accounting for a large increase in emissions. The largest increase was the result of a significant forestry harvest.

Emissions from the district’s wastewater treatment plants continue to be the organisations largest source of emissions, increasing from 54 percent in 2018, to 65 percent of Council’s emissions in 2023. Council has achieved significant reduction in energy emissions over recent years due to an active Energy Management Programme.

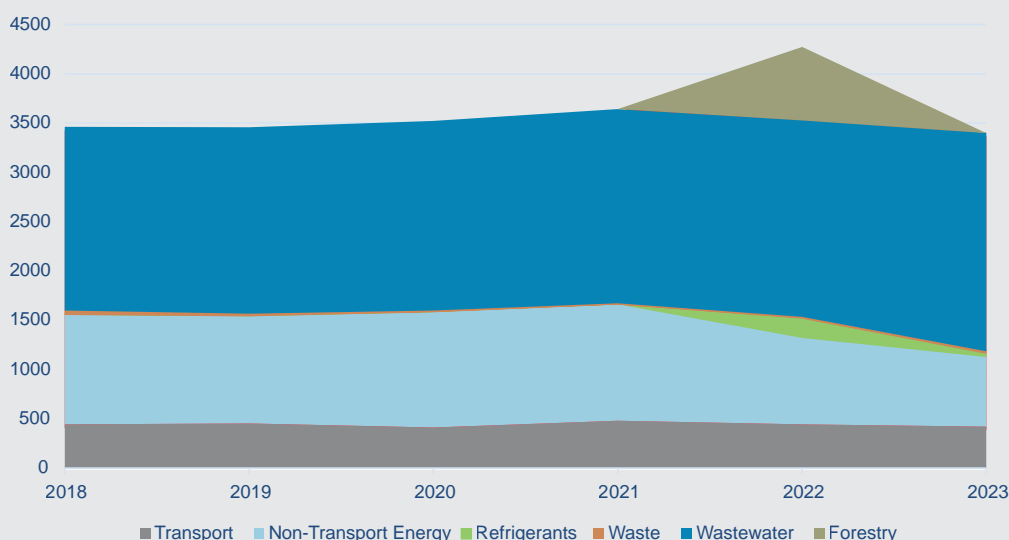
WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL EMISSIONS

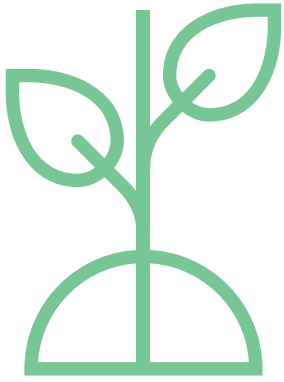
Gross carbon footprint. 3,403 (tCO₂e*)2023

*Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent

Copies of the Council Footprint Report are available on our website whakatane.govt.nz/climate-change

Whakatāne District Council Gross Emissions





Our strategic framework

Te pou tarāwaho rautaki

As a community climate pathway, this framework is for the whole district. These goals and principles can be adopted by everyone, from whānau, businesses, schools to community groups. By acting together, we can work towards achieving our vision.

Our vision / *Matakitenga*

Mahi tahi/working together towards sustainable, low emission, climate resilient hapori/communities.

Our purpose / *Te take*

Collaborate and build capacity to enable climate change mitigation and adaptation action across our hapori/communities.

Our goals

Ngā whāinga

1. We all understand and are able to act on climate change and its impacts.
2. We have prioritised a just transition to low emissions.
3. We will continue to adapt, to reduce the effects of climate change.

Our principles / *Ngā mātāpono*



Act with urgency

Ka mahi nonoi



Listen, learn and adapt

Ka whakarongo, ka ako, ka urutau



Acknowledge, care for, and support those most affected

Ka taunaki i a rātou kua pā mārika i ngā take huringa āhuarangi



Be part of the solution

Ka āwhina i te whakautu



Care for and protect the environment

Ka manaaki, ka tiaki i te taiao



Build resilience to a changing climate

Ka whakakaha i te aumangea ki te huringa o te āhuarangi



Think and act long term

Ka whakaaro pae tawhiti, ka mahi pae tawhiti

Our climate change targets

Ngā whāinga tiritiringa Huringa Āhuarangi

The tables over the following pages provide targets for the community to work towards to help deliver on the climate goals. The 'key actions' column outlines those actions that have been prioritised for collective action to address the targets. There are many more actions in our climate change action plan, for the community to work towards to achieve our community vision of; mahi tahi/ working together to shape sustainable, low-emission, resilient hapori/communities.

