Proposed

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

2026-2032

npdc.govt.nz

NPDC

Matomato i te ao, manawaroa i te pō

Contents

Introduction

Climate change is a complex problem requiring action at a global, national and local level.

Climate change is the result of changes to the atmosphere from greenhouse gases that arise from human activity. These greenhouse gases result in increased temperatures and are changing our weather patterns to bring more severe weather. While severe weather events have always occurred, we are seeing increasing numbers of such events and an increase in severity of those events. This Plan tackles both ends of this chain – from our contribution to greenhouse gases to how we adapt to a changing environment.

We have recognised **"that climate change world-wide requires we take urgency to respond to and address issues which will affect us all in the immediate future."** (Council resolution 17 December 2019). We are starting to see the impacts of climate change across a range of areas, from severe weather events to higher insurance costs and insurance retreat, to higher energy costs, and to growing community concerns about the future. We're also seeing change as communities and economies tackle these issues and the disruption that change brings.

This Plan is a continuation of our response and tackles the most cost-effective, resilience-building, and beneficial actions first. We have time to do this right so long as we continue to move forward. This Plan is about thinking the long-term through short-term action that builds our response and capacity over time, and particularly building on the foundation as science, technology and global and national responses evolve over time.

This Action Plan is created to align with our Council's vision of a district that is "Thriving Today, Resilient Tomorrow". The energy actions are aimed at supporting our local economy while seeking to manage our energy use and emissions. Our resilience and adaptation actions guide how we should plan for and manage our response to natural hazards.

Our journey so far...

1992

The Rio Earth Summit establishes the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as the first global treaty on climate change.

2001

First mention of "climate change" in Council meeting minutes.

2002

Climate Change Response Act passed.

2013

We established our voluntary targeted rate scheme for household insulation and heat pumps that ran until 2021.

2015

The Paris Agreement sets out a global commitment to reducing temperature rise.

2018

Ex-Cyclone Gita hits New Plymouth, taking out water to approximately 10,000 households and businesses; as a result, we invest in improving water resilience in the Long-Term Plan 2018-2028.

2019

We notify our Proposed District Plan which includes significant changes to land use planning for better climate change outcomes.

We resolve that climate change is an urgent issue and adopt the Climate Action Framework as our first formal climate change plan.

The "Zero Carbon Act" amendments are made to the Climate Change Response Act 2002.

We close the Colson Road Landfill, which remains our largest emissions source due to the ongoing breakdown of waste..

2020

We expand our Voluntary Targeted Rate scheme for a wider range of household sustainability purposes as part of our Covid-19 response package.

2021

We introduce our eco-design advisor service to support households with healthy, energy efficient housing issues.

Our Long-Term Plan 2021-2031 includes three years of funding for the Climate Action Framework and 10 years of funding for Planting our Place and electric vehicles in the NPDC flee.

Our Long-Term Plan also provides budget for a water conservation programme (including universal water meters) and for improving stormwater systems in Waitara.

2022

The Government releases New Zealand's first national Emissions Reduction Plan and then the first National Adaptation Plan.

2023

NPDC's first District-wide Emissions Reduction Plan sets out a path to meet our 2050 targets.

2024

Climate change planning becomes business as usual in the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034.

We adopt our first Environmental Sustainability Policy.

The Government releases New Zealand's second national Emissions Reduction Plan.

2025

We issue our first Community Climate Action Fund grants.

We undertake a Preliminary Community Climate Change Risk Assessment to determine which parts of the District are most vulnerable to climate.

We agree to help fund the business case for the Ratepayers Assistance Scheme as a national solution to help residents take up solar and other household electrification improvements, and other solutions.

Papa Rererangi I Puketapu, our airport company, opens Te Matakupenga solar farm, which supplies about 40 per cent of NPDC's electricity.

The Government releases the National Adaptation Framework and announces it plans to introduce legislation to make climate change adaptation plans a compulsory territorial authority activity.

2026

We install solar panels on our Archives and TSB Showplace buildings.

We agree to refocus our climate change work programme and to progress with this single climate change plan.

Government introduces legislation to make climate change adaptation planning a responsibility of territorial authorities.

Our roles and responsibilities in addressing climate change

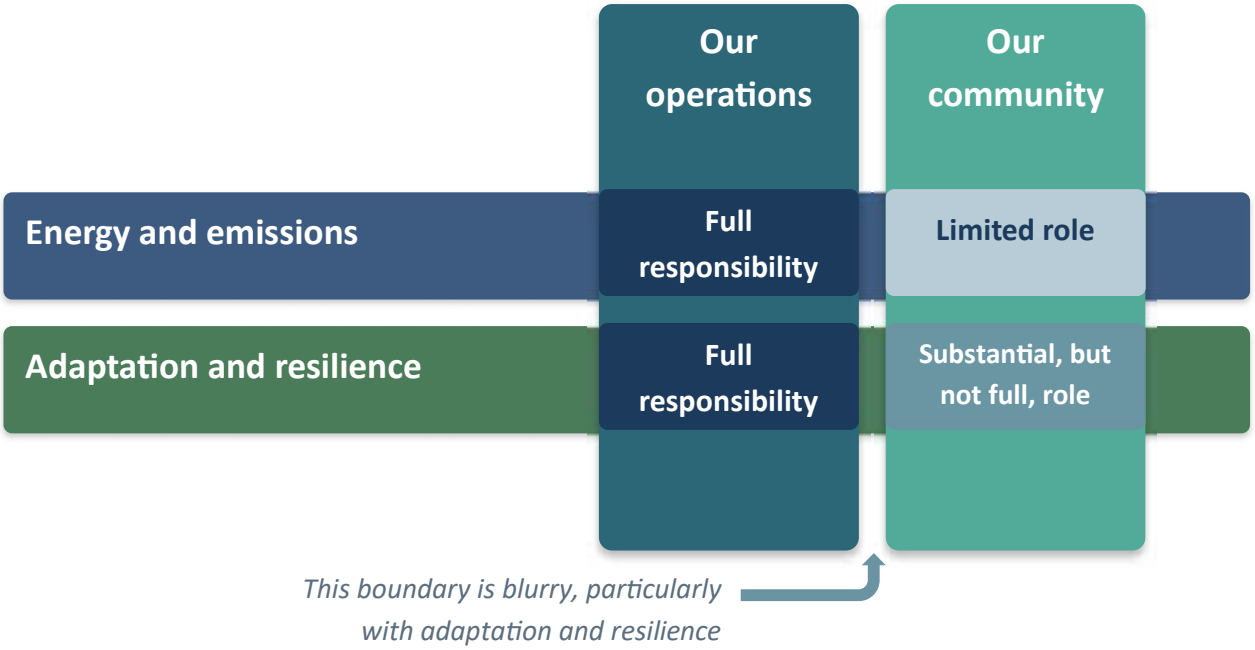
We are one player in the local, national and global response to climate change, with a distinct role in our own district. We must be clear about our role to ensure our resources are used effectively to get the best value for money.

The Office of the Auditor-General has stated:

In many ways, councils are at the front line of a wider response to climate change. Councils are largely responsible for civil defence, regional and district land use, planning, and major community infrastructure. They are the owners of significant assets, some of which are at risk because of climate change. They also have a role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Councils have obligations to keep their communities and assets safe from the impacts of a changing climate. They also have a responsibility to consult and keep their communities informed about the scenarios they are planning for and the steps they are taking to protect people and property.

NPDC has full responsibility to reduce energy use and emissions in our operations and to make our infrastructure and services resilient. We also have a limited role in helping our residents to reduce energy use and emissions, but a more significant role in promoting resilience in our community. However, the boundary between our operations and our community can be blurry in places.



Energy and emissions

The Government sets the policy direction for energy and greenhouse gas emissions, alongside global agreements such as the Paris Accord. National targets, emissions budgets and emissions reduction plans define the overall approach, with the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) as the main policy lever. Energy is a nationally regulated market that is also strongly impacted by the ETS.

National policies such as the ETS directly increase our costs for energy, materials and construction, so improving energy and resource efficiency helps manage both emissions and costs. The ETS means that inaction will be more expensive than action over time.

Emissions from businesses, farms and households sit primarily within national policy settings. Our role is to support and enable emissions reduction in some areas within this framework, for example by providing infrastructure that encourages low-emissions choices, such as public, active and electric transport. These actions are addressed through relevant service strategies and plans, with this Plan focusing on our operational energy and emissions, and supporting community energy initiatives.

We are also unique as a district in having a strong local energy sector that is being challenged by the push to reduce emissions. We can play a role in supporting our local energy sector through this challenge, such as by carefully supporting energy innovation using our assets and infrastructure. This is also part of our economic development role.

Resilience and adaptation

We have a larger role in climate resilience and adaptation.

The Government is progressing legislation to confirm that territorial authorities are responsible for climate change adaptation plans for at-risk communities. These regulated plans will take a long-term approach to risks such as flooding, sea level rise and coastal erosion. Our main priority areas will be set first by the Regional Spatial Plan. Climate change adaptation is therefore our core responsibility.

We are also directly responsible for ensuring our assets and infrastructure are resilient, and for managing land use to avoid new development in hazardous areas through the District Plan and, in the future, the Regional Spatial Plan. This Plan seeks to build on and enhance the existing work to date for these roles in a systemic approach.

Getting this right will reduce the impact of climate change-exacerbated severe weather events on our community and our infrastructure. This will produce a return on investment through less devastating consequences, and quicker recovery. It should also help to improve insurance coverage and create confidence for business investment.

Responsibility is also shared. Households, businesses, farmers, and other infrastructure providers also need to improve their climate resilience as well. These actions are outside of our control, but we may be able to support others to adapt and build resilience by providing information, advice and guidance.

Government and policy changes

Climate change responsibilities are primarily set through national legislation and policy, particularly the Climate Change Response Act 2002, the national Emissions Reduction Plan and the National Adaptation Plan. Other Government policies, such as the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport and Energy Policy, can also form part of the national climate change response.

These national settings are likely to change over time. We will monitor any shifts in legislation, policy and funding, and consider how they affect our role and responsibilities as they arise. We will need to respond to these changes appropriately.

Everyone must carry out their responsibilities in this response

Our role in climate change sits within a wider local, national and global system. Households, businesses, farmers, other councils and, critically, the Government all need to undertake their responsibilities for the District to respond effectively. Even then, our efforts depend on national and global action as well.

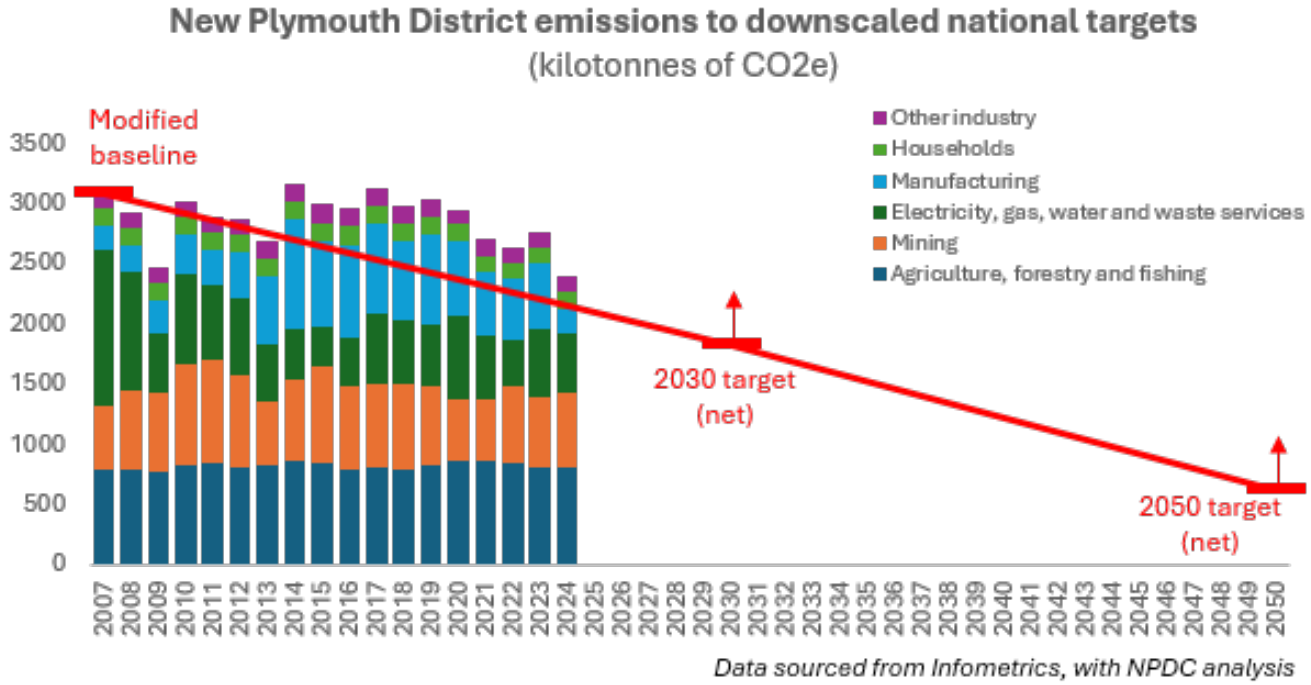
Emissions reduction requires action by many players, and we cannot expect others to do what we are not doing ourselves. Our response should be proportionate, science aligned and help influence larger emitters to do their part. While emissions reduction is a global challenge, we are the ones with primary responsibility for ensuring our district is resilient adapts effectively.

