

DRAFT

Manaaki Whenua, Manaaki Tangata

Climate Resilience Strategy

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION



te kaunihera ā-rohe o
matamata-piako
district council



Mihi | Acknowledgement

Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua – Go forth into the future with our past laid out before us.

This whakatauki - proverb is a reminder that resilience is strengthened by carrying forward the wisdom of our past into the challenges of our future. In shaping the Climate Resilience Strategy, the pathways forward can be guided by the knowledge, values, and practices handed down through our tūpuna - ancestors. Their wairua or presence remains in our whakapapa, in our whenua, in our waters, and in the spirit of collective care.

By grounding our response to the changing climate in this perspective, we honour the interconnectedness of past, present, and future. We acknowledge that our actions today are not separate from those who came before, nor from those who will come after. This strategy therefore rests on a foundation of whakapapa and tikanga, ensuring that resilience is not only about surviving change, but about carrying forward the strength and wisdom of generations.



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SECTION 1:

Kupu Whakataki | Introduction



Nau mai | Welcome

Matamata-Piako is a vibrant rural district in the Waikato, with closely connected communities and an economy based on the natural resources of the area. We have important transport links to Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga, precious natural places such as our awa and maunga, and community spaces such as libraries, sports facilities and marae that all help to make this a great place to live. And throughout the district we have individuals and groups working to support the wellbeing of our people and environment in many different ways.

The towns, rural areas and settlements in our district have developed here over time based on a temperate climate. However, our weather can sometimes be unpredictable, and extreme. In the years ahead, in Matamata-Piako, we are likely to face increasing costs and impacts from severe storms, floods and drought.

The weather can sometimes negatively impact many aspects of our lives, including our home, school, and work life, our marae, our sports and recreation choices, our cultural practices, and our health. By working together, we can respond to these challenges and prepare and adapt in ways that help protect the things that matter most, for now and for the future.

We all have our part to play. This strategy is about how Council plans to play its part and take practical steps in ensuring we can continue to provide services to the community and support our communities to be adaptable and continue to thrive. It's not about Council imposing rules and regulations on residents but rather ensuring that we are supporting the wellbeing and aspirations of our community. By understanding and communicating the risks, by adapting and investing to minimise the impacts, by reducing our contribution to the risks, and by preparing to respond effectively when extreme weather events happen, we will be doing our part to help ensure our people and environment can thrive into the future.

This strategy has been a collaboration between Council and Te Manawhenua Forum, including detailed input and oversight from a working group made up of elected members, Forum members and executive staff. It has also been guided by in depth community feedback, and staff expertise from across the organisation. We're grateful to everyone who has contributed to the development of this strategy that will help guide our decision-making into the future.

Ngā Pānga ā-Āhuarangi | Climate Impacts

Climate hazards and risks

Here in New Zealand, we have seen and experienced how disruptive weather events can negatively impact our communities when we are not prepared.

These events can severely impact daily life and, over time, can have long term implications for our environment, economy and ways of life. That's why it's important we plan ahead and protect the things that are important to us.

Temperature Increase and Drought	Flooding and Extreme Weather
Extreme temperature	Extreme precipitation
Increased humidity	Extreme weather events
Wildfire	Extreme wind
Drought	Landslips
New pest and diseases	Inland flooding

What this means for Matamata-Piako

To ensure we plan well and invest wisely for the future, we will refer to a broad range of information to help us understand potential climate impacts and what it could mean for us here in Matamata-Piako. We can draw on many sources to build this picture. Historical data, climate science projections, research reports, mātauranga Māori, local experience, and lessons learnt from elsewhere in the country can all contribute to our understanding.

When we experience disruptive weather events the impacts are local, and that means our responses need to be local too. For Matamata-Piako, the key climate hazards we're likely to face are extreme weather - including extreme wind, for example along the Kaimai Ranges, flooding, increased fire risk, dryness and drought, and higher temperatures.

These changes will affect our land, water, communities, and economy, and we'll need to plan carefully in order to adapt effectively.

Table 1: Assessment of climate hazard exposure by district

										
	Flooding (Fluvial And Pluvial)	Coastal Hazards	Extreme Weather	Higher Temperature	Dryness And Drought	Increased Fire Weather	Groundwater Rise And Salinity Stress	Landslides And Soil Erosion	Marine Heatwaves And Ocean Chemistry Changes	Decreased Frost
Thames Coromandel	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Haruraki	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓
Waikato	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Hamilton City	✓✓	N/A	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	N/A	✓	N/A	✓
Matamata- Piako	✓✓	N/A	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	N/A	✓	N/A	✓
South Waikato	✓	N/A	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	N/A	✓	N/A	✓✓
Waipā	✓✓	N/A	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	N/A	✓✓	N/A	✓
Ōtorohanga	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓
Waitomo	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓
Taupō	✓✓	N/A	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	N/A	✓✓	N/A	✓✓
Rotorua Lakes (WRC Area)	✓	N/A	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	N/A	✓✓	N/A	✓✓

Source: Waikato regional Climate Change Hazards and Risks Summary Report, 2025.

Climate hazards can have direct, immediate impacts like property damage from storm events, or water shortages during periods of drought.

They can also cause indirect and cascading risks, such as pressure on Council finances due to increased costs for maintenance and repairs, rising insurance costs for Council and community, and pressure on the primary sector economy due to repeated drought and heat stress events.

The table below describes some of these effects – direct and indirect, as they relate to the people, environment, infrastructure and economy of Matamata-Piako.