The action plan is a living document, meaning it will be updated over time, and is available at whakatane.govt.nz/climate-change.

The emission reduction targets outlined in the tables below are ambitious and based on the Climate Change Commission's demonstration path. The key actions outlined in this strategy alone will not achieve the targets. These targets will only be achieved through a collaborative, whole of community response, supported by the right technology, policy, and social environment.



TARGET TABLES KEY:

\$ = low cost (<\$10k)

\$\$ = medium cost (\$10k > 50k)

\$\$\$ = high cost (>\$50k)

 = short term (1-3 years)  = medium term (4-6 years)

 = long term (7-10 years)  = ongoing

Italics Signifies not currently funded through Council's Long Term Plan 2024-34.

(#000) The number in brackets relates to the number in the Climate Action Plan.

Whakatāne District-wide targets

Ngā whāinga tiritiringa o te rohe whānui

TARGET	MEASURE	KEY ACTIONS
GOAL		
1. We all understand and are able to act on climate change and its impacts		
<p>Annual increase in community reporting that they regularly take transport action (2023 baseline - 26.5%). SUB-TARGET: Annual reduction in people who want to take (more) action on transport but report: 'not really sure how' (2023 baseline 4.44%) or 'lack of options' (2023 baseline 38.89%).</p> <hr/> <p>Increase in alternative or active modes of transport for students getting to school.</p> <hr/> <p>Increase in uptake of electric vehicles.</p>	<p>Community survey response to question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do you regularly take transport action? - What are your barriers to take (more) action on transport: 'not really sure how', or 'lack of options'. <p>School Travel Survey Report shows a decrease in the percentage of primary school children driven to school (2021 baseline 66%).</p> <p>Percentage of light vehicles in the district that are electric (12/2023 baseline 4%).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support initiatives such as e-bike library, bike maintenance workshops, Bike Month and support for 'Bikes in Schools', Bike Ready, Cycle Skills training. \$\$ 🚲 (#130) • Engage with Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Regional Transport Committee to advocate for enhanced, accessible, affordable, and low-emission public transport services. \$ 🚲 (#131) • Collaborate with the private sector and government to increase the number of strategically located EV charging stations and electric bike docks/charging stations throughout the district. \$ 🚲 (#138)
<p>Annual increase in community reporting that they regularly take waste action (2023 baseline - 55.6%). SUB-TARGET: Annual reduction in people who want to take (more) action on waste but report: 'not really sure how' (2023 baseline 28.57%) or 'lack of options' (2023 baseline 19.05%).</p> <hr/> <p>Whakatāne District will stay below 70% of the national average amount of waste sent to landfill per person.</p>	<p>Community survey response to question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do you regularly take waste action? - What are your barriers to take (more) action on waste: 'not really sure how', or 'lack of options'. <p>Amount of waste sent to landfill per person per year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate organic waste processing options. \$ 🗑️ (#229) • Support community-led composting, home composting workshops and subsidies. \$ 🗑️ (#89) • Education campaign regarding correct recycling. \$ 🗑️ (#93)
<p>Annual increase in community reporting that they regularly take shopping action (2023 baseline - 36.1%). Sub-target: Annual reduction in people who want to take (more) action on shopping but report: 'not really sure how' (2023 baseline 19.75%) or 'lack of options' (2023 baseline 30.86%).</p>	<p>Community survey response to question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do you regularly take shopping action? - What are your barriers to take (more) action on shopping: 'not really sure how', or 'lack of options'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support community-led 'buy local' and 'shop seasonally' campaigns. \$ 🛒 (#2) • Running educational campaigns through Council's social media to the community annually, for example actions that can be taken at home, i.e. FutureFit and GenLess. \$ 🛒 (#31)