Against this wider backdrop, we have identified three major systemic issues that the Government needs to address for the benefit of our District. While there are many other policy changes we would also like to see, these are the three most significant.

The Government needs to support our economy to grow while reducing emissions

New Plymouth District and the Taranaki region are some of New Zealand's highest emitting areas. Our district had the seventh highest level of total emissions for any district in New Zealand, and our per capita emissions are nearly double the national average but the lowest per capita of the three districts in Taranaki, with Taranaki being the second highest emitting region of New Zealand (2024 data, Infometrics). This reflects our strong energy and agricultural sectors which have been the backbone of our economy and wealth for many years.

The below graph shows how our District's emissions have tracked down over time, sorted by key broad economic groupings. The targets reflect a downscaling of the national 2030 and 2050 emissions reduction targets. Meeting these targets will be driven by the Emissions Trading Scheme, the national Emissions Reduction Plan, and other Government policy settings. It is important to note that there are numerous caveats to this graph as well.[1]



[1] Classifications are based on Statistics New Zealand economic industry classifications. The data places sources like transportation to the industrial sector that uses that transport. Both the 2030 and 2050 national targets are net targets so emissions can be offset by carbon sequestration (such as by regenerating forests), and the actual level of emissions can higher which is represented by the red arrows above the target levels. The national 2030 target is set in relation to 2005 as the baseline year (and biogenic methane from 2017), whereas regional data is only available back to 2007 so that has had to be used instead for the baseline year. The 2050 target is also above zero due to the split gas biogenic methane target, and this has been factored in at a 24 per cent reduction (as the overlap point between different Government's target ranges). The national targets for 2030 and 2050 are for New Zealand-as-a-whole and there will be areas that still have emissions above the targets and other areas below those targets, but it is expected that emitters would face significant costs to pay to sequester carbon through the Emissions Trading Scheme.

The District's emissions have been falling and are now close to being 'on track' to the downscaled 2030 national target. However, the District's economic performance has been stagnating over this time and our GDP is effectively the same as it was during peak of the District's emissions in 2014. New Zealand's economy, over that period, has grown by about one-third. This stagnation has been led by the oil and gas industry reducing in size and other sectors slowly growing. This overall stagnating trend cannot continue.

The District, and Taranaki overall, faces a significant challenge in improving economic performance while continuing to reduce emissions. We need a clear plan from the Government, as it continues to drive economic emissions reduction through its national policies, that it does so in a way that invests in supporting existing businesses to thrive and generates new economic opportunities for Taranaki. This could include directing the locally raised ETS and royalty revenue to foster green growth, powering solar and renewable energy to lower energy costs for businesses, and partnering with the region's leadership to invest in achieving the Tapuae Roa Strategy and Action Plan.

Climate change adaptation responsibilities, powers and funding need to be sorted

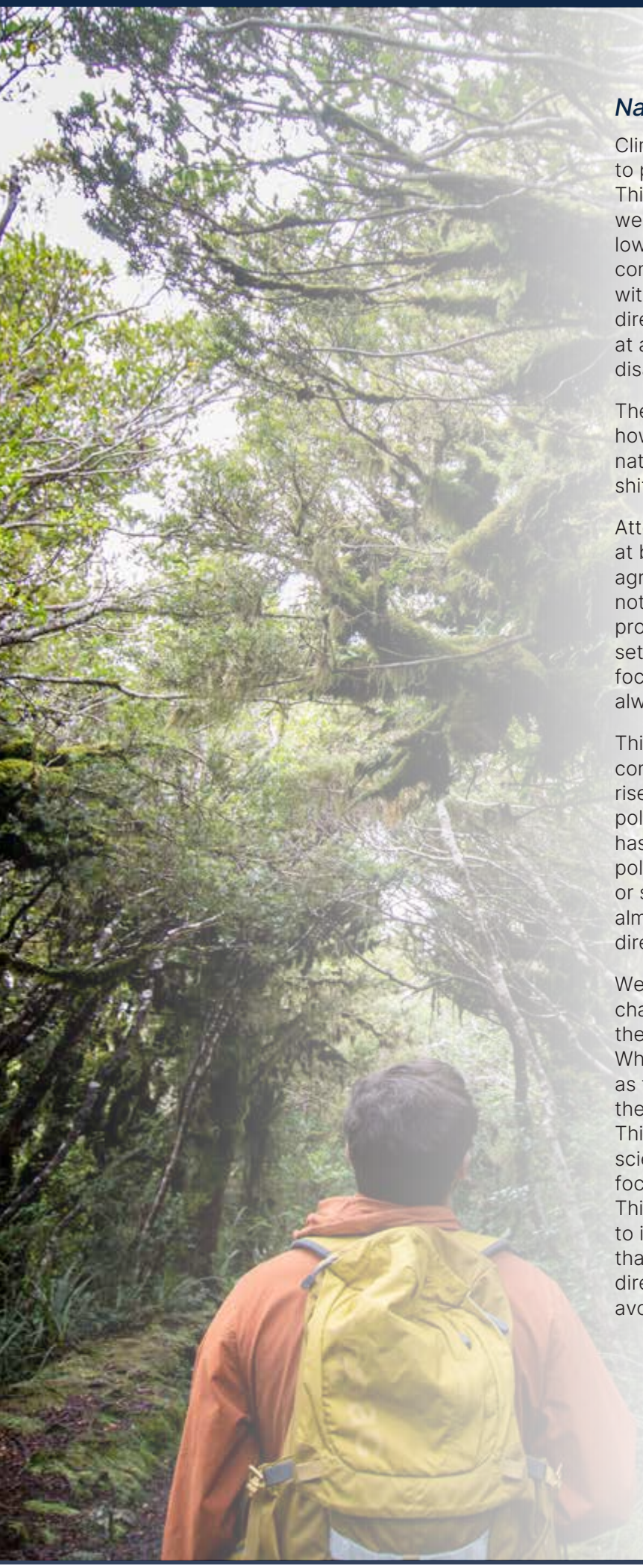
Climate change adaptation planning is a clear responsibility of local councils. The Government has introduced legislation to confirm this role. However, this is only a small part of the policy and statutory changes needed to fully enable climate change adaptation.

All infrastructure providers need to be supporting communities to adapt to climate change and become more resilient. Our role in adaptation planning cannot be undermined by other infrastructure providers neglecting resilience or taking their own approaches.

We also know that there will need to be new powers to implement adaptation plans. While it will be rarely needed, a clear statutory regime is necessary around decisions to relocate communities away from risky areas, including appropriate checks and balances and clear compensation rules.

One of the most significant challenges for adaptation is the question of who will pay. There needs to be a clear national framework for allocating costs that considers individual responsibilities, market forces (such as insurance retreat) and the roles and balance sheets of central and local government. Ratepayers cannot be the primary funder of climate change adaptation in New Zealand as there are already significant financial pressures on councils. The Government needs to be supporting councils and communities financially, through its balance sheet and in developing new funding approaches. Further, Government support cannot simply be targeted at only the communities with the highest risk factors, but needs to be spread fairly and proportionately across all communities that face increasing risk.

In short, the decision to allocate councils with a clear responsibility needs to be supported by the right funding, financing and statutory tools to do the role properly. Otherwise, we risk making commitments to the community that we cannot achieve.



National policy settings need to be stable

Climate change can be significantly disrupting to people's lives, livelihoods and communities. This disruption occurs not only from severe weather events, but also from the transition to a low-emissions society. There can be significant community concerns as that disruption takes place with competing views on the pace of change, the direction of change, or even if the change is needed at all. This has become fertile ground for political disagreement.

The product of that political disagreement is, however, further disruption. It results in inconsistent national political direction and large legal and policy shifts.

Attempts at a bipartisan approach to date have, at best, resulted in limited and/or high-level agreement. In some cases, these agreements have not endured and were later altered through partisan processes. The Climate Change Commission was set up to provide an independent advice stream that focuses on the long-term, but its advice has not always been taken onboard.

This disruption is having a significant impact on the community, the economy and us. Energy prices have risen significantly in recent years because of various policy changes. Emissions Trading Scheme pricing has increased and decreased more in relation to political whims than on the actual costs to mitigate or sequester emissions. Adaptation legislation has almost been agreed to several times, only for a new direction to be taken.

We believe that our local response to climate change would be more efficient and effective if there was clear bipartisanship at a national level. While we appreciate that governments will govern as they see fit, there needs to be greater stability in the system and agreement on the direction of travel. This requires all parties to work together and use scientific evidence to make informed decisions that focus on both the short-term and the long-term. This does not mean governments cannot respond to issues or have different priorities, but rather that they do so while heading in the same overall direction, working across the political divide and avoiding unnecessary shocks.

Our climate change objectives

As outlined above, our climate change response falls into different areas where we have different responsibilities, and what's more, they are different subject matters. This Action Plan has to recognise that the way our climate change actions work, how they need to engage, what drives them and so forth are very different. This section therefore outlines our key outcomes, how we will manage our overall response and balance resources and funding across the different areas. This Action Plan is then broken into the different areas that each outline their own strategic drivers.

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">OUTCOMES</th></tr>
<tr><td>Climate risk management</td><td>NPDC improves knowledge and resources to manage climate and natural hazards and risks to communities, the environment and cultural heritage.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Resilience and adaptation</td><td>NPDC improves the resilience of the community and environment so the District is better equipped to thrive in a changing climate.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Energy and emissions</td><td>NPDC reduces its emissions in line with the following targets through prioritised actions that reduce whole-of-life energy and infrastructure costs and support local energy innovation.
<table>
<tr><th></th><th>By 2029/30</th><th>By 2039/40</th><th>By 2049/50</th></tr>
<tr><td>Scope 1 and 2</td><td>At least 42% reduction from 2021/22 baseline.</td><td>At least 70% reduction from 2021/22 baseline.</td><td>At least 95% reduction from 2021/22 baseline. All remaining emissions offset.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Scope 3</td><td>At least 67% of suppliers engaged (by emissions).</td><td>At least 79% of suppliers engaged (by emissions).</td><td>At least 90% of suppliers engaged (by emissions). All remaining emissions offset.</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Community support</td><td>NPDC fosters and empowers the community to drive resilience, energy and climate action.</td></tr>
<tr><th colspan="2">MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES</th></tr>
<tr><td>Focused</td><td>We will focus on what matters and is in our control.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Fiscally-sound</td><td>We will manage whole-of-life costs, get ahead of potential climate change cost drivers, and allocate costs fairly and proportionately.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Planned and informed</td><td>We will use scientific evidence, weigh decisions for both present and future generations, and prioritise our actions based on risks, benefits and costs.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Engaged</td><td>NPDC fosters and empowers the community to drive resilience, energy and climate action.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Kaitiakitanga</td><td>We will enable mana whenua to exercise kaitiakitanga by empowering, partnering and listening in relevant initiatives.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Fostering</td><td>We will foster actions and initiatives within our community through partnerships, enablement and support.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Wider benefits</td><td>We will maximise the benefits to our community from our climate change actions.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Measured and accountable</td><td>We will measure the impacts of our actions to provide accountability and to signal where further actions may be required.</td></tr>
</table>

Summary of actions

The table below provides a high-level summary of actions across this Action Plan. Actions have been prioritised using the prioritisation framework set out below.

High	These are the essential actions to achieve this Action Plan. They include actions required by law, those that provide large whole-of-life cost savings, critical actions to address an issue, foundational actions, and actions that have multiple benefits across both climate and non-climate issues. These actions will be undertaken above others.
Medium	These actions are the core initiatives to achieve this Action Plan. They provide substantial benefits. They are the main planned actions.
Low	These lower priority actions will still provide real benefits to achieving the Action Plan. Some of these actions will move up the priority scale over time but are not issues that are immediately pressing or there are other actions with better return on investment to undertake first. These actions will be achieved where possible and are more likely to take time.

