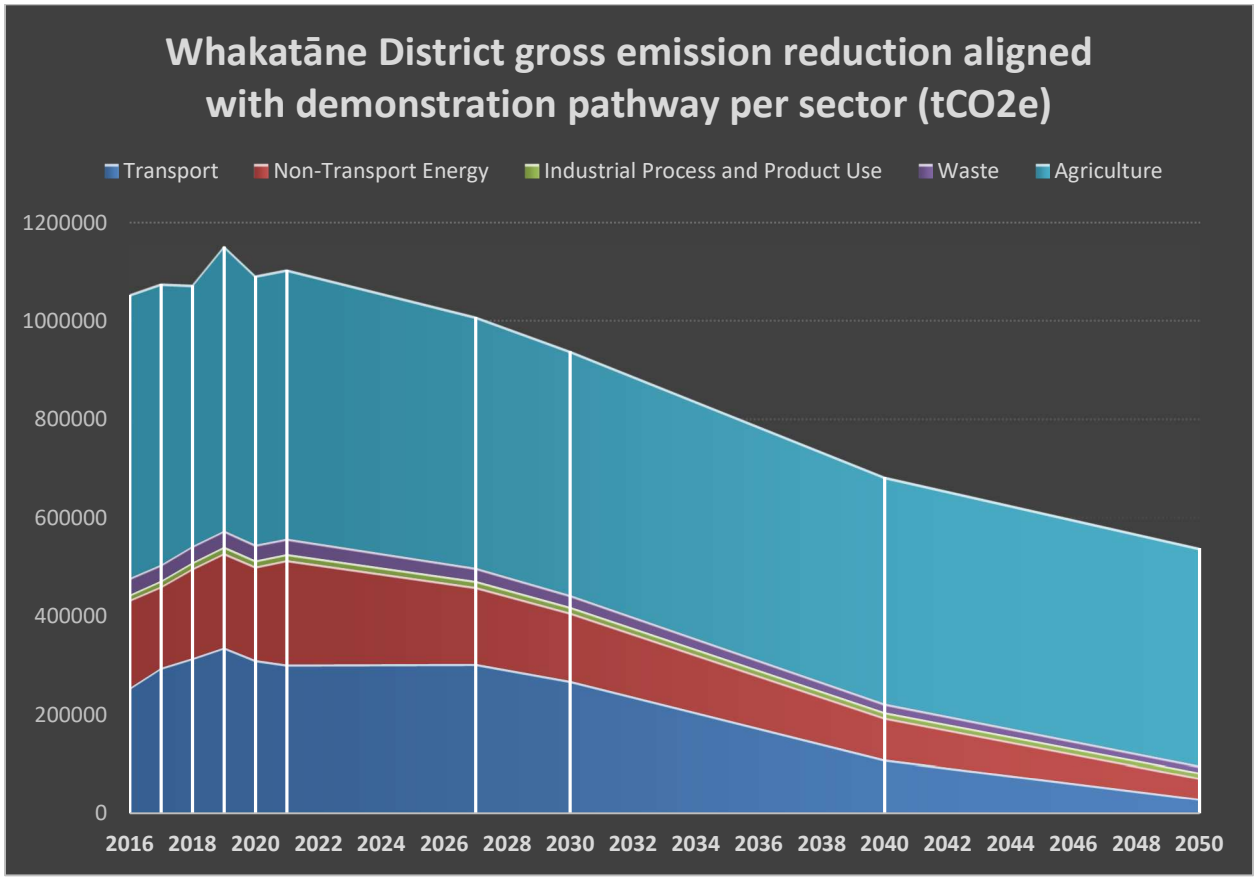
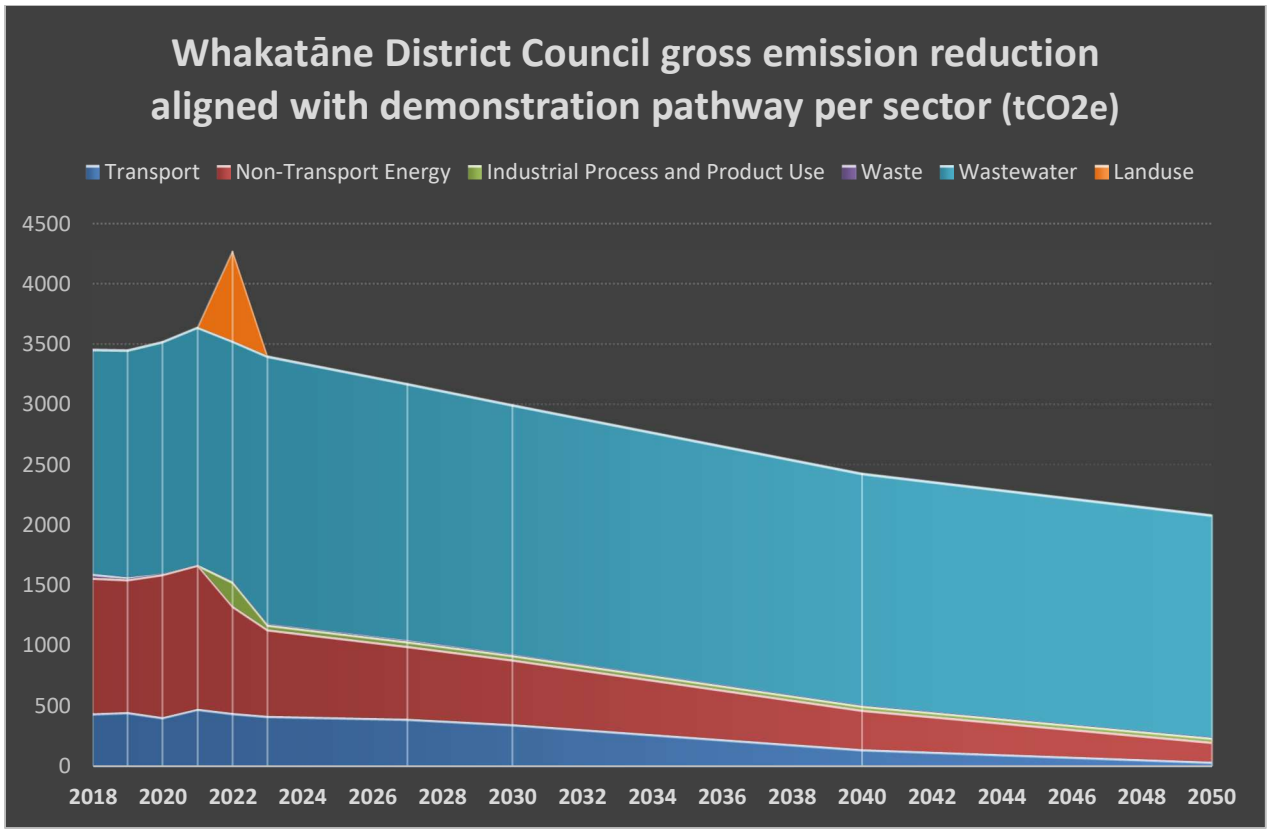
Climate Targets