TARGET	MEASURE	KEY ACTIONS
<p>Annual increase in community reporting that they regularly take food action (2023 baseline - 41.4%).</p> <p>Sub-target: Annual reduction in people who want to take (more) action on food but report:</p> <p>‘not really sure how’ (2023 baseline 17.39%) or ‘lack of options’ (2023 baseline 15.94%).</p>	<p>Community survey response to question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do you regularly take food action? - What are your barriers to take (more) action on food: ‘not really sure how’, or ‘lack 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support community groups encouraging plant based diets- providing education regarding affordable plant based choices. \$ 🌱 (#3) • Support community groups who are promoting food growing at home/marae, including seed swaps, vegetable garden workshops, compost workshops. Including groups building vegetable gardens. \$ 🌱 (#194) • Identify ways to support local food growers and promote buying-local, including supporting local farmers markets. \$ 🌱 (#195)
<p>Annual increase in community reporting that they regularly take energy action (2023 baseline – 34.9%).</p> <p>SUB-TARGET: Annual reduction in people who want to take (more) action on energy but report:</p> <p>‘not really sure how’ (2023 baseline 31.03%) or ‘lack of options’ (2023 baseline 17.24%).</p> <p>Increase in the uptake of solar installations on homes and the total capacity of solar generation installed.</p>	<p>Community survey response to question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do you regularly take energy action? - What are your barriers to take (more) action on energy: ‘not really sure how’, or ‘lack of options’. <p>Total capacity of installed solar generation in the Eastern Bay (31/12/2023 baseline 3.049MW).</p> <p>Number of solar Installations on residential properties in the Eastern Bay (31/12/2023 baseline 569 ICPs).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make easily digestible, useful and relevant information available to the community to enhance awareness and knowledge regarding energy efficiency in the home, school, marae and workplace. \$ 🌱 (#56) • Investigate opportunities to collaborate with partners (including iwi) regarding Healthy Homes Programmes, home audits and investigate opportunities to support funding for home improvements. \$ 🌱 (#54) • Collaborate with relevant groups (building suppliers, community groups) to run energy efficiency workshops. \$ 🌱 (#59) • Advocate and facilitate through provision of information to encourage the community to transition from gas to electricity in buildings and facilities. \$ 🌱 (#76)
<p>Locally relevant, engaging and accurate information is readily available by December 2025.</p>	<p>Local risk assessment findings are published on Council’s website for local community by Dec 2025.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with business sectors to build sectorial awareness to projected climate impacts. For example supply chain, production and demand impacts. \$ 🌱 (#9) • Produce local climate projection and risk assessment information tailored at business to support decision-making and Council champion quality networking and sharing research and local information. \$\$ 🌱 (#10)



TARGET	MEASURE	KEY ACTIONS																																																				
GOAL 2. We have prioritised a just transition to low emissions																																																						
<p>Whakatāne District gross emissions excluding agriculture have reduced from 2021:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Reduction</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2027</td> <td>11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2030</td> <td>21%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2040</td> <td>60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2050</td> <td>82%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>SUB-TARGETS: Whakatāne District emissions have reduced from 2021:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Reduction</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2">Transport</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2027</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2030</td> <td>11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2040</td> <td>63%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2050</td> <td>90%</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Energy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2027</td> <td>26%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2030</td> <td>35%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2040</td> <td>60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2050</td> <td>80%</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Industrial Process and Product Use</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2027</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2030</td> <td>9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2040</td> <td>15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2050</td> <td>14%</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Waste</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2027</td> <td>15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2030</td> <td>23%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2040</td> <td>43%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2050</td> <td>56%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Reduction	2027	11%	2030	21%	2040	60%	2050	82%	Year	Reduction	Transport		2027	0%	2030	11%	2040	63%	2050	90%	Energy		2027	26%	2030	35%	2040	60%	2050	80%	Industrial Process and Product Use		2027	4%	2030	9%	2040	15%	2050	14%	Waste		2027	15%	2030	23%	2040	43%	2050	56%	<p>Whakatāne District transport emissions.</p> <p>Whakatāne District stationary/non-transport energy emissions.</p> <p>Whakatāne District Industrial Process and Product Use (IPPU) emissions.</p> <p>Whakatāne District waste emissions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Active Whakatāne Strategy. \$\$\$ 🔄 (#126) Work with rural communities to provide improved access and safety for our small townships/communities. \$\$\$ 🔄 (#127) Plan transportation investments with consideration for the expected alignment with the Emission Reduction Plan (ERP). \$ 🚫 (#125) Develop a parking strategy that gives priority to alternative transport methods, such as cycling and public transport. \$\$\$ 🔄 (#129) Share sector information (from NZ Green Building Council, MBIE, EECA) to businesses and developers regarding energy efficient buildings and new MBIE Building for climate regulations and promote relevant funding opportunities. \$ 🔄 (#53) Share information regarding the potential benefits for industry to adopt sustainable solutions such as industrial ecology to reduce energy and material consumption. \$ 🔄 (#227) Investigate options to incentivise localised low carbon energy generation. \$ 🔄 (#74) Share sector information (from NZ Green Building Council, MBIE, EECA) to businesses and developers regarding low Global Warming Potential (GWP) refrigerants. \$ 🔄 (#53) Through review of Waste Management and Minimisation Plan consider Improved/expanded recycling infrastructure. \$\$ 🔄 (#94) Implement the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) to reduce waste in the community. \$\$\$ 🔄 (#104) Investigate funding sources to support waste minimisation projects and align spending with the WMMP and future circular economy goals. \$ 🔄 (#107) Continue to support local waste minimisation projects that align with WMMP. \$\$\$ 🔄 (#109)
Year	Reduction																																																					
2027	11%																																																					
2030	21%																																																					
2040	60%																																																					
2050	82%																																																					
Year	Reduction																																																					
Transport																																																						
2027	0%																																																					
2030	11%																																																					
2040	63%																																																					
2050	90%																																																					
Energy																																																						
2027	26%																																																					
2030	35%																																																					
2040	60%																																																					
2050	80%																																																					
Industrial Process and Product Use																																																						
2027	4%																																																					
2030	9%																																																					
2040	15%																																																					
2050	14%																																																					
Waste																																																						
2027	15%																																																					
2030	23%																																																					
2040	43%																																																					
2050	56%																																																					