Action	Priority
Civic Centre solar PV.	High
Civic Centre chiller and boiler replacement.	High
Continue and expand Planting our Place.	High
Embed climate change considerations into strategies and plans as they are developed.	High
Embed and improve climate considerations into Infrastructure Strategy and Asset Management Strategy.	High
Ensure that future developments do not occur in risky areas.	High
Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre chiller and boilers replacement.	High
Identify communities requiring local adaptation plans through Regional Spatial Plan and then develop a delivery roadmap.	High
Improve data quality and reporting capabilities.	High
Inglewood Pool boilers replacement.	High
Initiate a local adaptation plan in Waitara.	High
New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant Master Plan.	High
Optimise fleet size and utilisation.	High
Puke Ariki chiller and boiler.	High
Refocus the Sustainability Accelerator Fund to an Energy Management Fund.	High
Renewable electricity from the market.	High
Supplier engagement on emissions.	High
Support the Ratepayer Assistance Scheme to fruition.	High
Tūparikino Active Community Hub self-supply solar PV.	High
Undertake a local adaptation plan for Urenui and Onaero (underway).	High

Action	Priority
Undertake local adaptation plans in communities.	High
Waiwhakaiho Wildlink.	High
Bioenergy opportunities.	Medium
Building Management System (BMS) optimisation.	Medium
Collaborate with key Council partners and community organisations.	Medium
Community Climate Action Fund.	Medium
Community Welfare Hub solar support.	Medium
Continue and enhance energy monitoring and management.	Medium
Continue and enhance the Perpetual Investment Fund's ESG approach.	Medium
Define our risk appetite and tolerance for energy innovation.	Medium
Develop a framework to improve decision-making for assets, infrastructure and planning for resilience.	Medium
Develop an NPDC framework for local adaptation planning.	Medium
Develop and implement a risk data management improvement strategy	Medium
Fernery boiler replacement.	Medium
Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre solar PV.	Medium
Identify, develop and maintain policies needed to support adaptation and resilience.	Medium
Inglewood Public Library heater replacement.	Medium
Integrate climate change risks into risk registers.	Medium
Leverage the Ratepayer Assistance Scheme.	Medium
Market engagement and understanding for energy innovation.	Medium
Monitor Emissions Trading Scheme impact on commonly used emissions-intensive products.	Medium
Nature-based solutions framework.	Medium
New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant solar PV.	Medium
New Plymouth Water Treatment Plant solar PV.	Medium
Plan cost effective electrification of the fleet.	Medium
Provide advice to households on being more resilient.	Medium
Puke Ariki library building solar PV.	Medium
Review how adaptation costs are allocated.	Medium
Stocktake climate and natural hazard risk data and needs/gap analysis.	Medium
Strategic partner for community energy.	Medium
Supporting resilient households to lower insurance costs.	Medium

Action	Priority
Taranaki Crematorium business case for water cremation.	Medium
Todd Energy Aquatic Centre boilers replacement.	Medium
TSB Showplace boiler replacement.	Medium
TSB Stadium heaters replacement.	Medium
Tūparikino Active Community Hub grid supply solar PV.	Medium
Turn the EnviroHub into a sustainable home demonstration site.	Medium
Understand and monitor financial impact of climate change events.	Medium
Undertake risk assessment and management plans for prioritised critical assets.	Medium
Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).	Low
BBQ – Reserve - East End Buller Street replacement.	Low
Bell Block Hall heating and hot water heating replacement.	Low
Community energy resilience.	Low
Dog Pound hot water replacement.	Low
Ecosystem scanning and information sharing for energy innovation.	Low
Energy flex.	Low
Establish a programme for solar PV at smaller sites.	Low
Fred Tucker Centre heating and hot water heating replacement.	Low
Geothermal opportunities.	Low
Hickford Park changing building hot water heating replacement.	Low
Improve driver behaviour and travel efficiency.	Low
Improve whole of life cost assessments in projects.	Low
Inglewood Town Hall heating and hot water heating replacement.	Low
Lynmouth Pavilion hot water heating replacement.	Low
Ōākura Town Hall heaters replacement.	Low
Provide greater information to the community on climate change risks and adaptation.	Low
Rainwater tanks and harvesting.	Low
Stadium Taranaki appliances and hot water heating replacement.	Low
Star Memorial Gym hot water heating replacement.	Low
Support industry to deliver sustainable homes.	Low
Support solar for renters through a pilot.	Low
Support those in energy hardship.	Low
Sustainable procurement practices.	Low
Understand the potential financial impact of a major event.	Low

Our planning cycle and approach

This Action Plan sits within our wider planning cycle. It will inform our next two Long-Term Plans – our financial budgets where we commit operating and capital funding for the coming 10-year periods. It also informs the Infrastructure Strategy for each of these Long-Term Plans.

How this Action Plan was made

Our actions have been informed by a mixture of specialist technical inputs and community engagement. We have varied the way we have created this Plan to account for the different subject areas and responsibilities. We've taken a more engaging approach to date with adaptation and resilience because it has a wider impact on the community, whereas our focus on energy and emissions is more about NPDC's internal operations and is therefore more informed by technical inputs. But both activities still include the other approach. We've undertaken some targeted engagement on our community actions as well.

Engagements we've had with the community that have shaped this Plan so far

Discussions with the community over four engagements in recent years indicate generally strong support for action.

2021: Long-Term Plan 2021-2031 consultation

We consulted on starting our Climate Action Framework funding as part of our Long-Term Plan 2021-2031, with three options. Sixty per cent of submitters supported funding the programme, with most support for a three-year funding option rather than a 10-year option.

2022: District-wide Emissions Reduction Plan consultation

In 2022 we presented our draft first District-Wide Emissions Reduction Plan to the community for consultation. We received 158 submissions on the draft Plan. Of these, 63 per cent of submitters believed we should do more to reduce emissions, while 37 per cent thought we were doing enough or should do less.

2024: Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 consultation

As part of the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 consultation we sought views on boosting funding for our Climate Action Framework, with four options. Just over three-quarters of submissions favoured an option with investment, including 39 per cent who submitted to fund enhancing the work programme. Twenty-three per cent of submitters supported ceasing the work programme.

2025: Climate change adaptation survey

In 2025 we undertook a community survey to understand concerns around climate change and support for various actions. Around two-thirds of respondents were concerned about climate change, with respondents most concerned about severe weather/storms, flooding, drought and coastal erosion. The most supported actions were making infrastructure more resilient, making homes, buildings and places more resilient, and improving nature's resilience and using nature-based solutions to improve our resilience.

Community engagement on this Action Plan

<<To be updated upon finalisation of the Action Plan, including noting changes made to the Action Plan in response to community feedback.>>

Funding to implement

This Action Plan is an outline of the key actions and initiatives we have planned for the next six years, however, the Long-Term Plan is where we determine funding and resourcing for this Action Plan (and others). There are always risks that actions and initiatives cannot be included in the Long-Term Plan or are funded at different times. This is because the Long-Term Plan considers a wide range of infrastructure and service improvement demands, funding and financial pressures, community and political views, external factors and so forth.

Where we need to, we will prioritise our funding and resourcing. Our actions have been prioritised in this Action Plan so that we can be clear in this process.

Agile within constraints

Climate change issues are evolving. New scientific and technical information brings new understanding of risk, new technology provides new ways of managing energy and emissions, and new challenges are presented by the transition to a low-emissions and climate-resilient society. There is also continuous innovation on how best to address climate change through different strategic initiatives. This means that there are always more, and new, things that we could be doing alongside what we have set out in this Action Plan.

This Action Plan focuses on the material initiatives we have planned. There will be minor initiatives, opportunities and supporting actions that we can undertake within our existing funding and resourcing that support our approach.

We need to be mindful about what we have committed to, our funding and resourcing, and what our role is and is not. Where new scientific information or technology requires a shift then we will need to carefully consider how to make that change. However, we will not follow every new idea, initiative or opportunity that comes along, particularly those that will require additional or redirected funding or resourcing. Instead, we will seek to be a 'careful follower' that will look at these approaches, see how they are working elsewhere and then make a well-grounded decision about whether they are worth investing resource in and whether the trade-offs are worthwhile. Larger changes may require amending this Action Plan.

Climate risk, resilience and adaptation

Our climate is changing and as a result, we can expect changes to our risks as a community. Across New Plymouth District we may see changing rain and snowfall patterns, more flooding events, less snow and ice, stronger storms, more droughts and wildfires, higher temperatures, more heatwaves and warmer oceans.

The rapid development of climate change means that climate science cannot necessarily predict the extent and timing of physical impacts perfectly. The data we are using is projected examples of what our future may look like as highly researched estimates. However, despite uncertainty with regards to specific projections, we are certain that our climate is changing and so are our risks as a community.

It is important to assess community-based risks to allow both individuals and groups to decide what level of risk they are able and willing to accept. Risk mitigation is expensive and we will not be able to afford to mitigate all aspects of risks. However, increasing our resilience can aid in our response to potential risks. Alongside this, risk prioritisation and education allows us to decide what risks we think are the most important and need to be dealt with and what methods we can use to deal with that risk. Understanding the extent of our changing climate allows us to better plan, prepare and thrive by managing risk and identifying opportunities.

Across the New Plymouth District, we have experienced a wide variety of events that were made more likely and more intense because of climate change. An example of this was Cyclone Gita that occurred in 2018 and caused an estimated $4.5 million in damage and clean-up costs. However, we have been fortunate to avoid the scale of impacts seen during Cyclone Gabrielle.

Climate change is a complicated issue which will have many unknown impacts, but not acting will cost us even more. It is up to all of us to decide together what to do to ensure we have a safer future and protect what is most important to us and our community.

Key projections

The tables below summarise key projections from the Ministry for Cities, Regions, Environment and Transport. They utilise two different projections and two different timeframes. The first projection is known as SSP2-4.5 and represents a scenario where global emissions fall, but not enough to stop significant climate change. The other scenario is SSP3-7.0 which is effectively the current 'business-as-usual' projection where there are not significant efforts globally to reduce emissions. The latter represents a realistic worst-case scenario to plan for, while the former takes a more middle range approach.

Climate change variable	Mid-Century (2040-2060)		End of Century (2080-2100)		What this means
	SSP 2-4.5	SSP 3-7.0	SSP 2-4.5	SSP 3-7.0	
Number of hot days >25 degrees	+0.0 to 11.4 days	+0.1 to 16.4 days	+0.3 to 24.0 days	+1.8 to 49.5 days	Overall, there will be an increase in hot days across the District. These are days that are hot and can place vulnerable people at risk. The Northern Taranaki Hill Country and the coastline north of New Plymouth are likely to experience a greater increase in hot days than Ōākura and the area around Taranaki Maunga.
Number of very hot days >30 degrees	+0.0 to 0.2 days	+0.0 to 0.2 days	+0.0 to 1.0 days	+0.0 to 5.6 days	These heat wave days will increase, but still be rare. These are the days that can place people into heat stress, and have particularly high risk for vulnerable people. The greater increase in number of very hot days will be felt in the Northern Taranaki Hill Country.
Cooling degree days (CDD) >18 degrees	+14.4 to 104.9 CDD	+20.3 to 141.5 CDD	+30.9 to 204.0 CDD	+74.5 to 362.3 CDD	The number of cooling degree days is where buildings need to use cooling to stay comfortable. This can place additional pressure onto electricity networks and can place people who are in uncooled buildings into heat stress. This varies along the coastline from +90.9 CDD in Ōkato to +108.1 CDD in Tongapōrutu to the mid-century SSP2-4.5. This variation is also felt inland where the Northern Taranaki Hill Country increase is greater than the area around Taranaki Maunga.

Climate change variable	Mid-Century (2040-2060)		End of Century (2080-2100)		What this means
	SSP 2-4.5	SSP 3-7.0	SSP 2-4.5	SSP 3-7.0	
Heavy rainfall 99th percentile	+2.2 to 6.9%	+4.5 to 10.3%	+2.8 to 8.0%	+7.0 to 10.3%	These are heavy storm events that will create flooding risks. Greater increase in rainfall is projected along the coastline north of New Plymouth township, and inland from Inglewood. Around Inglewood and Ōākura is likely to experience the lowest levels of change.
Drought exposure (PED)	+2.3 to 25.5 mm	+0.7 to 25.1 mm	+1.2 to 43.4 mm	+4.9 to 73.0 mm	This indicates that the District is likely to experience an increase in droughts. The coastline is likely to experience a greater rate of change than inland areas of the district, with the highest change around Tikorangi.
Strong wind 99th percentile	-1.3 to 0.0%	-1.2 to 0.4%	-1.9 to -1.1%	-2.6 to -1.3%	These are very strong winds, likely to cause damage. These forecasts show that strong winds may decrease somewhat, or increase slightly. The difference across the District is negligible.
Sea-level rise	0.13 to 0.18m	0.16 to 0.18m	0.37 to 0.48m	0.48 to 0.52m	Sea-level rise can increase both coastal erosion and inundation. While sea-level rise is consistent across the coast, vertical land movement varies from areas of increased land movement, around Port Taranaki, to areas of minimal movement north of Tongapōrutu and around Ōākura, to large areas of subsidence between Bell Block and Tongapōrutu. The resulting change in sea level, inclusive of the vertical land movement is largely the same across the district.