Find out more

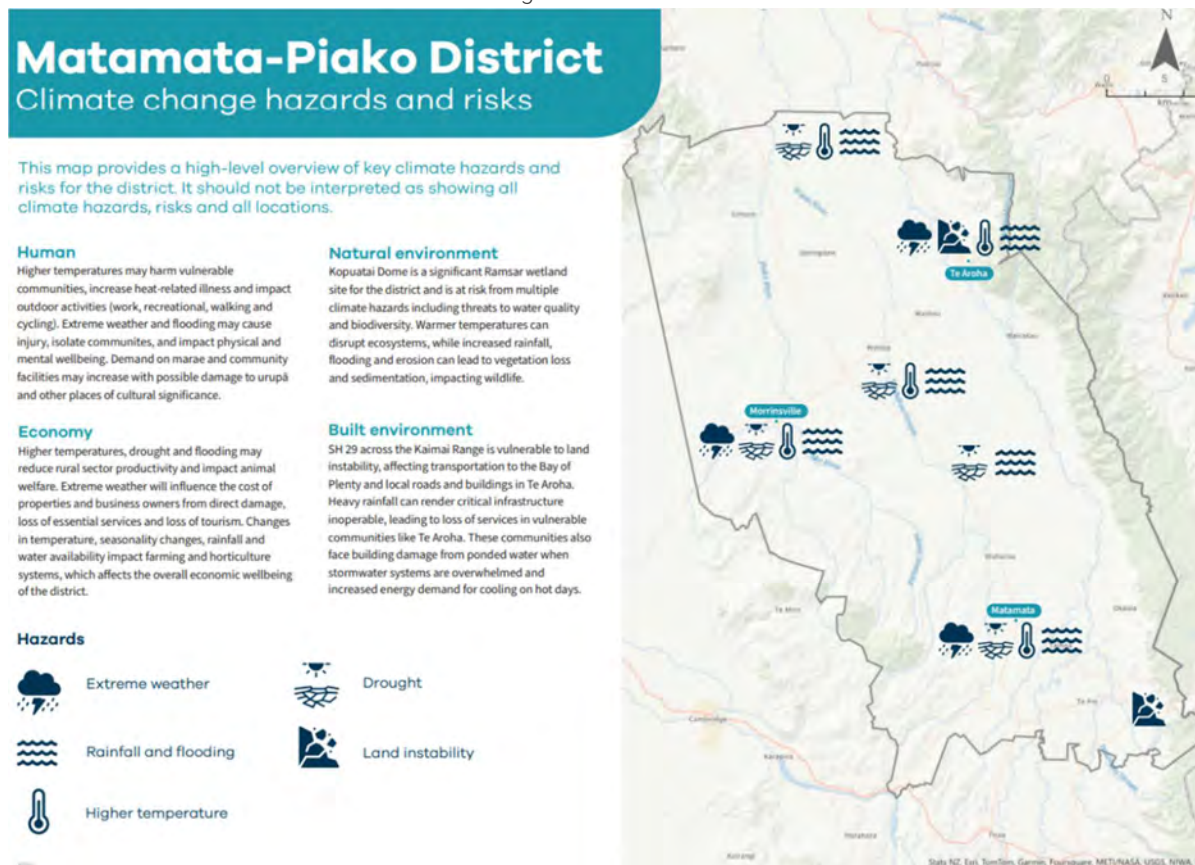
To read more about the projected impacts on the Waikato read:

- [Waikato Regional Climate Change Hazards and Risks Summary Report](#)
- [Waikato Regional Climate Change Hazards and Risks Full Report](#)

To understand more about the water pressure facing the Waikato read:

- [Water Security Strategy for the Waikato Region](#)

Table 2: Matamata-Piako District Climate Change Hazards and Risks



Source: Waikato Regional Climate Change Hazards and Risks Summary Report, 2025

Te whakariterite mō ngā kawekawe āhuarangi | Preparing for Climate Impacts

What can we all do?

We know what our major climate risks are so we can mitigate potential impacts by preparing for extreme weather, droughts, and floods, and building resilience in our homes, communities, and services.

The most effective response is to take action as individuals, whānau, communities and organisations. By working together, we can reduce risks now and lessen the impacts for future generations.

What is Council's role?

Council has legislated responsibilities to help our district prepare for and respond to climate impacts. These include:

- Land use planning: Making sure development happens in places that will be safe for the long-term.
- Infrastructure planning: Designing and maintaining services that can cope with changing conditions.
- Civil defence and emergency management: Helping communities prepare for and recover from natural hazard events
- Sharing hazard information: Ensuring people can make informed decisions

Council also plays a broader part in climate response by providing leadership, listening to and reflecting community views, supporting community-led initiatives, and working in partnership with mana whenua and other organisations.

Table 3: Climate response roles and responsibilities for local government

Legislation	Roles and responsibilities for local government
Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and associated National Policy Statements	Section 6(h) "the management of significant risks from natural hazards" be recognised and provided for as a matter of national importance. Section 7(i) requires all persons exercising functions and powers under the RMA to have particular regard to the "effects of climate change".
Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002	Section 64(1) A local authority must plan and provide for civil defence emergency management within its district. Local authorities are required to establish a joint Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM Group) for their region. Their role is to identify hazards and mitigation activities, and gaps in hazard knowledge and inefficiencies in mitigation.
Local Government Act 2002	Provide a long term focus for the decisions and activities of council. Provide integrated decision making and coordination of the resources of council, managing its assets, liabilities and general

	finances prudently and in a manner that promotes the current and future interests of the community. Recognise and respect the Crown's responsibility to take appropriate account of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. (Part 1, section 4). Establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to the decision-making processes of council, consider ways it may foster development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making and provide relevant information to Māori for these purposes. (Part 6, section 81).
LGOIMA Amendment Act 2023	Section 44B (1) Natural hazard information to be included in land information memoranda: (a) natural hazards, (b) impacts of climate change that exacerbate natural hazards.
Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019	On request, Council must provide information to the Minister of Climate Change about its governance, risk identification, and management of climate change impacts.
National Adaptation Plan	Councils must have regard to the plan when changing District Plans.
National Emissions Reduction Plan	Councils must have regard to the plan when changing District Plans.
National Policy Statement on Natural Hazard Decision-Making (NPS-NHD) 2025	The NPS-NH 2025 establishes a framework for councils to manage natural hazard risks in new developments, based on the level of risk involved. Consideration of the potential impacts of climate change to at least 100 years into the future must be included in the assessment of risk.
Auditor General expectations for local government	"The statutory purposes of a long-term plan include integrated decision-making, taking a long-term focus for the council's decisions and activities, and being accountable to communities. Climate change is an issue with long-term implications, and it needs to be integrated into the council's processes, plans, and strategies."
Waikato Regional Policy Statement	District Plans should assume a climate change scenario of temperature increase of at least 2.1C by 2090.