TARGET	MEASURE	KEY ACTIONS														
<p>Whakatāne District gross emissions including agriculture have reduced from 2021:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Reduction</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2027</td> <td>51%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>SUB-TARGETS: Whakatāne District agriculture emissions have reduced from 2021:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Reduction</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2027</td> <td>7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2030</td> <td>9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2040</td> <td>16%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2050</td> <td>19%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Reduction	2027	51%	Year	Reduction	2027	7%	2030	9%	2040	16%	2050	19%	<p>Whakatāne District agriculture emissions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunities to collaborate with agriculture industry to support emission reduction initiatives, that can enable a just transition for those relying on these industries. \$ 🕒 (#28)
Year	Reduction															
2027	51%															
Year	Reduction															
2027	7%															
2030	9%															
2040	16%															
2050	19%															
<p>Increase in community funding that support a just transition to low emissions.</p>	<p>Number of successful applications to a community fund that have an outcome of emission reduction within the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a targeted community fund in collaboration with community funders (i.e. Trust Horizon, Bay Trust) to support community-led climate action. \$\$ 🕒 (#36) 														





TARGET	MEASURE	KEY ACTIONS
GOAL 3. - We will continue to adapt, to reduce the effects of climate change		
District risk profile identified and communicated to community by December 2025.	Technical assessment of climate risks undertaken – by June 2025 Climate risks prioritised by June 2026.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine Council dynamic planning and risk management approaches. \$\$\$ 🕒 (#162) Develop Whakatāne District specific educational material including projected impact of climate change on the District and community risk profile, ensuring easily accessible, relevant and useful, including Te Reo Māori versions. \$\$ 🕒 (#32) Produce local climate projection and risk assessment information tailored at business to support decision-making. \$\$ 🕒 (#10) Implement process to monitor actual climate effects on an ongoing basis, to inform adaptation planning based on agreed triggers and thresholds for intervention. \$ 🕒 (#226) Climate change related risks in our District will be clearly communicated, so that our communities’ understanding and resilience to climate change impacts will increase over time. \$\$\$ 🕒 (#164) Climate change related risks in our District will be clearly identified and mapped. Providing a climate change evidence base and risk assessment to feed into future planning. \$\$\$ 🕒 (#161)
Initial community adaptation plans developed by December 2028 – noting that this work is ongoing.	Local community adaptation plans for priority risks developed by June 2027. Local adaptation plans incorporated into formal Council planning documents such as the Long Term Plan, District Plan, and Spatial Plan by June 2029.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Action Groups established for high risk communities. Strategies/community-led plans for individual communities developed. \$\$\$ 🕒 (#163) Recognise local adaptation plans in regional and local spatial strategies. 🕒 (#166) Identify budget requirements and timing for when adaptation plans commence, and recognise in future Long Term Plans as necessary. 🕒 (#167) Embedding climate change in District Plan, ensuring future development avoids areas most at risk. \$\$\$ 🕒 (#170)