While there is variation in the forecasts, they tell us that there is a consistent overall trend. The District will be hotter and subject to both more drought conditions and more intense rainfall events, and the sea-level will rise along the coast. This is the key takeaway for planning. The decisions on which scenario to use needs to be proportionate to the risks of each situation and we need to be dynamic in how we build resilience because of how forecasts differ under different scenarios.

Improving our understanding of climate risks

As we improve our knowledge of natural hazard data and climate change forecasts, we have a better understanding of what assets are, or are not, potentially exposed to risk. However, not all assets in a 'risk zone' as necessarily at risk.

We have a high-level of understanding already about the different types of assets we have and the different risk profiles that those asset classes may face. This is from a risk assessment to our infrastructure and services undertaken for us by Tonkin+Taylor in 2021. From this, we can begin to prioritise more detailed investigations to each individual asset. The table below provides a summary of our top risks to infrastructure and services by 2100, and the comparison to today and 2050. Some risks escalate significantly, whereas others only have small changes.

Asset Area	Risk Description	Present Day	2050	2100
Parks and Open Spaces 	Walkways (expansion/twisting due to heat).	High	High	Extreme
	Soft assets (turf, trees, gardens) – coastal erosion.	High	High	Extreme
	Structures and paths – landslides.	Moderate	High	Extreme
	Foreshore protection structures – erosion and overtopping.	High	High	High
	Dams – changing rainfall extremes.	Moderate	High	High
	Soft assets – heat, drought, seasonality.	Moderate	Moderate	Extreme
Transportation 	Drainage and culverts – rainfall extremes.	Moderate	High	Extreme
	Roading infrastructure – landslides.	Moderate	Moderate	Extreme
	Coastal roads and bridges – erosion.	Low	Moderate	Extreme
	Footpaths and cycleways – coastal flooding and erosion	Low	Moderate	Extreme
	Pavement – rainfall extremes.	Low	Moderate	High
	Roads and bridges - inland flooding.	Low	Moderate	High

Asset Area	Risk Description	Present Day	2050	2100
Resource Recovery	Facilities and bins – temperature extremes (fire risk).	Moderate	Moderate	Extreme
	Kerbside collection – storms and wind.	High	High	High
	Closed landfills – coastal erosion.	Low	Moderate	Extreme
	Canopy structures – storms and wind.	Moderate	Moderate	High
	Stormwater management – rainfall extremes.	Low	Moderate	High
Property	Buildings and venues – storms and wind.	Moderate	High	Extreme
	Buildings and venues – rainfall extremes.	Moderate	Moderate	Extreme
	Buildings and venues – coastal erosion.	Low	Moderate	Extreme
	Campgrounds and leases – coastal erosion.	Low	Moderate	Extreme
Three Waters	Flood control schemes – rainfall extremes.	Moderate	High	Extreme
	Wastewater outfall – storms.	Moderate	Moderate	Extreme
	Potable water supply – wildfire contamination.	Moderate	Moderate	Extreme
	Wastewater infrastructure – groundwater rise.	Moderate	Moderate	Extreme
	Wastewater network – rainfall extremes.	Moderate	Moderate	High
	Water supply infrastructure – storms.	Moderate	Moderate	High

In summary, we have extreme and high risks across all our infrastructure and services. There are significant risks particularly in Parks, reflecting that we have avoided building in some of our high-risk areas and turned those areas into parks and reserves instead.

We know that the costs of these risks will increase if we do not make changes now. Some of these risks will have significant implications for our ability to serve the community with critical lifelines and infrastructure. Global and national research also shows that there is strong financial payback in investments in resilience when a disaster strikes.

To address these risks, we have a comprehensive programme of work that takes a clear pathway to building resilience in our assets over time. The first step is building our information and data around natural hazards risks and how we manage that information and data. From there, we can determine how to address those risks over time. This will then prioritise investments to where we can have the most impact. This Plan supports the first two parts of this process, with investment decisions to follow into future Long-Term Plans and Annual Plans. It should be noted that many of these actions can occur concurrently rather than needing to be sequenced.

Action	Priority
Stocktake climate and natural hazard risk data and needs/gap analysis Undertake a stocktake of climate and natural hazard risk data and information. Assess the robustness, reliability and limitations of this data, what data is being used across Council, where risk data is insufficient. This includes assessing different statutory obligations on different Council functions and the implications that has on risk data needs.	Medium
Develop and implement a risk data management improvement strategy Develop an internal strategy to improve risk data across Council assets and services. This will need to be prioritised based on gaps, roles and functions, and other factors. This will need to include assessing standardisation of risk assessments and modelling, appropriate internal governance and coordination (including reporting to Finance, Audit and Risk Committee), use and development of risk data, and improved systems for capturing and storage of data.	Medium
Integrate climate change risks into risk registers As climate and natural hazard risk data is improved, Council will have improved knowledge of these risks. They should be integrated into the standard Council risk registers in accordance with the Risk Management Framework. Risks should be reported to Elected Members as appropriate. This will involve considering how the climate change risk approach can be modified to integrate into the standard Council risk management system and to track the escalation of risks over time.	Medium

Action	Priority
Develop a framework to improve decision-making for assets, infrastructure and planning for resilience Develop a framework to guide decisions for assets, infrastructure and planning to ensure that the appropriate climate scenarios and resilience levels are provided. This framework should apply to existing and new assets, infrastructure and plans. There are a multitude of different possible climate change scenarios that reflect different global levels of success in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In general, more critical and longer lifespan assets would be expected to have a higher level of resilience, and utilise a higher climate change forecast, than a less critical or short-lived asset. There are also a wide range of resilience levels that are appropriate. Different infrastructure has been built to different levels of resilience and will continue to do so. This needs to be a risk-based decision.	Medium
Undertake risk assessment and management plans for prioritised critical assets Identify priority critical assets that are located in or around known hazard zones to undertake detailed climate change and natural hazard risk assessments. For assets with a higher degree of risk than tolerable, develop bespoke management plans for those assets using a dynamic adaptive pathway planning approach.	Medium
Identify, develop and maintain policies needed to support adaptation and resilience Consider and develop new Council policies: • Loss and Damage Policy – this policy is to clearly articulate that, outside of where there are legal requirements to do so, Council is not responsible for property loss or damage as a result of climate change • Asset Abandonment Policy – this policy is to guide decisions on when Council may abandon its assets due to damage or risks of damage, including factors to consider, processes to follow and where decision-making sits. Review and replace the existing Coastal Erosion Strategy (1995) to provide more detail around Council's approach to only protecting significant public assets from coastal erosion, when Council may cease to protect such an asset, provide more detail around how Council can support other assets without taking on protecting them, and identify whether it is possible to also apply the same approach to other types of natural erosion. Other policies and documents are likely to be identified on an ongoing basis as issues are raised through local adaptation plans and other initiatives.	Medium
Understand and monitor financial impact of climate change events Monitor the impact of ongoing cost of severe weather events that gradually degrade financial resilience of Council and impact level of service. This action aims to streamline the monitoring approach to ensure all relevant costs are being captured and reported.	Medium
Understand the potential financial impact of a major event Undertake financial modelling to understand the potential costs to Council of a major severe weather event. Assess the implications on Council's financial position to determine whether any financial settings should be altered to increase financial resilience. This action relies on improved asset data and information.	Low

Council works with communities to develop bespoke adaptation plans

Alongside this focus on our assets, we also have a significant responsibility to ensure that our communities are safe as natural hazard risks increase with climate change.

We commissioned WSP to undertake the Preliminary Community Climate Change Risk Assessment to find out what communities in New Plymouth District are most at risk to climate change, based on already existing data. Key findings from the assessment highlighted Waitara, New Plymouth West and the North Taranaki Hill Country are the most at-risk and should be prioritised for community conversations about risk.

There are limitations to this work, particularly around natural hazard data. Some risks may be understated due to lack of data. This will be improved over time, particularly as we undertake stormwater modelling across the District and obtain other data. Other limitations include not assessing cascading or compounding risks.

The following table provides a breakdown of the total risks faced by different communities across the District, and whether those risks are ranked as extreme or high.

Community area	Total number of risks	Number of extreme risks	Number of high risks
Waitara	23	7	14
District-wide	21	1	14
New Plymouth West	17	3	11
Northern Taranaki Hill Country	14	0	11
New Plymouth Central	12	3	7
New Plymouth East	9	2	5
Bell Block	7	0	7
Ōākura	6	2	4
Kaitake	5	0	5
Tikorangi	5	0	4
Lepperton	4	0	2
Urenui	4	1	3
Inglewood	1	0	1
Rural Inglewood	1	0	0

Summary of the risks to each community area

District-wide

Hazards that are of extreme and high risk to the New Plymouth district include heatwaves, sea level rise, coastal flooding, coastal erosion and heavy rainfall. Sea level rise and coastal flooding may impact coastal ecosystems (areas where the land meets the sea and plants and animals may live there). Coastal erosion and sea level rise may cause coastal ecosystems to have less animals and plants or may become home to only one type of animal or plant because it kicks everything else out. Heavy rainfall may impact agricultural land as it may result in erosion or flooding.

Waitara

Hazards that are of extreme risk to this area include sea level rise, coastal flooding, stormwater/urban flooding and heatwaves. Residential housing is at risk to damage from coastal flooding. Both sea level rise and coastal flooding may risk community health and wellbeing due to damaged roads or buildings, leading to health and safety risks. Heritage sites in Waitara are also at risk to coastal flooding. Ōwae Marae is at risk to stormwater flooding leading to reduced access and risking cultural wellbeing. Churches and residential buildings in Waitara are also at risk to stormwater flooding. Rainfall events and stormwater flooding go hand in hand as large amounts of rainfall received over shorter periods overloads stormwater drainage systems resulting in flooding.

Waitara will experience an increase in hot days above 25°C. A greater number of hot days mean consistently warmer temperatures creating an increased risk to community health, particularly for groups with limited access to cooling resources, leaving them more likely to experience heat-related illness.

New Plymouth West

Hazards that are of extreme risk to this area include sea level rise, coastal flooding, and stormwater/urban flooding. Sea level rise poses a significant risk to the Port. Stormwater and urban flooding may impact the community as people who already have limited resources also live in the expected stormwater flooding areas adding to the risk of the community.

Northern Taranaki Hill Country

Hazards that are of high risk to this area include sea level rise, coastal flooding (on the coastal area), heatwaves, landslides and soil erosion. Sea level rise and coastal flooding may impact freedom camping and public reserves which may reduce the quality of life. The Northern Taranaki hill country will experience an increase in hot days more significantly than other areas of New Plymouth District. Hot days (with temperatures over 25°C) could increase by up to 49.5 more days, and very hot days (above 30°C) will be felt in this area too. A greater number of hot days mean consistently warmer temperatures and possibilities of heatwaves creating an increased risk to community health, impacting groups with limited access to cooling resources most significantly. Forestry blocks are at risk to landslides and soil erosion which may mean a loss of trees. Landslides may also block roads so people cannot leave or enter decreasing community well-being.

New Plymouth Central

Hazards that are of extreme risk to this area include sea level rise, coastal erosion, and stormwater/urban flooding. Damage to public areas such as parks and beaches may happen because of sea level rise and coastal erosion, this may result in a decrease in community wellbeing. Stormwater/urban flooding may cause people to not be able to leave their homes because roads and other core infrastructure systems are flooded.

New Plymouth East

Hazards that are of extreme risk to this area include river flooding and heatwaves. River flooding may result in people having restricted movement as they may not be able to leave their home or become stuck in other places. Heatwaves are a risk to the health of the area as not all people will have access to cooling systems (i.e. air conditioning) meaning they may develop heat stress or other heat related illnesses due to increasing temperatures.

Bell Block

Hazards that are of high risk to this area include by sea level rise, coastal flooding, coastal erosion and stormwater/urban flooding. Sea level rise and coastal flooding present a danger to public areas such as parks as they are at risk of damage. Sea level rise and coastal erosion leave public areas like beaches at risk of being blocked off by debris or water meaning people cannot go there, it also may damage heritage sites. Stormwater/urban flooding may damage parks for short to long term periods impacting both accessibility and community well-being.