The draft Whakatāne District Climate Change Strategy 2024-27 – Whakatāne Climate Pathway contains a targets framework. The proposed targets framework includes a clear alignment between the new strategy goals, targets and measures to show how we can monitor progress towards the goals, and the key actions proposed to contribute towards achieving the targets. A separate table is provided for District-wide targets and Council organisation targets. This document provides information to support the proposed targets.

Emission Reduction Targets

Many of the proposed mitigation targets focus on greenhouse gas emission reduction. The following graphs show how emissions have been tracking over past years, for both the District and the Council, and the targets proposed through the draft Whakatāne Climate Pathway. These emission reduction targets are based on the Climate Change Commission's Demonstration Path, applied to our District's emission profile. For the District targets, we have used the baseline data available from the District footprint undertaken by AECOM for 2021/22. For the Council targets, we have used the baseline data from our latest Toitū certified organisation carbon footprint 2023:





Why use the demonstration path

To set these targets we have used the Climate Change Commission's advice to the government to provide a robust target setting process that is aligned with a national approach.

The Climate Change Commission have provided the following information regarding their demonstration path and advice to government:

"As part of Ināia tonu nei, we undertook extensive analysis and modelling in accordance with the matters required by the Act, which led to the development of a pathway to 2035: the demonstration path. The demonstration path reflects a suite of actions and outcomes that would set the country up to deliver the 2050 target in line with the Act's considerations and create options to manage uncertainty. This path was used as a basis for our advice recommending emissions budget levels for 2022–2025, 2026–2030, and 2031–2035.

This work included demonstrating that our recommended emissions budget levels were both ambitious and achievable. Our economic modelling indicated that the economy would continue to grow under the recommended emissions budgets. We assessed that the level of gross domestic product (GDP) could be

around 0.5% lower in 2035 and 1.2% lower in 2050 than it would be in a scenario when there was slower action to reduce emissions, a conclusion consistent with findings overseas.

Through our work in Ināia tonu nei, we found that that while substantial investment is required to lower emissions in line with our proposed emissions budgets, this will likely be outweighed by larger future cost savings. Our analysis shows that by the 2040s, Aotearoa New Zealand can save around $2 billion each year. Investments required to meet emissions budgets will save money in the long term.

Our projections for change across road transport, buildings and food processing showed if households and businesses decarbonise by electrifying heat and transport, costs would likely increase over the short term, but begin decreasing by the late 2020s, and decrease more sharply by the mid-2030s.

The economic benefits of an electrified economy, where citizens and businesses can avoid future inflation related to the rise of fossil fuel prices, are being recognised internationally, including through the enactment of the Inflation Reduction Act in the United States and the rapid growth of solar generation in Australia."

Learn more about the Climate Change Commissions advice to government:
https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/public/Advice-to-govt-docs/ERP2/final-erp2/Executive-Summary-2023-Advice-to-inform-the-strategic-direction-of-the-Governments-second-emissions-reduction-plan.pdf