What is Council currently doing?

As part of developing the Long Term Plan 2024-2034, Council created a Climate Change Rivermap that set the priorities for Council's response to climate risks, and outlines the key actions we're taking across our services. A performance measure tracking progress on the actions in the Rivermap is included in the Long Term Plan and reported on each year in the Annual Report. The Climate Change Rivermap has five workstreams, each with a climate resilience goal.

Climate Change Rivermap – Stormwater workstream

The focus for stormwater is on reducing risk to our communities. We're modelling how our urban stormwater systems perform under future climate conditions, so we can understand the risks and plan for resilience. We've also increased

our maintenance and water quality monitoring programmes to help reduce flooding risk and better manage what's discharged into our waterways.

Climate Change Rivermap – Rubbish workstream

The focus is on both waste minimisation and waste separation, including keeping food waste out of landfill. We're also separating e-waste, batteries, whiteware and tyres from general waste at the transfer stations, and degassing refrigeration. We are tracking what the government is doing next in relation to emissions from organics and construction and demolition waste (wood). We are also beginning to work internally to look at our organisational sustainability.

Climate Change Rivermap – Strategy workstream

There are five key areas of work:

Growing governance knowledge: Council and committee members have taken part in workshops on climate risks, insurance, emissions, and adaptation.

Building organisational knowledge: We've completed an emissions inventory and organisational climate risk assessment, and staff have been involved in climate-related workshops.

Developing this strategy to guide our response and planning.

Growing community resilience: the focus to date has been on gathering community feedback on concerns and priorities for responding to climate risks.

Planning in an integrated way: Climate hazards is now treated as a top risk for our organisation, and we're working more closely with regional partners.

Climate Change Rivermap – Water workstream

A key challenge for us going forward is the availability and quality of the water we supply to our community. Looking at water availability for the catchments in our region, we know that the Waihou catchment has sufficient capacity but the Piako catchment is under very high pressure with water use well above sustainable levels year round.

We're working on fixing leaks in the network, installing network water meters to understand and manage water loss, and requiring grey water systems in new developments. This work continues as we prepare to transition the management of our water assets to the new sub regional council-controlled organisation, Waikato Water Ltd., which will occur 1 October 2026.

Climate Change Rivermap – Wastewater workstream

We're working to reduce environmental risks from wastewater. Extreme weather events bring large amounts of rainfall in a short period of time which can overwhelm the network resulting in overflows.

We have a programme of work underway to reduce stormwater entering the wastewater network and to upgrade our treatment plants to meet future demand and improve discharge quality. This work also continues as we prepare for the transition to Waikato Water Ltd. On 1 October 2026.



What you told us

To help shape this strategy, we asked our community for feedback. We gathered community views through two surveys:

- Matamata-Piako District Council 2025 Resident's Survey, conducted by Key Research. We included a climate change question, and received 382 responses. The responses are weighted to ensure they reflect the demographics of our district.

- A Climate Ready Survey with 140 responses. This was an online survey on Council's website, the responders were self-selected.

The results are outlined below. To read the feedback received in full, please see here: [Climate Survey Results](#)

Matamata-Piako District Council 2025 Resident's Survey

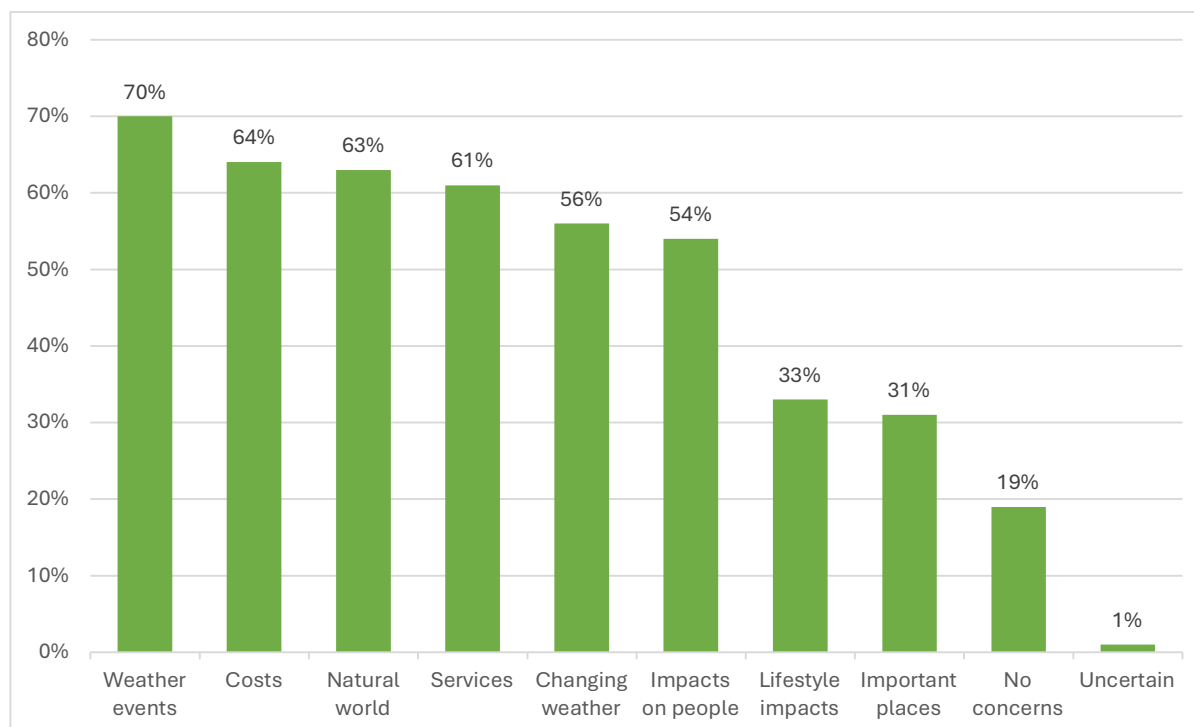
Question: Do you think it is important for Council to take a leadership role in climate change response for our community?