Ōākura

Hazards that are of extreme and high risk to this area include sea level rise and coastal flooding. The Ōākura Pa whenua is at risk to coastal flooding which may damage the area and negatively impact wellbeing of mana whenua. Sea level rise and coastal flooding of Urenui river may result in community isolation and a decrease in overall community wellbeing. Coastal flooding may damage parks and flood waters may reduce park access and quality of life.

Kaitake

Hazards that are of high risk to this area include, sea level rise and coastal flooding, coastal erosion. Coastal flooding may damage parks through flooding and salt damage. Sea level rise and coastal flooding damage community halls and buildings. Heritage sites may also be damaged because of sea level rise and coastal erosion.

Tikorangi

Hazards that are of high risk to this area include sea level rise and coastal erosion. Sea level rise and coastal erosion may damage beaches, parks, heritage sites and other public places. There is also a risk to terrestrial ecosystems due to coastal erosion of habitat. Tikorangi Is likely to experience the highest rate of change regarding drought exposure.

Lepperton

Hazards that are of high risk to this area include river flooding and stormwater/urban flooding. River flooding is a risk to freshwater ecosystems, the flooding of the Waitara river may cause floodwaters to enter wetlands and lakes located in the wider Lepperton area. Flooding may impact the rail network in Lepperton.

Urenui

Hazards that are of extreme and high risk to this community include sea level rise, coastal flooding and coastal erosion. Sea level rise and coastal flooding may risk how well the community functions. Sea level rise and coastal flooding is also a risk to the overall health of the community and public areas such as parks may be damaged. Sea level rise and coastal erosion is a risk to housing.

Inglewood

A hazard that is of high risk for this community is heatwaves. There are a high percentage of people in Inglewood that may be exposed to heat stress.

Rural Inglewood

The most significant hazard to this community is drought which is of moderate to low risk.

How we address these risks through local adaptation planning

The approach to addressing these various risks to each community is to work separately with each community on a plan. These local adaptation plans outline the strategic planning and coordination of actions and investments to manage climate-driven natural hazard risks. They are designed to provide a long-term view and will set out the actions and pathways to respond to these risks.

The Government has introduced legislation to regulate these local adaptation plans to ensure that they are undertaken across the country in those communities that need to have these conversations. This will involve identification in the new Regional Spatial Plans, with territorial authorities then given five to 10 years to complete these local adaptation plans. This means we will need to be undertaking these plans over the coming years.

We will likely have multiple local adaptation plans to undertake due to the nature of our District and its risk profile. These will range in size and complexity across different communities. This contrasts to other parts of the country that may have only one or two plans to undertake, but those plans will be much larger and more complex.

These plans need a high level of engagement with the community, including partnering with mana whenua, to ensure that they reflect community aspirations, concerns and risk tolerance.

We have identified several actions to undertake that are based on the proposed legislation. There is a risk that the final regulatory environment differs from what we expect and that may therefore change some of these actions. Ultimately though, the most important thing to do is undertake these plans with communities regardless of whether the law requires us to do so or not – so we will prioritise that.

We also want to make sure that we do not continue to enable development and building in risky areas. This ensures that we do not need to undertake more adaptation plans in the future for decisions made today. While this seems like a 'no-brainer', there needs to be careful and detailed examination of why decisions to build in risky places are still being made around the country, and whether we have our settings right to stop it.

Action	Priority
Ensure that future developments do not occur in risky areas Investigate barriers to cease building in risky areas that are occurring around the country. Draw on practices from other councils and explore collaboration with the Insurance sector to ensure that further developments do not occur in risky areas.	High
Identify communities requiring local adaptation plans through Regional Spatial Plan and then develop a delivery roadmap Undertake to identify communities requiring adaptation planning in the District in the Regional Spatial Plan in accordance with any policy settings to do so. Develop a roadmap for those communities identified in the Regional Spatial Plan for local adaptation plans. Depending on the outcomes, Council may also assess whether there are other communities or smaller areas that would still benefit from adaptation planning even though they are outside of those areas identified in the Regional Spatial Plan, and then incorporate them into the roadmap appropriately.	High
Initiate a local adaptation plan in Waitara While overall we have to wait to assess areas requiring local adaptation plans in the Regional Spatial Plan (see next action), Waitara is a clear high priority. Tiritiri o Mātangi – the Waitara Spatial Plan identifies a local adaptation plan as a key action for the community due to the prevalence of natural hazards risk through the township. We therefore plan to begin this process before the Regional Spatial Plan process is finished.	High

Action	Priority
Undertake a local adaptation plan for Urenui and Onaero (underway) Council is working with Ngāti Mutunga and the Urenui and Onaero communities to develop a local adaptation plan for these communities. These communities are exposed to coastal erosion and inundation risks, and climate change forecasts indicate that there will be increased river flooding risks as well in the future.	High
Undertake local adaptation plans in communities Undertake local adaptation plans in communities as set out in the delivery roadmap. The approach taken will be subject to final regulatory settings, with Council intending to undertake these plans with high degrees of community engagement and mana whenua partnerships.	High
Develop an NPDC framework for local adaptation planning Develop a framework for how we will undertake local adaptation plans. Do this by capturing the lessons learned and best practice from the Urenui and Onaero local adaptation plan process. This allows the same approach to be replicated to other communities in the District, and create a standardised approach to ensure all communities are treated fairly and proportionately. This framework will include a strong approach to engaging with communities including partnerships with mana whenua. There will still need to be tailoring to each community, but the general approach should be consistent.	Medium
Review how adaptation costs are allocated Once any national cost allocation framework is established, consider how any costs that fall to Council from significant adaptation activities (such as community relocation, new protective structures etc.) are allocated to the community. This would form part of reviewing the Revenue and Financing Policy in a Long-Term Plan process, and would need to consider the funding principles as set in the Local Government Act 2002, any national framework and Council's general funding approach.	Medium
Provide information to the community on climate change risks and adaptation Explore opportunities to provide more information to the community about climate change risks within the District and adaptation. Provide information and support to mana whenua on risks to taonga and sites of significance (such as marae). Consider undertaking adaptation forum or events for District on an annual basis. Establish an approach for rangatahi/ youth engagement in adaptation planning. Use the Council website to provide public with information on climate change risk and adaptation work.	Low

Energy and emissions

This section outlines our approach to managing energy use and emissions across our operations and activities.

Energy is a critical component to making things happen and also one of the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions that is under our control and easy to do something about. We are a high energy user across our varied portfolio of infrastructure and services, and many of our energy uses rely on older, less efficient and higher-emitting technology. This means that energy is also a significant cost for us, and this cost is then borne by ratepayers. Strategically managing our energy uses can help to reduce these costs while also reducing the emissions that are associated with those energy sources.

Council is a small player within the overall energy sector. We receive energy as an input into our operations. As such, how we manage our energy must be considered within the wider energy system. The drivers outlined below describe the strategic environment in which we operate. These include both global and domestic factors that influence our ability to achieve affordable, reliable, and low-emissions energy outcomes, and to support New Zealand's transition to a low-emissions future.

Political
• Lack of bipartisan alignment on New Zealand's long-term energy direction is contributing to investment and price uncertainty (e.g. changes in oil and gas policy, LNG import infrastructure). • Increasing geopolitical tensions are affecting global energy markets and supply chains, contributing to volatility in fuel and LNG prices. • Internationally, some governments continue to accelerate electrification, renewable energy deployment, and low-carbon investment.
Economic
• Ongoing increases in electricity costs, including both network (lines) charges and wholesale energy prices. • Significantly rising gas prices across both fixed and variable components, driven by both reducing supply and emissions trading scheme costs. • Declining capital costs for solar PV and other distributed energy technologies. • Growing access to sustainable finance mechanisms, including the Local Government Funding Agency's Climate Action Loans and Green & Social Loans. • Decreasing gas availability and increasing energy costs are having negative economic impacts on businesses, with some businesses closing as a result.

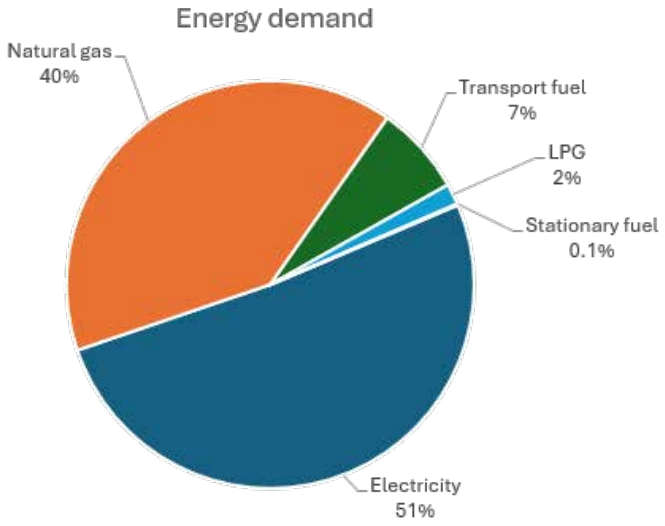
Technological
• Rapid uptake of distributed energy resources (e.g. solar PV and battery storage). • Electrification of transport and process heat driving increased electricity demand and changing load profiles. • Increasing innovation and new energy technologies.
Environmental
• Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector over time as more renewable options are built, but still a reliance on fossil fuels for firming. • Climate change is increasing hydrological variability (dry year risk), contributing to electricity price volatility. • Increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events (e.g. flooding, storms) is driving the need for more resilient energy systems and infrastructure.
Social
• Rising energy costs are placing pressure on households, with some reducing heating and transport use, negatively impacting living standards, wellbeing, and health. • Increasing community expectations for sustainable and climate-resilient infrastructure and services.
Legal
• New Zealand's commitments under the Paris Agreement and the Climate Change Response Act (particularly the "Zero Carbon Act" amendments) establish a policy pathway to net zero emissions by 2050. • The New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) is expected to increase the cost of carbon emissions over time, affecting energy and material costs. • Statutory obligations and expectations for emissions reduction create both a responsibility and a risk for Council if not proactively managed. • Ongoing local government and resource management reforms are reshaping how councils plan for growth, infrastructure, and energy use across communities.

These pressures increase the importance for Council to carefully manage its energy uses to balance security of supply for services, energy costs that are passed through to ratepayers, and environmental considerations.

Our energy profile

Council operations rely on a range of energy sources, including electricity, natural gas, LPG, transport fuels, and a small amount of stationary fuels (mainly emergency and one-off event diesel generators). Energy represents a significant operating cost, exceeding $4 million annually.

Most of our energy comes from electricity and then from natural gas. The graph summarises the demand for key energy resources across our operations.



Electricity

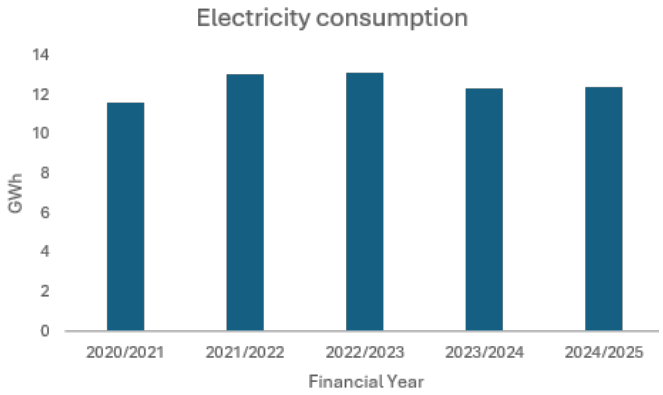
In 2024/25 we consumed approximately 12.4 GWh of electricity, representing a one per cent increase from the previous year. This increase reflects growing demand for electricity and service delivery requirements. However, there is natural variation within our use (for instance, Covid lockdowns reduced energy use in 2020/21.

Electricity is a critical energy source across our operations, particularly in three waters, community facilities, and public infrastructure. We use electricity across approximately 165 sites, with demand concentrated in a small number of large facilities, as well as an extensive street light system. The New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant is our largest electricity user, accounting for around 30 per cent of total demand. The next largest users are Puke Ariki (museum and library) at approximately 10 per cent, aquatic facilities at eight per cent, and the Civic Centre at five per cent. Together, these sites make up over half of total electricity consumption, with the remaining demand distributed across the wider portfolio.

Electricity prices have increased significantly in recent years. Between 2020 and 2025:

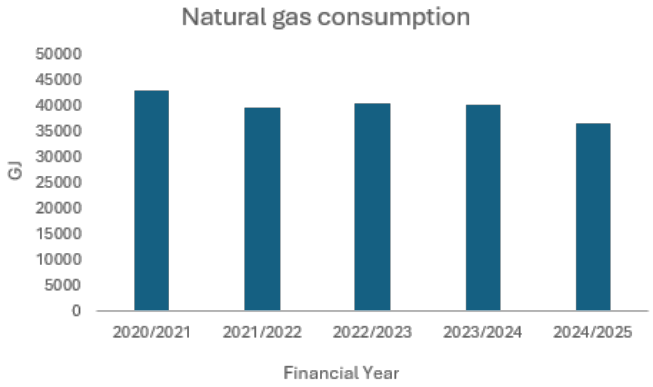
- Residential prices increased by approximately 19 per cent.
- Commercial prices increased by approximately 37 per cent.