Whakatāne District Council organisation targets

Ngā whāinga tiritiringa o Te Kaunihera ā-rohe o Whakatāne

While contributing to the district-wide targets, the Council has also set targets to work towards as an organisation to show leadership. Council will share learnings, and encourages other organisations to consider how they can also take action.

TARGET	MEASURE	KEY COUNCIL-LED ACTIONS
GOAL		
1. We all understand and are able to act on climate change and its impacts		
An internal Council climate policy is adopted and implemented by June 2025 that ensures climate change is embedded within the organisation.	An internal Council climate policy is adopted and implemented by June 2025.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an internal Council policy to ensure Our Climate Pathway goals, principles, and targets are included in all decision-making reports, project management and the development and review of; activity management plans; policies, bylaws and strategies; future reviews of the District Plan; and assumptions for climate change in the Long Term Plan. \$ 🕒 (#12) Measure and understand organisation carbon emissions. \$\$ 🕒 (#16)
Council's procurement policy review is complete by June 2025 - incorporating responsibilities on staff to incorporate environmental considerations into decisions.	Environmental considerations (including, but not limited to, carbon emissions, waste minimisation, and adaptation) are embedded into the policy and related operational documents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update procurement policy and procedures to include embedding carbon considerations and waste minimisation into procurement decisions; and estimating emissions impact of all major Council decisions. \$ 🕒 (#4)
All new staff have undergone a climate change learning module as part of their induction, within six months of employment, for all new starters after 1 July 2024.	Percentage of new staff who have undertaken the climate change eLearning module within six months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build staff knowledge regarding climate change, including; building on Council's e-learning portal to develop organisational awareness of climate change principles and targets. \$\$ 🕒 (#20)
50% of staff who have been working for the Council for more than six months have completed the climate change learning module by June 2025.	Percentage of staff who have undertaken the Climate change eLearning module.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build staff knowledge regarding climate change, including; building on Council's e-learning portal to develop organisational awareness of climate change principles and targets. \$\$ 🕒 (#20)



TARGET	MEASURE	KEY COUNCIL-LED ACTIONS
--------	---------	-------------------------

GOAL
2. We have prioritised a just transition to low emissions

Whakatāne District Council’s organisation gross emissions excluding wastewater have reduced from 2023:

Year	Reduction
2027	12%
2030	21%
2040	57%
2050	79%

SUB TARGETS: Whakatāne District Council emissions have reduced from 2023:

Year	Reduction
Transport	
2027	5%
2030	16%
2040	66%
2050	90%
Energy	
2027	16%
2030	25%
2040	54%
2050	77%
Industrial Process and Product Use	
2027	1%
2030	7%
2040	12%
2050	11%

Whakatāne District Council transport emissions.

- Install EV charging stations (superchargers) at Council facilities to support the use of electric vehicles. \$\$\$ (#142)
- Adopt an EV first/low emission policy to guide the transition to low-emission vehicles in the Council fleet. \$ (#140)
- Encourage low-travel options such as virtual meetings and webinars/virtual conference attendance. \$ (#116)
- Facilitate staff e-bike purchases. (#118)

Whakatāne District Council stationary/ non-transport energy emissions.

- Include energy efficiency as a criteria within Council’s procurement policy. \$ (#41)
- Advance opportunities to electrify Council operations where emission reductions can be achieved. \$\$\$ (#42)
- Retain Council’s Energy Management Programme. \$\$ (#43)
- Deliver energy efficient upgrades to assets identified through energy audits. \$\$\$ (#49)
- Deliver specific energy efficiency initiatives at Council facilities. \$\$\$ (#50)
- Ensure emissions is a key consideration in Three Waters projects. \$\$ (#206)

Whakatāne District Council Industrial Process and Product Use (IPPU) emissions.