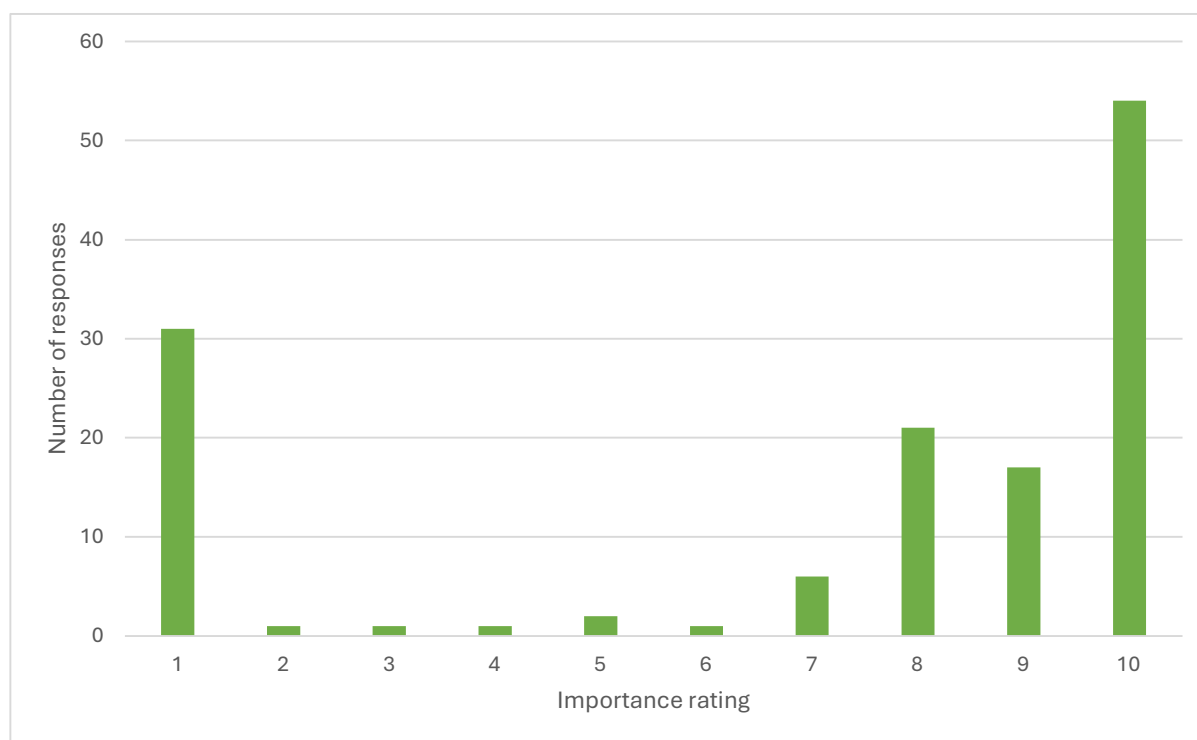
64% of residents state that it is Important for Council to take a leadership role in climate change response for our community. This opinion is significantly stronger among respondents who have lived in the district for 6-10 years (75%) compared to those who have lived in the district for over 10 years (58%).

Climate Ready Survey

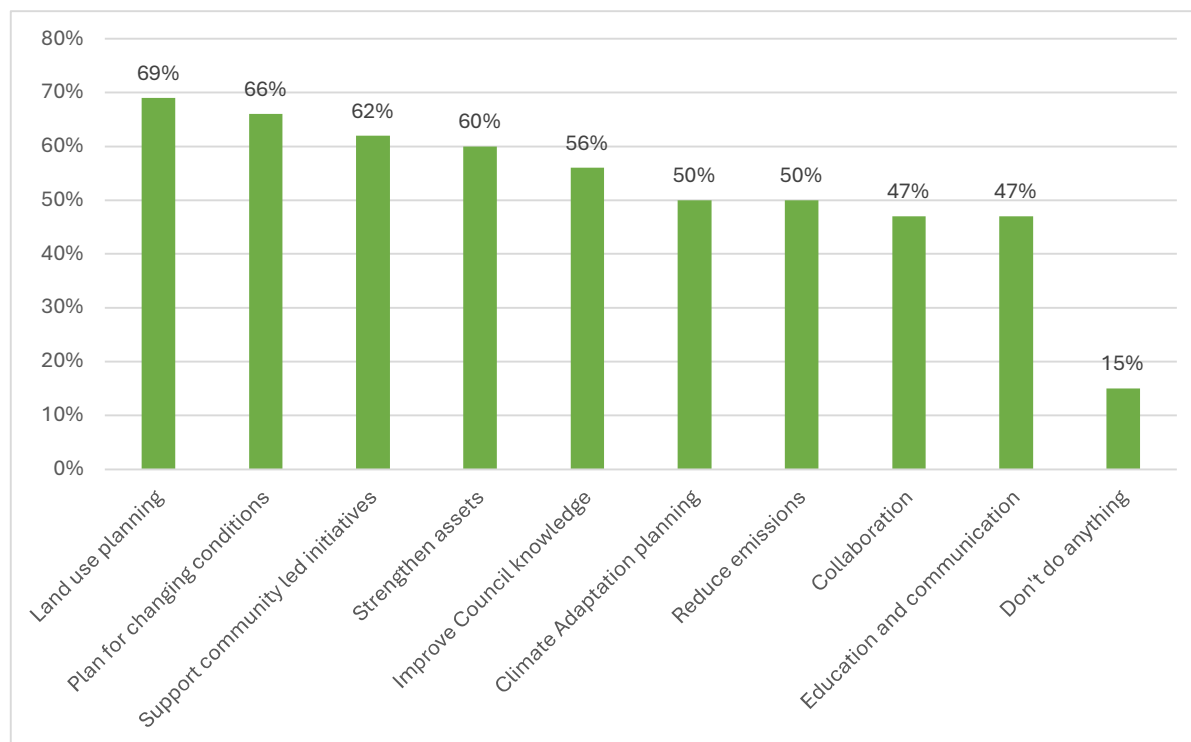
Question 1: In terms of climate impacts, what are you most concerned about?