These increases have been driven by rising transmission and distribution costs, higher wholesale electricity prices during low hydro inflows, and constrained gas supply.



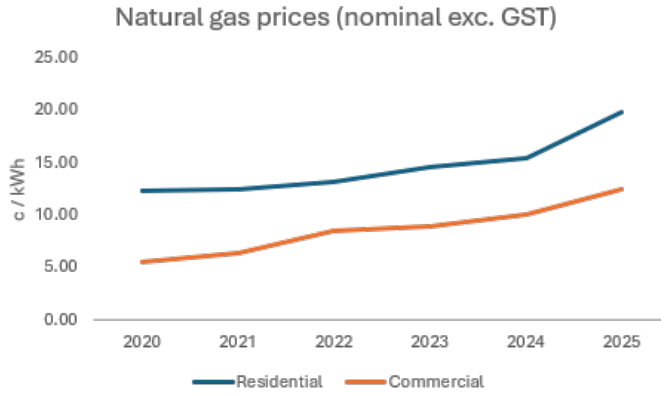
Natural gas

In 2024/25, we consumed approximately 36,700 GJ of natural gas, a nine per cent decrease from 2023/24. Gas use has been trending downward since 2021, reflecting both efficiency improvements and switching away from natural gas.



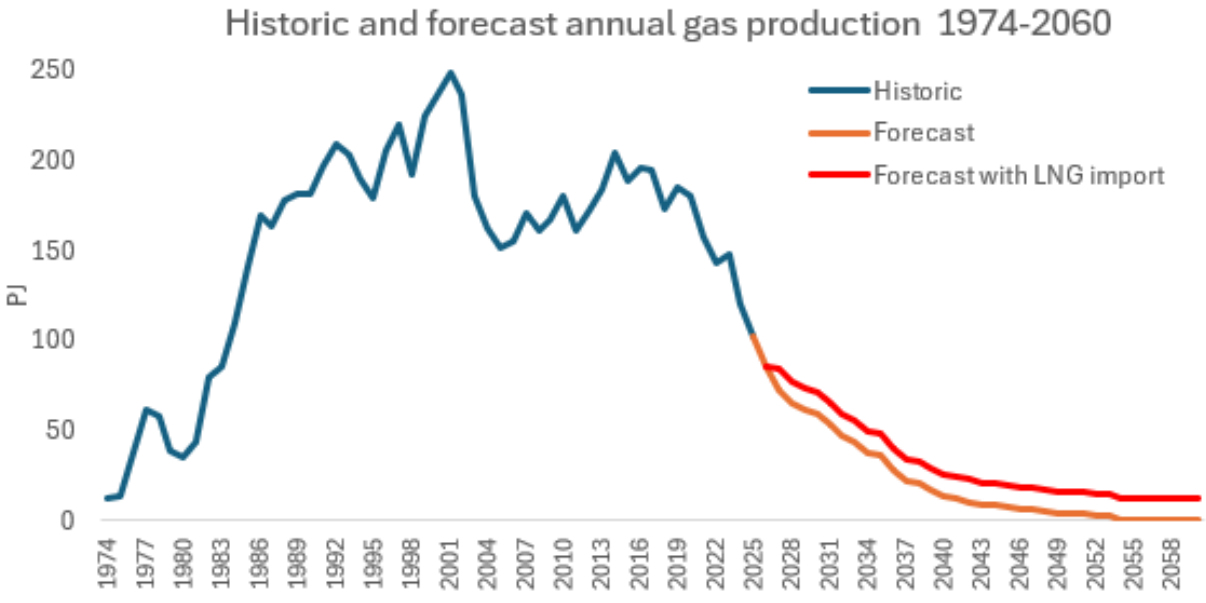
Natural gas is used across approximately 20 sites. However, gas consumption is concentrated in a small number of sites. Over half our natural gas is for sludge drying at the New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant. Our next largest site is the Todd Energy Aquatic Centre, consuming about one-fifth of our overall use to keep the indoor and outdoor pools heated. The next largest users are heating Puke Ariki (seven per cent) and Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre (five per cent), both buildings that have temperature control requirements due to the taonga within them.

Gas prices have increased sharply, with commercial prices rising by approximately 126 per cent between 2020 and 2025. This has been driven by declining domestic gas reserves, low hydro inflows, and supply constraints.



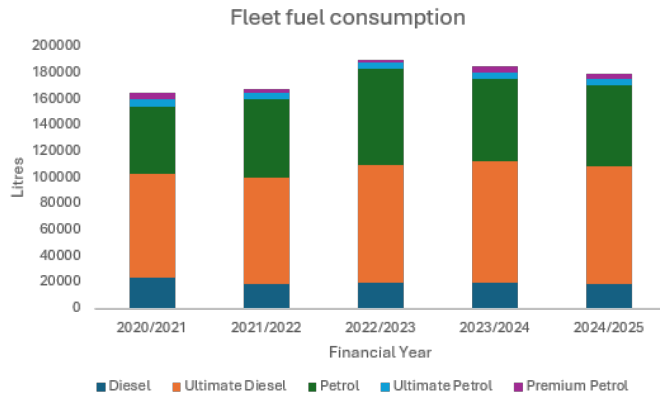
The long-term outlook for natural gas remains uncertain. Domestic production is declining as reserves are depleted. In 2025, total production fell to 91.9 PJ, an 8.6% decrease from 2024. Current forecasts – based on existing gas production sites – is for a significant and ongoing decline in gas production. While government interventions – such as reversing the oil and gas exploration ban, establishing a $200 million investment fund, and exploring LNG import options – are aimed at increasing supply, demand is likely to significantly exceed supply, placing sustained upward pressure on prices. There is an increasing risk that Council will not be able to obtain sufficient natural gas for some of its facilities. The below graph shows the historic and forecast gas production from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, and also shows the impact of the proposed LNG import facility (an additional 12 PJ per annum).

In short, we face significant pressure with natural gas due to our widespread use across our operations and the potential future price and supply risks.



Transport fuel

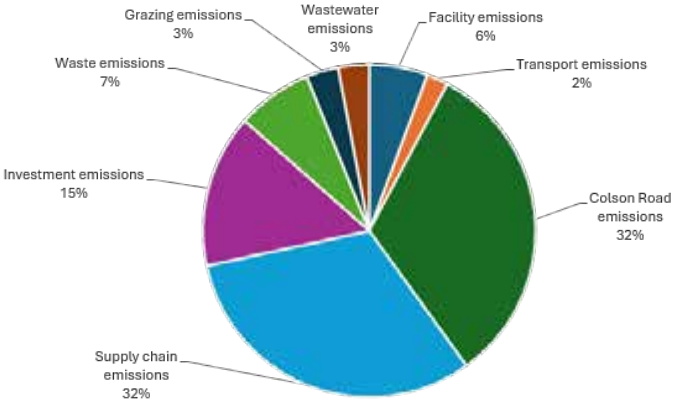
Council operates a substantial vehicle fleet to get around the District. Our teams need to be able to access every part of the District for a wider range of reasons – from building consent inspections to maintaining parks to attending community board meetings to the mobile library.



We pay the standard market prices for these fuels.

Our greenhouse gas emission profile

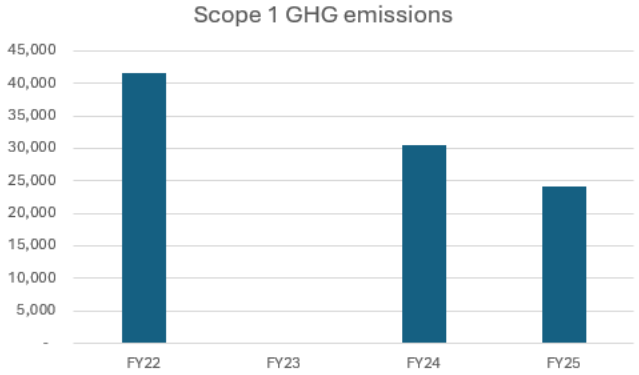
In 2024/25, our greenhouse gas footprint was approximately 62,100 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents (tCO_2e). The below graph shows how these emissions are broken down into their original sources within our operations in 2024/25.



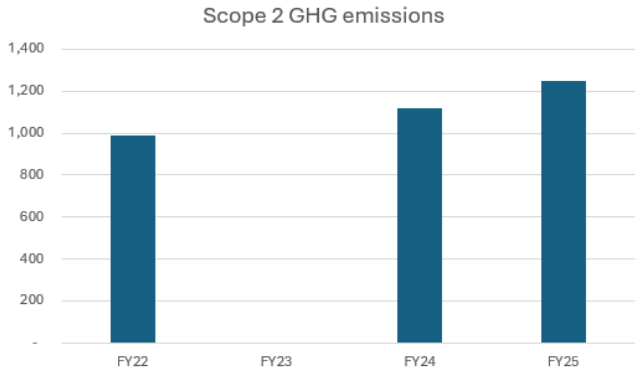
Standard emissions accounting breaks greenhouse emissions for organisations into three different scopes. These scopes reflect different levels of control and relationship to where the emissions are from.

- **Scope 1:** Direct emissions from organisational activities, such as running boilers and vehicles.
- **Scope 2:** Indirect emissions from the use of grid supplied energy.
- **Scope 3:** Indirect emissions from the supply chain and upstream and downstream activities, such as purchased goods.

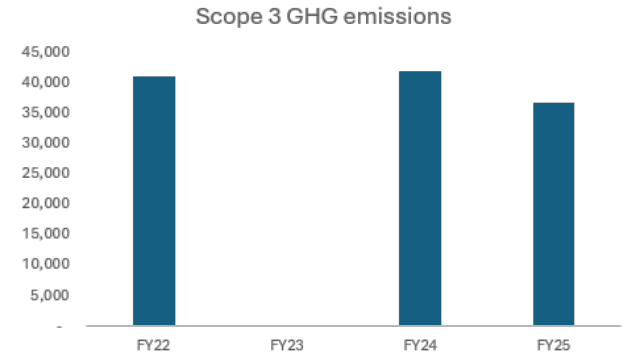
Scope 1 emissions are declining, primarily due to reduced landfill gas emissions following the closure of the Colson Road landfill and the installation of gas capture and flare infrastructure, alongside the natural decline in landfill gas generation.



Scope 2 emissions initially increased due to higher electricity use, but from November 2025 Council transitioned to 100% renewable electricity, reducing Scope 2 emissions to effectively zero. This arrangement is expected to continue through at least October 2028.



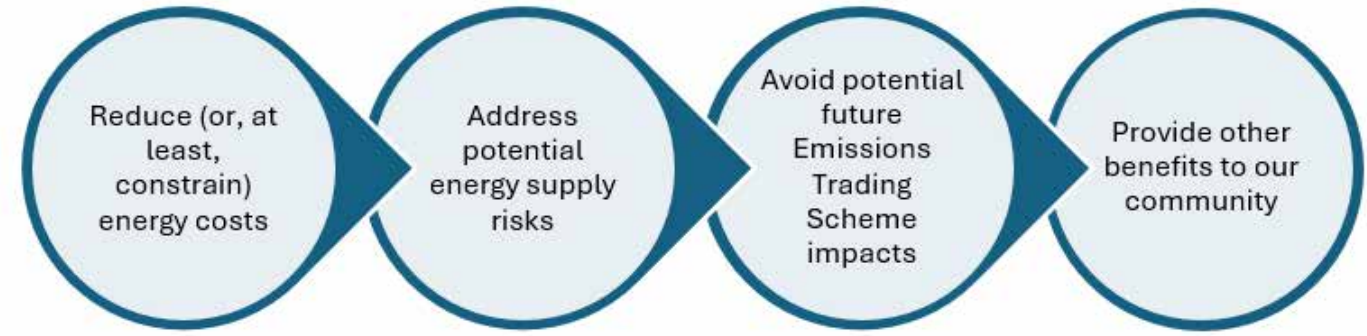
Scope 3 emissions have remained broadly stable relative to the 2021/22 baseline. Council recognises that these emissions are largely outside direct control and depend on market and supplier action.



No greenhouse gas inventory was undertaken in 2022/23.

Reducing our energy and emissions

There is considerable complexity in managing our energy and emissions as a Council. There are many different areas, different levels of control, and different opportunities. We want to pursue those opportunities that best provide value for ratepayers first.