- Deliver energy efficient upgrades to assets identified through energy audits, prioritising those that reduce emission of high Global Warming Potential (GWP) gases. \$\$\$ (#49)

TARGET	MEASURE	KEY COUNCIL-LED ACTIONS																				
<p>Sub target continued:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Waste</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2027</td> <td>11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2030</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2040</td> <td>40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2050</td> <td>54%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Waste		2027	11%	2030	20%	2040	40%	2050	54%	Whakatāne District Council waste emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct waste audits of Council facilities and develop internal waste data collection and monitoring systems to track and manage waste. \$🌱 (#105) Organic waste produced from Council operations composted. \$🌱 (#87) Raise internal organisation awareness of zero waste/ waste minimisation through internal awareness campaign. \$🌱 (#86) 										
Waste																						
2027	11%																					
2030	20%																					
2040	40%																					
2050	54%																					
<p>Whakatāne Council gross emissions including wastewater have reduced from 2023:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Reduction</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2027</td> <td>7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2030</td> <td>12%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2040</td> <td>29%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2050</td> <td>17%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Sub targets: Whakatāne Council wastewater emissions have reduced from 2023¹:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Reduction</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2027</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2030</td> <td>7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2040</td> <td>13%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2050</td> <td>17%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Reduction	2027	7%	2030	12%	2040	29%	2050	17%	Year	Reduction	2027	4%	2030	7%	2040	13%	2050	17%	Whakatāne District Council wastewater emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Ensure emissions is a key consideration in Three Waters projects, including; apply carbon calculator options to new projects; and consider greenhouse gas reduction opportunities alongside wastewater upgrades required to achieve new discharge consents.</i> \$\$🌱 (#206)
Year	Reduction																					
2027	7%																					
2030	12%																					
2040	29%																					
2050	17%																					
Year	Reduction																					
2027	4%																					
2030	7%																					
2040	13%																					
2050	17%																					

¹ **Note,** Council is required to undertake significant upgrades to wastewater treatment to achieve new consent requirements. Until these works are carried out, reduction in emissions is unlikely to be achieved. These targets will be updated alongside the 2027 review of this strategy once more work has been done to quantify potential emission reduction from proposed upgrades.

TARGET	MEASURE	KEY COUNCIL-LED ACTIONS
GOAL		
3. We will continue to adapt, to reduce the effects of climate change		
Ongoing effects of climate change on Council assets and Infrastructure is known by June 2025.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change related risks in the district will be clearly identified and mapped. Providing a climate change evidence base and risk assessment to feed into future planning. \$\$\$ 🕒 (#161) Identify at risk and vulnerable water supply and wastewater infrastructure susceptible to various climate change models. \$\$ 🕒 (#225) Identify vulnerable transport infrastructure and take measures to enhance their resilience. \$\$\$ 🕒 (#156)
Adaptation planning for Council infrastructure in place and incorporated into asset management planning and Long Term Plan by June 2027.	Put in place a robust planning framework and make robust decisions considering ongoing effects of climate change by June 2027.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine Council dynamic planning and risk management approaches. \$\$\$ 🕒 (#162) Incorporating climate change into asset management planning, considering protection, retreat, design, capacity (e.g. stormwater pipe size). \$\$\$ 🕒 (#157) Development of hydraulic models and combine with best available data into one database to inform future planning and continue to enhance asset management systems. \$\$ 🕒 (#219) Integrate climate change risk management considerations into the planning, ongoing operations, and infrastructure renewal of the transport network. \$ 🕒 (#153)
Adaptation plans implemented, monitored, reviewed and updated by December 2030.	Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of climate impacts by December 2030.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise or mitigate risk to Council infrastructure from climate change, prioritising essential services. \$\$\$ 🕒 (#158)

Ensuring success

Whakaūngia te angitu

This is Whakatāne District's first community pathway and it defines a pathway for us all to follow together.



Responsibility for delivering on the goals and actions of this plan do not sit with one group, person or organisation. However, the Whakatāne District Council acknowledges its role in leading the community on this journey and has committed to ongoing climate action and leadership. Delivering on Council-led actions in this plan is a key component of the Council's long-term plans. While the journey may not be a straight line, this plan will provide a clear pathway, direction and vision to work towards over time.

Reporting *Ngā pūrongo*

Monitoring and reporting progress towards the targets in this plan, and the actions taken along the journey, will be undertaken by the Council and reported back to the community through the Council's Environment, Energy and Resilience Committee. Six monthly reporting on delivery of the action plan will be made available on Council's website.