Question 2: How important is it to you for Council to take a leadership role in responding to climate change? (scale: 1 – not at all, 10 – very important).



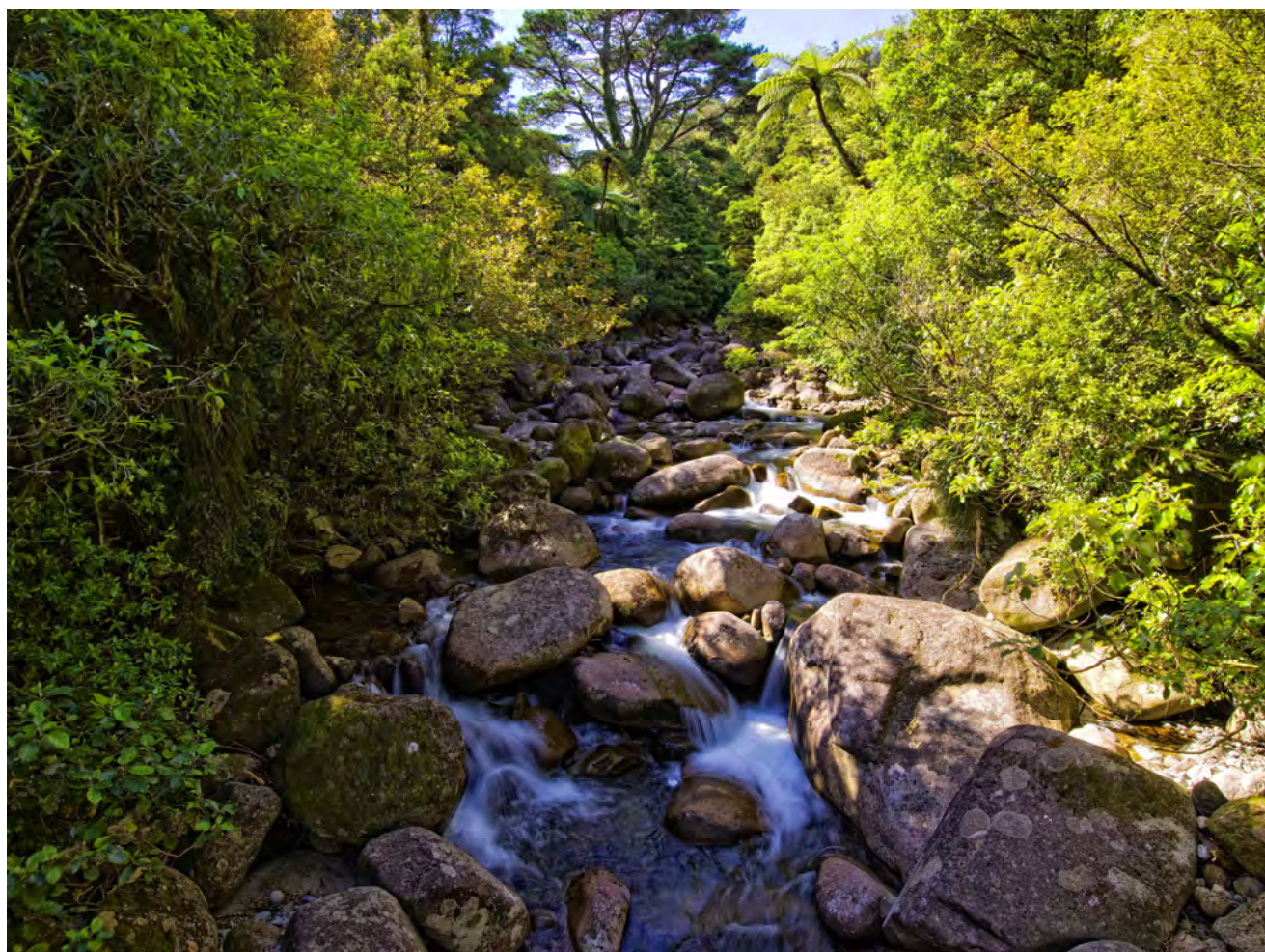
Question 3: What actions are most important for Council to take to respond to climate change?



Navigating climate conversations

We know when an extreme weather event hits, it can have really significant impacts for the community. We need to make sure we're prepared so that we can minimise the impacts of extreme weather, avoid people getting hurt, and recover quickly. Preparing and adapting in these ways will be much more effective if we can work together.