Emissions reduction targets

Our emissions reduction targets are set out below. These targets follow the science-based target methodology to ensure that we are undertaking our 'fair share' of emissions reductions and are in line with global and national trends.

	2021/22	By 2029/30	By 2039/40	By 2049/50
Scope 1	41,528 tCO2e	At least 42% reduction from 2021/22 baseline	At least 70% reduction from 2021/22 baseline	At least 95% reduction from 2021/22 baseline. All remaining emissions offset by sequestration.
Scope 2	988 tCO2e	At least 42% reduction from 2021/22 baseline	At least 70% reduction from 2021/22 baseline	At least 95% reduction from 2021/22 baseline. All remaining emissions offset by sequestration.
Scope 3	No engagement approach	At least 67% of suppliers engaged (by emissions)	79% of suppliers engaged (by emissions)	90% of suppliers engaged (by emissions). All remaining emissions offset by sequestration.

Notes:

- NPDC's scope 1 target includes all scope 1 emission sources, except greenhouse gas emission removals from the forestry portfolio.
- The supplier engagement target for Scope 3 emissions include both upstream and downstream Scope 3 categories and the engagement ambition is for suppliers to have their own science-based emission reduction targets.
- We have undertaken to shift our baseline year from the previous District-Wide Emissions Reduction Plan. The previous Plan utilised the 2017/18 year as its baseline. The inventory for that year was not independently audited and verified at that time, and several emission sources were not included in it.
- These targets align to the Science-Based Target Initiative (SBTI) targets, but are not verified by the SBTI organisation because they do not verify targets for local government.

Each of these categories requires a different strategy to address. Some categories are significantly easier to address than others.

Emissions	Description	Management approach
Facility emissions	Emissions from gas and electricity use across our facilities	These are largely within our control and can be reduced through energy efficiency and transitioning away from gas use. We can prioritise reducing these emissions to reduce energy costs. Electricity emissions have been addressed through procurement of renewable supply (New Plymouth Airport solar farm). Natural gas remains the primary focus for further reductions and is a high priority due to diminishing natural gas reserves.
Transport emissions	Transport fuel use and business-related travel	These are managed primarily through fleet optimisation and transitioning to low-emission vehicles. Business travel, including air travel, represents a small share and is not a primary focus.
Waste emissions	Emission associated with waste processing and disposal	Emissions from waste processing and disposal is largely controlled by external operators. Our approach for managing waste emissions is focused on local solutions for processing organic waste, which will reduce emissions from out-of-region haulage.
Colson Road emissions	Biogenic emissions from the decomposition of landfill waste	These have been mitigated through the landfill closure and the gas capture infrastructure. Landfill gases will naturally decrease overtime. Remaining reduction opportunities are limited.
Supply chain emissions	Supply chain emissions primarily from purchased goods and services and capital works	While outside direct control, Council can influence outcomes through supplier engagement. Analysis of 2024/2025 expenditure identified that four suppliers represent approximately 70% of Scope 3 emissions. Three of these suppliers all already have science-based emissions reduction targets.
Investment emissions	Financed emissions primarily from the Perpetual Investment Fund and other Council investments	These have decreased significantly with increasing alignment to ESG investment practices. This emission group is not an immediate focus as it has already contributed significantly towards emission reduction targets.
Grazing emissions	Biogenic emissions from grazing on leased land	This emission group is not a focus for Council, however, will decrease with time as reserve land is utilised, planted or optimised.
Wastewater emissions	Biogenic emissions from wastewater treatment processes	This emission group will be addressed through the Wastewater Treatment Plant Master Plan which will set out the long-term direction of wastewater treatment, including the management of emissions.

Actions and priorities

Our actions and priorities have been developed through an understanding of our strategic environment and key energy resources and emission sources.

Our approach is to address both sides of the energy equation – energy demand and energy supply – and find the right combination of initiatives that balance the energy trilemma of sustainability, affordability, and security.

Across all actions, we will:

- Prioritise emissions reduction initiatives that deliver measurable benefits and whole of life cost reductions.
- Ensure value for money for Council and ratepayers.
- Maintain secure and resilient energy supply.

We've grouped our actions and priorities into the following categories:

- Energy conservation and energy efficiency.
- Renewable energy generation.
- Gas transition programme.
- Transport fuel.
- Energy Innovation.
- Supply chain emissions.

Energy conservation and energy efficiency

Energy conservation and energy efficiency target our overall energy demand by improving how energy is used across our operations. This approach reduces consumption while delivering benefits such as lower energy costs, improved affordability, and enhanced environmental sustainability.

Action	Priority
New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant Master Plan The New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant Master Plan will look out over 30 years to determine the ongoing capital and operating investment required for the treatment of wastewater. The Plant is the biggest user of both electricity and gas within Council's portfolio. The Master Plan will assess the options to manage energy within the Plant, including options to reduce energy, change the energy mix, and generate energy on site (including both electricity through solar panels and biogas through anaerobic digestion). While the management and operations of the Plant will be transferred to Wai Hononga Water Services Ltd from 1 July 2027, it will still be within operational control for emissions accounting purposes for Council and therefore provides a significant opportunity to reduce energy and emissions. The level of potential savings is unknown at this stage and will be determined in the Master Plan process.	High
Refocus the Sustainability Accelerator Fund to an Energy Management Fund The Sustainability Accelerator Fund was established in the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 as an operating expenditure budget to support a wide range of sustainability initiatives. The predominate use of the Sustainability Accelerator Fund to date has been for energy efficiency capital improvement to facilities given the strong financial return-on-investment and sustainability benefits. This includes LED light upgrades, solar installations, building envelope improvements, and energy monitoring and control equipment. We plan to formally refocus the Fund solely to complete the LED light transition across the Council portfolio, install solar PV on suitable buildings to reduce energy costs and other energy management and conservation capital improvements. This also enables the Fund to be funded as capital expenditure and therefore have a lower impact on rates.	High
Building Management System (BMS) optimisation BMS optimisation is a process of continuous commissioning and optimisation of the HVAC system. This action focuses on monitoring BMS system, identifying issues and implementing solutions to ensure HVAC is operating efficiently. This action applies to buildings we have BMS systems, such as the Len Lye Centre, Puke Ariki, Civic Centre, and Archives Building, and performing recommissioning as needed.	Medium
Continue and enhance energy monitoring and management The Carbon and Energy Management Team (CEMT) was initiated in 2008 to manage energy use at NPDC facilities. The CEMT reviews monthly energy consumption to identify and implement opportunities for cost savings and efficiency improvements. This action is for ongoing energy monitoring and management to improve energy conservation, energy efficiency and reduce energy costs.	Medium

Renewable energy generation

Renewable energy generation, specifically solar PV, addresses our energy supply by generating our own electricity. This benefits our energy affordability, sustainability and security. The financial payback is significant for these investments.

Action	Priority
Civic Centre solar PV A proposed 100KW system which is sized for average demand.	High
Renewable electricity from the market Since October 2025 Council has received 100 per cent renewable electricity from its electricity supplier, with about 40 per cent of this coming from Te Matakupenga (New Plymouth Airport's Solar Farm). This approach should continue when contracts are renewed.	High
Tūparikino Active Community Hub self-supply solar PV A proposed 75kW system which is sized to match the estimated daytime demand. This system is estimated to cost ~$120,000 with annual opex savings of ~$20,000 per year (simple payback of six years).	High
Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre solar PV An estimated 60KW system could be installed on the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre roof. Further concept designs required to investigate the feasibility, system size and cost.	Medium
New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant solar PV A proposed 585 kW system designed for self-consumption. This system is estimated to cost ~$830,000 with annual opex savings of $111,000 per year (simple payback of 7.75 years).	Medium
New Plymouth Water Treatment Plant solar PV A proposed 60kW system designed for self-consumption. This system is estimated to cost ~$80,000 with annual opex savings of $10,000 per year (simple payback of eight years).	Medium
Puke Ariki Library Building solar PV An estimated 80kW system could be installed on the Puke Ariki library roof. Further concepts designs required to investigate the feasibility, system size and cost.	Medium
Tūparikino Active Community Hub grid supply solar PV Explore the feasibility of a larger second system at the Hub that provides grid-scale supply, providing an additional revenue stream for the Hub. Supplying the grid has a lower return on investment than self-consumption.	Medium
Establish a programme for solar PV at smaller sites Establish an ongoing programme of installing solar panels at smaller Council sites, including new buildings as they are constructed. The priority for these sites is those where potential solar generation matches the typical electricity usage pattern (as this provides the best return-on-investment), where energy resilience is important and (for new builds) where electricity distribution upgrade costs can be avoided. These would be funded through the Energy Management Fund outlined earlier.	Low

Gas transition programme

With gas reserves depleting and prices increasing, we need to take a proactive approach to replacing gas boilers to ensure a planned and cost-effective transition. This programme primarily addresses our energy demand because we are changing how our energy is delivered, and has the benefits of energy affordability, sustainability and security.

Our largest single gas user is the New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant's Thermal Dryer Facility (the TDF). The TDF is designed to able to take a blend of natural gas and hydrogen (which, if made from renewable electricity, is zero emissions), and is currently waiting for sufficient and affordable hydrogen to be available to use. The future use of natural gas at the TDF is covered by the action outlined above for the New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant Master Plan project and is not repeated below.

We have around 20 other sites where we use natural gas. Five of these; Waitara Pool, Inglewood Pool, Civic Centre, Puke Ariki and Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre were planned for Long-Term Plan 2024-2034. However, cost increases and insufficient budget meant only Waitara Pool was commissioned, with completion expected in October 2026. The other sites (Inglewood Pool, Civic Centre, Puke Ariki and Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre) will require additional budget in the Long-Term Plan 2027-2037 and are high priorities.

We've performed an initial assessment on the remaining gas assets. We assessed the age/condition, site requirements, cost of replacement, return on investment and annual gas consumption to prioritise these projects. In many instances, it will be optimal to replace these gas assets before the end of their life because of the significant pricing increases and supply risks. Waiting for normal renewal cycles may result in facing higher overall costs.

These projects can be complex and will require seed funding for thorough research and investigation of the options and feasibility. This is necessary to deliver a planned and optimised transition that maximises the return on investment.

We will utilise available support mechanisms to support these projects. This includes working with EECA on funding and business case opportunities, exploring Local Government Funding Agency's Green and Social Loans scheme for borrowing to fund these projects as a programme of work, and other opportunities as they arise.

The following projects are list in chronological order based on existing and proposed scheduling.

Action	Priority
Civic Centre chiller and boiler replacement Chiller and boiler scheduled for replacement in FY27/28. Existing chiller is in very poor condition (at risk of failure) and the existing gas boiler is well beyond its end of life. The boiler is in poor condition, inefficient and due for replacement. The proposed solution is heat pumps and electric boiler to replace gas boiler.	**High**
Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre Chiller and Boilers replacement The chiller and boiler scheduled for replacement in 2029/30. The chiller and boiler are in fair condition. The preferred solution is to replace with heat pumps.	**High**
Inglewood Pool boilers replacement These boilers are scheduled for replacement in 2027/28. Boiler A is in poor condition and Boiler B is in fair condition. Currently there no immediate risk of failure. The proposed solution is heat pumps and electric hot water cylinder for domestic hot water.	**High**
Puke Ariki chiller and boiler The chiller and boiler are scheduled for replacement in 2028/29. The chiller is in poor condition and the boiler is past its useful life but in fair condition. Further concept design and investigation required for preferred solution.	**High**