Review of Strategy - 2027 *Te arotakenga o te Rautaki*

Climate science, transition tools, political and social change and technology is evolving at such a fast pace that the district's response must continue to be regularly reviewed.

This strategy and its targets will be reviewed by June 2027, to ensure it remains relevant, current and effective. This review will include three yearly reporting of targets to inform the review process. The review will also help to inform the Council's next Long Term Plan 2027-37.

Our Climate Action Plan 2024-34 *Mahere Hohenga Āhuarangi*

This strategy is supported by our Climate Action Plan 2024-34. This list was developed utilising input from community consultation, iwi management plans, national and international examples, technical reports and Council's previous Climate Change Action Plans. This climate action plan includes actions that the whole community can take and is a living document that will develop overtime as appropriate. While not all actions are currently budgeted or committed to be delivered, the list will help guide future action and provide an opportunity for new collaboration and community wide action. If you have actions that you and your community are working towards, these can be included in the action plan by contacting the Council at info@whakatane.govt.nz.

Supporting information *Ngā tuhinga taunaki*

This document is supported by extensive documentation included on the Council's website: whakatane.govt.nz/climate-change. In addition to information relied upon in the development of this document, this website also provides updates on Council's involvement with this climate change programme. Resources to encourage community action, and the complete action plan list are also available on the website.

Specific documents referenced in this strategy include:

- Whakatāne District Council's Climate Change Strategy 2020-23
- 2017 New Zealand Local Government Leaders Climate Change Declaration
- Bay of Plenty Regional Risk Assessment
- Whakatāne District Carbon Footprint 2021
- Whakatāne District Council Carbon Emissions Inventory 2023
- Our Climate Action Plan 2024-34
- Climate Targets fact sheet
- Relative sea-level rise from MfE 2024 Coastal Hazards & Climate Change Guidance and the NZ Sea Rise Takiwa Platform www.searise.nz/maps-2



Glossary of terms

Kuputaka

Just transition

Is a principle or value that ensures we adapt and alter our systems and actions to respond to climate change, we do so in a way that is as fair and inclusive as possible to everyone concerned, leaving no one behind. It acknowledges that often those most affected by climate change are also those least responsible for the cause of the changing climate, and are also those least-able-or-resourced to respond and adapt.



Gross emissions

This strategy focuses on gross or total emissions produced by human activity, rather than net emissions, which includes any removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through technology and forestry. The setting of targets for gross emissions reflects a priority to focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions produced, rather than relying on off-setting.

Dynamic planning

Is an approach that develops a series of actions over time (pathways). It is based on the idea of making decisions as conditions change, before severe damage occurs, and as existing policies and decisions prove no longer fit for purpose. To determine which pathway we should follow, we develop a series of triggers. For example, as the sea-level rises, the frequency of hazard events (e.g. flooding) exceeds an agreed trigger. At this point we need to take additional or different actions, and an alternative pathway to avoid reaching the threshold at which damage occurs.

Scenarios and projections

Scenarios are not ‘predictions’ but rather a description of how different futures might unfold, and they can be used to stress-test adaptation options, dynamic adaptive pathways, plans or strategies. They can help inform the development of objectives and policies and inform the effectiveness of risk management strategies, including any lock-in dependencies relying on a single or specific type of adaptation option or short-term actions. Scenarios allow communities, iwi/hapū and stakeholders to explore questions like “What can happen?”, “When might an adaptation threshold be reached?” and “What can we do about it?”. This process helps illustrate the impacts and options under various climate-related outcomes. The use of both RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 projections in a climate risk assessment aligns with the current [National Adaptation Plan](#) that councils must have regard to, and the 2021 [Ministry for the Environment guidance on local climate risk assessments](#).



WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Commerce Street, Private Bag 1002,
Whakatāne 3158, New Zealand
P 07 306 0500


MURUPARA SERVICE CENTRE

Civic Square, Pine Drive,
Murupara, New Zealand
P 07 366 5896

info@whakatane.govt.nz
whakatane.govt.nz

 [whakatanedistrictcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/whakatanedistrictcouncil)

 [whakatane-district-council](https://www.linkedin.com/company/whakatane-district-council)

 [whkdc](https://www.instagram.com/whkdc)

Supported by