Having open, ongoing conversations is an essential part of navigating our collective response to the changing climate. By acknowledging a range of perspectives and knowledge systems, and by navigating these climate conversations together we can build understanding, strengthen community connections, and shape a collective response to the challenges ahead.



Te Urupare Whai Rautaki a te Kaunihera | Our Climate Resilience Strategy

This strategy builds on the work we've done to date and is informed by the feedback gathered from our community. It's our next step in planning how Council and our communities can become more resilient to climate impacts.

The strategy sets out how we can work together to look after the things we value most, and ensure the future wellbeing of our district and people.

Vision

Working together to increase our climate resilience and protect the people, places, taonga and ways of life we care most about, now and for the future.

Goal

Thriving, informed, climate-resilient communities in Matamata-Piako supported by a prepared and responsive Council.

Guiding Principles

Te Taiao | Our environment is central to our wellbeing

Kotahitanga | Working together gets us further

Mātauranga | We value knowledge and learning

Whakatakatū | Getting ready now ensures we're prepared for whatever the future holds

Oranga Tonutanga | Our aim is thriving communities into the future

Purpose of the strategy

This strategy sets out our overall approach and key areas of focus. Its purpose is to guide present and future decision-making and help us take action and respond to climate risks in a coordinated way.

Costs and capacity

The costs associated with climate impacts was highlighted as a key concern by those who responded to the Climate Ready Survey.

Getting prepared now is likely to be much less costly, and much more effective at preventing harm in the long run, than waiting until damage occurs and having to respond reactively. But it means incurring costs now for benefits that may not be felt for some years to come. And we know there is a limit on what our community can afford. These are tough trade-offs to navigate.

Being clear and transparent about the choices we are making as a Council, and being guided by the priorities of our community, will help us to make these complex decisions in the years to come.

In many ways, Council is already responding to climate risks by working to ensure core services like roads, the stormwater network and parks are fit for purpose for changing conditions. From here, as outlined in the Strategy, we'll build on the work done to date, including by integrating the results of our Climate Risk Assessment into our planning, continuing to deliver on the priorities in the Rivermap, and undertaking our Civil Defence Emergency Management work programme. Other work in the Strategy will require further consideration and funding decisions.

Focus area

We've identified three key areas where we'll focus our efforts:

Council resilience

Ensuring Council can continue to deliver services to our communities into the future.

- Understanding local impacts.
- Building resilient assets and services.
- Strengthening Council as an organisation.

Community adaptation and preparedness

Helping communities stay safe, informed and involved in decisions that affect them.

- Keeping communities out of harm's way 'Avoiding the risk'.
- Working with communities to plan for the future 'Adapting to the risk'.
- Supporting people to be prepared and make informed decisions 'Being ready for risks when they happen'.

Council and community sustainability

Reducing our impact on the environment and supporting positive action to protect and restore the natural world.

- Supporting people's connection and care for te taiao / our environment.
- Reducing the community's impact.
- Reducing Council's impact.

Wāhi Arotahi: Te Aumangea o te Kaunihera | Focus Area: Council Resilience.

Ensuring Council can continue to deliver services to our communities into the future.



Understanding local impacts.

We will work to better understand how climate impacts are likely to affect our district, now and in the future. This knowledge helps us make good decisions and invest in cost-effective ways to protect people, places, and services.

What we've done so far

We've increased our natural hazard and climate risk information including completing a Climate Risk Assessment for Council, undertaking modelling of our urban flood risk, measuring Council's greenhouse gas emissions, and installing rain gauges to track rainfall in our district. We've also shared knowledge with elected members, and other councils.

What's next

To continue building our understanding, we will need to:

- Keep growing our understanding of the risks, including by drawing on the knowledge of iwi and other long term residents, increasing locally specific hazard data, and partnering with others to share expertise and costs.
- Continue to track and assess local impacts, like the cost of extreme weather events to our roads, pipes and other infrastructure.
- Support knowledge building within Council, so elected members and staff can make informed decisions.
- Advocate to central government for open access to nationally consistent, local hazard and risk information that helps communities and councils plan well.



Building resilient assets and services.

We will continue to plan ahead and invest in ensuring our assets and services are resilient and fit for purpose into the future, including trying new ways of working. With the right information and planning methods we can invest wisely for the future, prioritising work in such a way as to minimise long term costs and maximise benefits now and for the future.

What we've done so far

We've started to build climate resilience into our infrastructure planning by developing an Operational Resilience Strategy, Water and Wastewater Master Plans, an Inflow and Infiltration Strategy, and a Water Conservation Strategy. We're progressing actions across the five streams of work outlined in the Climate Change Rivermap.

What's next

To continue building the resilience of our assets and services, we will need to:

- Use climate risk information to guide asset management and inform business cases so that the cost-benefit of resilient solutions are articulated.
- Grow staff expertise in climate-resilient infrastructure planning and design methods.
- Trial new approaches, like adjusting the level of service in an area where repeated weather damage is driving up costs and expanding the scope of our current services to support community needs under more extreme conditions.
- Explore funding options for future climate adaptation, such as targeted rates or green loans.
- Advocate for a more integrated and coordinated government response, such as including climate adaptation in the Local Government Act, and more closely aligning climate, emergency management and resource management legislation.
- Build our understanding of how a changing climate could affect population growth, economic development, changing service demand etc so we can plan infrastructure that meets future needs.

Strengthening Council as an organisation.

We will make sure Council is as ready as possible to manage climate risks as part of good governance.

What we've done so far

Climate impacts are now treated as one of Council's organisational risks.

What's next

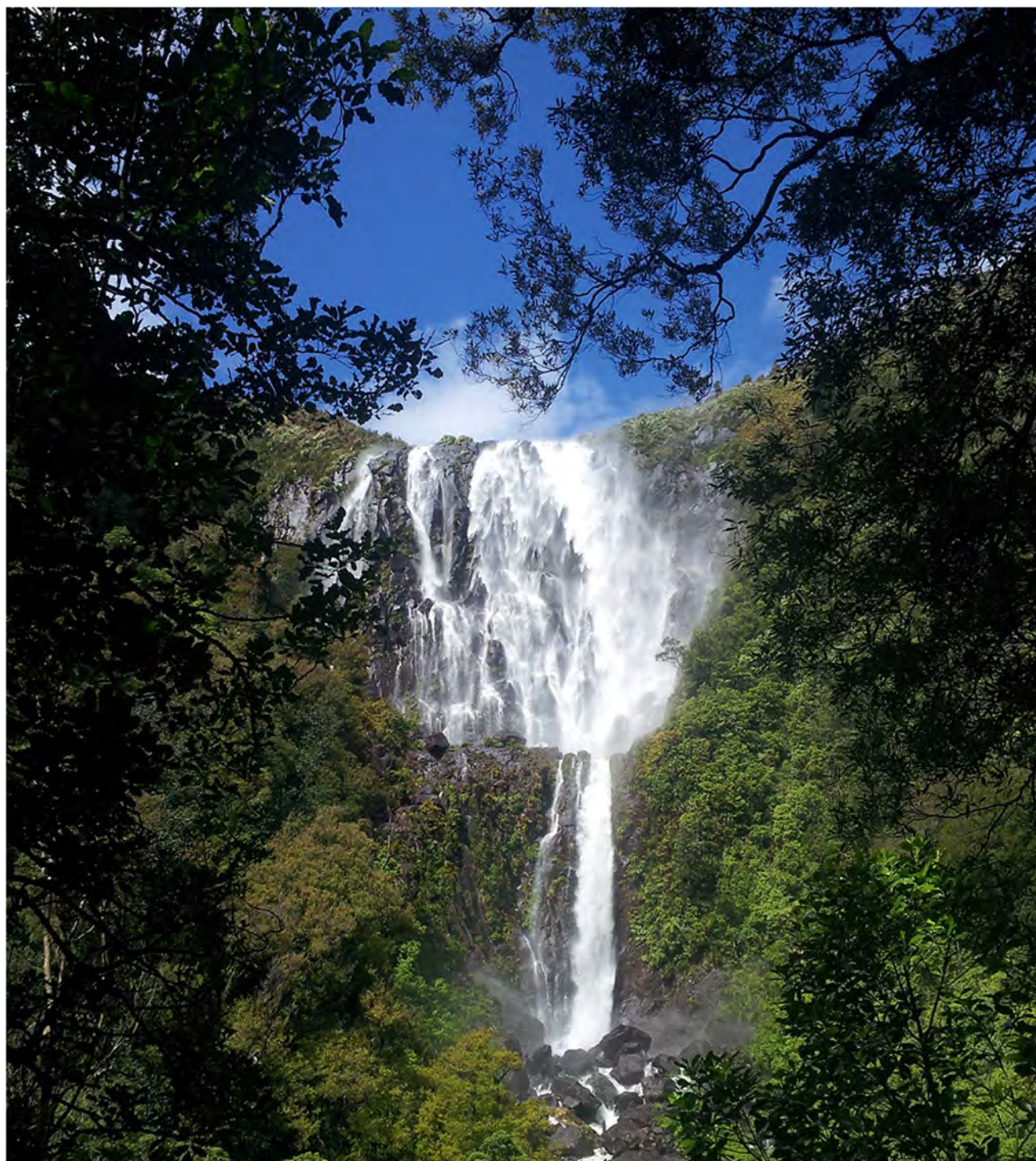
To continue to strengthen Council as an organisation, we will need to:

- Continue regular, measurable reporting to governance and integrate the results of the Climate Risk Assessment into strategic planning to improve the ways we do things.
- Update our Business Continuity Plans to ensure we can continue to operate effectively in emergency situations.
- Review and monitor how climate risks could affect Council's insurance, finances and staff.
- Check we have the right expertise in-house available to give sound policy and technical advice on climate issues.
- Develop the way we report back to the community on the actions we are taking.
- As part of the local government sector, advocate to central government for clearer roles, responsibilities, and funding arrangements for climate adaptation across the country.
- Collaborate regionally, where it makes sense, to solve shared problems together.



Wāhi Arotahi: Te Urutau me te Whakarite a te Hapori | Focus Area: Community Adaptation and Preparedness.

Helping communities stay safe, informed, and involved in decisions that affect them.



Keeping communities out of harm's way - 'Avoiding the risk'.

We will work to reduce risk to our community from natural hazards, with a focus on the hazards that impact us most significantly, such as flooding and wind.

What we've done so far

In partnership with Waikato Regional Council we have been updating the flood modelling for our district. And we've been improving how we share natural hazard information on property files, in line with new regulations.

What's next

To continue to play our part in helping keep communities safe, we will need to:

- Use our most up to date flood modelling and climate risk data to guide our Growth Strategy and our approach to land use planning, in a way that still supports development.
- Look at how other councils are using District Plan rules to reduce risk to communities and encourage stormwater management in new and existing developments.
- Communicate with the community about the importance of stormwater management, and what we can all do to help reduce flooding impacts.
- As we increase our natural hazard data, continue to develop the way we communicate with affected residents so that residents have clear, relevant and reliable information about the issues that affect them.
- Encourage collaboration across regional groups, including those focused on growth, infrastructure, building, and emergency management.
- Maintain communication with the insurance sector on our communities' behalf to keep the sector informed about Council's resilience planning.
- Identify projects that could be funded through LGFA (Local Government Funding Agency) Green Loans, such as opening streams, building flood bypasses, or creating swales to manage surface runoff.
- Continually refine our natural hazard modelling to ensure it reflects real-world local data, is based on realistic projections and is as robust as possible.

Working with communities to plan for the future - 'Adapting to the risk'.

We will start to work with communities to support adaptation planning.

What we've done so far

We have been learning from our neighbour councils' experiences of community climate adaptation processes.

What's next

To support future-focussed planning in the community, we will need to:

- Assess climate hazard exposure across the district to understand the areas most at risk, including working with mana whenua to include mātauranga Māori / Māori knowledge and kōrero tuku iho / local stories and histories, and with other residents who have long term knowledge of our district.
- Further develop our understanding and skills in the area of community adaptation planning, and develop a pilot project.
- Identify projects that could be funded through LGFA Green Loans, such as protecting buildings, infrastructure, and cultural heritage sites from floods and landslides; and explore ways for Council to be a connector for funding options for groups wanting to undertake adaptation / resilience projects.



Supporting people to be prepared and make informed decisions - ‘Being ready for risks when they happen’.

We will upskill, inform and enable our communities to be prepared for climate impacts.

What we’ve done so far

We’ve identified emergency response and recovery as one of Council’s organisational risks and committed to developing community response plans.

To support communities, we will need to:

- Develop community response plans with vulnerable communities including supporting marae and papakāinga resilience projects in line with iwi aspirations.
- Provide locally relevant and practical resources to communities, directly or through community partners, to grow understanding of climate risks and impacts, and what we can do to adapt.
- Work with other organisations to improve our understanding of the vulnerabilities to routes and services that are important for Council, the community, and industry, and integrate this knowledge into our resilience planning.

- Align and integrate local and regional civil defence and climate adaptation work programmes to maximise their effectiveness.
- During and after weather events, communicate to the community about the specific impacts of these events eg roads closed, trees down, houses without power, to build up an understanding of impacts and Council's response.
- Identify projects that could be funded through LGFA Green Loans, such as warning systems and emergency preparedness measures in areas at risk of floods or landslides; or through NEMA (National Emergency Management Agency) Resilience Fund grants to grow our capability and knowledge around managing climate impacts. We can also advocate to government for increased local funding for emergency preparedness and response.

Wāhi Arotahi: Te Toitūtanga o te Kaunihera me te Hapori| Focus Area: Council and Community Sustainability

Reducing our impact on the environment and supporting positive action to protect and restore the natural world.



Supporting people's connection and care for te taiao | the environment.

We will support community actions that build connection and care for te taiao | our environment

What we've done so far

We've provided grants and staff support to community organisations and iwi and catchment groups for a range of environmental projects.

What's next

To continue to support environmental action, where practical and economically viable, we'll need to:

- Support community-led initiatives that protect, restore, and connect others with the environment through a review of our grants and by providing advice about other possible funding sources including LGFA Green Loans.
- Support local initiatives through our community development team, and explore new ideas like Council staff and elected members undertaking voluntary work alongside the community.
- Support landowners to access information and advice about managing slip prone land and reducing the impacts of weather events, with benefits for water quality, biodiversity and district resilience.



Reducing the community's impact.

We will encourage actions that reduce waste and conserve our natural resources.

What we've done so far

We've introduced kerbside collection of food scraps, diversion of batteries, e-waste, tyres and whiteware from landfill, and degassing of refrigerants. We've provided grants to support community sustainability initiatives. We've introduced District Plan rules that require water-saving measures in new developments. We've invested in walking, cycling, and accessibility improvements to support active transport and recreation.

What's next

To continue supporting actions that minimise impact on the environment, where practical, we'll need to:

- Support community-led sustainability initiatives that promote impactful energy and water conservation.
- Grow people's awareness of the practical actions they can take at the household level to support district-wide priorities such as water conservation, protecting stormwater quality, and reducing waste.
- Encourage low-impact development through our Growth Strategy, District Plan, and regional planning.
- Update the Waste Minimisation and Management Plan.
- Support the community with projects that could be funded through LGFA Green Loans, including those that encourage walking and cycling, increase recycling, and improve stormwater quality.
- Explore new ways to amplify sustainability action such as a sustainability category in local business awards, and social media to highlight Council's leadership in this space.



Reducing Council's impact.

We will make changes to how Council operates so we can reduce our environmental impact and lead by example. That means thinking about processes such as how we design and procure for new projects, the purchases we make, and the way we manage our own waste.

What we've done so far

We undertake ongoing monitoring and management of Council's energy usage. We've developed an understanding of Council's key emissions sources and communicated that to the public. We've been replacing Council vehicles at end of life with hybrid vehicles, shifting from petrol to electric powered tools for some usage, trialled use of chemical-free weed control on Council parks and cemeteries and installed nature based solutions for stormwater management which provide water quality, biodiversity and public amenity benefits.

What's next

To continue to reduce our impact, where practical, we'll need to:

- Review Council processes to find meaningful opportunities to reduce Council's impact on the environment.
- Investigate ways to improve water quality, reduce costs and increase biodiversity on Council-owned land, such as esplanade reserves, floodplain areas, under-utilised parts of parks, and around our drinking water sources.
- Expand the use of nature-based stormwater solutions, like rain gardens, in a way that minimises maintenance and uses best practice design.
- Explore sustainable and practical upgrades as part of other scheduled work, like replacing the gas boiler at Morrinsville Pool with an electric heat pump or adding solar panels to Council buildings, to save energy, improve energy security, reduce emissions, and cut costs.
- Identify projects for LGFA Green Loan funding, especially those related to energy efficiency and green building, where there is positive return on investment.
- Undertake a corporate emissions inventory, in line with the Long Term Plan, where required for statutory or reporting purposes.