Action	Priority
Fernery boiler replacement The boiler replacement proposed to occur between 2030-33. The boiler is in fair condition, with end of life estimated at 2036 (best case). Initial studies recommend wood pellet boiler to replace gas boilers. Concept designs required to assess options and establish costs.	Medium
Inglewood Public Library heater replacement The gas heater replacement is proposed for 2029/30. The gas heater is in good operational condition, however eight years beyond useful life (installed 1998 with 20 year useful life). The preferred option is a heat pump for space heating.	Medium
Taranaki Crematorium business case for water cremation Undertake a business case on the viability of establishing a water cremator in the 2027-2030 period. The business case should assess the impacts (including water, wastewater, and cultural issues), regulatory issues, potential operating models (including partnerships), financial case, any appropriate location, and alternative ways to reduce energy and emissions at the Crematorium. Plan the outcomes of the business case into future Long-Term Plans.	Medium
Todd Energy Aquatic Centre boilers replacement The indoor and outdoor pool boiler replacements is proposed to occur between 2030-33. Both boilers are in good condition. The expected end of life is 2037 for the indoor pool and 2040 for the outdoor pool. This is a high impact transition to reduce energy costs, but requires concept designs to assess the options and establish replacement costs	Medium
TSB Showplace boiler replacement The boiler replacement proposed to occur between 2030-33. The boiler is in fair condition, however eight years beyond useful life (installed in 1998 with 20 year useful life). Concept designs are required to assess the options and establish costs.	Medium
TSB Stadium heaters replacement Radiant heater renewals currently planned for 2027/28. The existing radiant gas heaters are in poor condition. Heaters have not been replaced since the building was built and replacement parts now obsolete. Replacement is to use electric radiant heaters for hall space heating and heat pump hot water storage cylinder for domestic hot water. Further concept designs required to assess options and establish costs.	Medium
BBQ – Reserve - East End Buller Street replacement Replacements proposed to occur between 2033-36. Convert BBQ to bottled LPG, decommission or electrify at a location closer to an existing electricity line.	Low
Bell Block Hall heating and hot water heating replacement Replacements proposed to occur between 2033-36. The proposed approach is to install heat pumps in the hall for space heating and electric hot water storage cylinder in the toilets for domestic hot water.	Low
Dog Pound hot water replacement Replacements proposed to occur between 2033-36. Install electric hot water storage cylinders.	Low
Fred Tucker Centre heating and hot water heating replacement Replacements proposed to occur between 2033-36. The proposal is to install hi-wall heat pumps for space heating and electric hot water storage for domestic hot water. Consider installing solar PV to offset electrical consumption.	Low
Hickford Park Changing Building hot water heating replacement Replacement proposed to occur between 2033-36. The proposal is to either install electric hot water storage cylinders for domestic hot water or to decommission. Decommissioning would require community input before such a decision is made. Consider installing solar PV to offset electrical consumption.	Low

Action	Priority
Inglewood Town Hall heating and hot water heating replacement Replacements proposed to occur between 2033-36. Install heat pumps in the hall for space heating and electric hot water storage cylinder for hot water.	Low
Lynmouth Pavilion hot water heating replacement Replacements proposed to occur between 2033-36. Install electric storage cylinders in existing cylinder cupboards for domestic hot water. Consider installing solar PV to offset electrical consumption of water heaters.	Low
Ōākura Town Hall heaters replacement Replacing the radiant gas heaters proposed to occur between 2033-36. The proposed approach is to install electric radiant heaters (if the electrical supply is adequate) or heat pumps otherwise.	Low
Stadium Taranaki appliances and hot water heating replacement Gas fired kitchen appliances and infinity hot water heaters replacement proposed to occur between 2033-36. Replace gas fired kitchen appliances with electric equivalent. Replace infinity gas water heater on Gate 4 kitchen with electric hot water cylinder. Replace gas fired storage cylinder in NPDC office with electric storage cylinder. Either discontinue use of temporary changing rooms or replace infinity gas water heaters on temporary changing rooms with electric hot water cylinders. Consider installation of solar PV to offset electrical consumption.	Low
Star Memorial Gym hot water heating replacement Replacements proposed to occur between 2033-36. The proposal is to install electric hot water storage cylinders for domestic hot water. Consider installing solar PV to offset electrical consumption of water heaters.	Low

Transport fuel

Council operates a vehicle fleet to support Council Officers to be able to access the District. These vehicles are used to get to building and resource consent inspections, project sites, parks, community board and stakeholder meetings, and so forth.

These movements come at a cost in purchasing and servicing vehicles and in the fuel those vehicles use. Continuously focusing on optimising our fleet can substantially reduce fuel use. This is not just about electrification of the fleet, but also ensuring our fleet is as efficiently used as possible so that it can be as minimal as possible.

Action	Priority
Optimise fleet size and utilisation Assess current fleet utilisation and identify opportunities to reduce total vehicle numbers while maintaining service delivery.	High
Plan cost effective electrification of the fleet Evaluate the fleet alongside full lifecycle and infrastructure costs to identify when and where electric vehicles are a cost-effective replacement option. Ensure that the funding of electric vehicle infrastructure is separated from general fleet funding so it can be treated as debt-funded capital expenditure.	Medium
Improve driver behaviour and travel efficiency Continuously analyse driver practices (e.g. idling, short-distance trips) and implement targeted education and behaviour-change initiatives to promote efficient vehicle use.	Low

Supply chain emissions

Supply chain emissions are those outside of our direct operational control. These emissions though include many of our core services and activities, but we have contracted a firm to do the work for us. For instance, emissions from our annual road resealing programme are part of our supply chain emissions.

Our actions include engaging with our top emitting suppliers, as outlined in the Supplier Engagement action. This involves working with these suppliers to have emissions reduction targets. Many of our larger suppliers already have these targets.

Our procurement action addresses our capital works and purchased goods and services emissions by targeting large one-off projects and purchases that have a material whole of life cost, energy and emission impact.

While the Perpetual Investment Fund (the PIF) is a significant source of emissions, we do not require any change to its management to achieve our 2030 targets. The current model of highly ranked ESG (environmental, social and governance) funds provide an acceptable approach to reduce financed emissions at this stage. Indeed, financed emissions have approximately halved over recent years even though the PIF has substantially increased in size. We will not look to change the PIF approach to low-emission funds in the lifespan of this Action Plan unless those funds are consistently performing as well as, or better than, the PIF funds. However, we will continue to look at ESG ratings of funds and seek improvement in those ratings.

Action	Priority
Supplier engagement on emissions Review spend annually to determine suppliers that contribute 67 per cent of supply chain emissions. Target engagement with the suppliers that do not already have science-based targets to engage further with. Based on 2024/25 spend, engagement would target one supplier out of four that contribute to these emissions. We will support suppliers that do not have aligned targets with inventory, target setting and reduction planning as required.	High
Monitor Emissions Trading Scheme impact on commonly used emissions-intensive products Monitor the price of emissions-intensive products that Council (whether directly or via contractors) commonly uses (such as concrete and bitumen) against lower-emissions alternatives, particularly as Emissions Trading Scheme costs increase. Assess adding the low-emissions alternatives to approved product lists as the economics changes between the standard product and low emissions alternatives.	Medium
Continue and enhance the Perpetual Investment Fund's ESG approach Continue with the approach of using high ESG ratings for PIF fund managers, and seek to improve over time. Monitor the return of low-emissions funds and only consider switching if returns are the same, or exceed, the current approach.	Low
Improve whole of life cost assessments in projects Promote whole of life cost assessments throughout project development and deliver cycles from strategy, asset management, project planning and delivery.	Low
Sustainable procurement practices Targeted investigation for energy efficiency and whole of life cost reduction opportunities with projects with a consultancy spend above $100K or construction spend above $9 million that have significant energy use and resource impacts (useful life <30years).	Low

Energy innovation

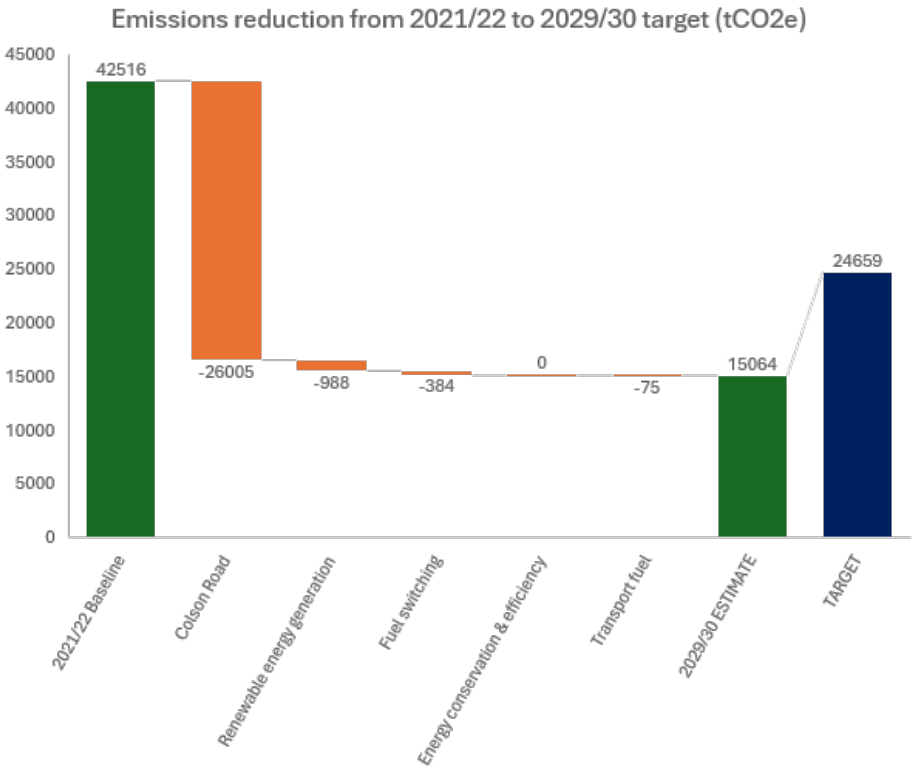
Energy innovation addresses both energy demand and energy supply by working with partners to facilitate and implement energy innovations. This is particularly important for us because it can support our local energy businesses to find new ways of working. At the same time, we need to be cautious to avoid unproven or over-hyped technologies that may not work for us. To do this, we are looking to work with partners that have proven experience and knowledge around energy innovation for risk assurance.

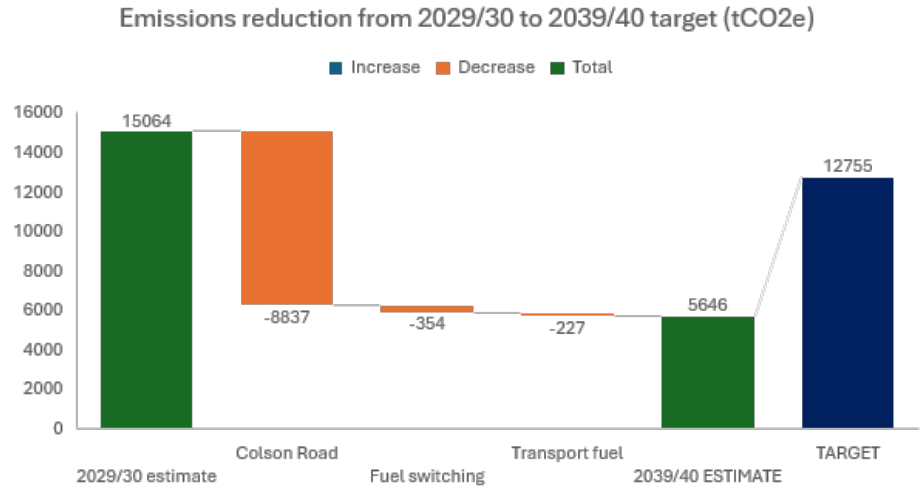
It is also important that innovators understand our constrained operating environment. Funding cannot simply be allocated to new opportunities as they are presented, but must be planned through Long-Term Plans. We also operate a public sector procurement process, with an expectation that investments will go through an appropriate open market tender process. It can therefore take time between an innovative option being presented to us to when we can make an investment in it. This means that we will deliberately seek out information on innovation opportunities at the right time for us, while also having an open door to hear from innovators but with less commitment to then invest.

Action	Priority
Bioenergy opportunities In partnership with the other Taranaki district councils and Venture Taranaki, support organics recovery and bioenergy opportunities for kerbside organic waste and region-wide industrial organic waste. Consider partnerships with other organisations for the gas being captured and flared at the Colson Road landfill.	Medium
Define our risk appetite and tolerance for energy innovation Determine an appropriate position for how much risk we are willing to take on and tolerate for energy innovation, in accordance with our Risk Management Framework. This will then lead to defining the appropriate governance and assurance approach before taking on innovative energy systems to avoid missteps	Medium
Geothermal opportunities In partnership with Venture Taranaki, Earth Sciences NZ and others, investigate the feasibility of low-temperature geothermal opportunities for NPDC.	Medium
Market engagement and understanding for energy innovation Undertake market engagement processes to understand local energy businesses and their innovative concepts that we may be able to use across our portfolio, particularly focused on the options for upcoming projects.	Medium
Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) BESS costs are decreasing and becoming economically viable. In partnership with EECA and others, explore BESS opportunities, including funding and financing arrangements.	Low
Ecosystem scanning and information sharing for energy innovation Continuously work with Venture Taranaki, researchers and other innovators to explore innovative energy technologies that could drive productivity and efficiencies.	Low
Energy flex Energy flex markets are developing in New Zealand and creating opportunities to reduce energy costs and earn revenue. In partnership with electricity retailers and Powerco, explore opportunities to utilise flex.	Low

How these actions achieve our Scope 1 and 2 emissions reduction targets

These actions together have a significant impact on our emissions. However, our emissions profile overall remains distorted by the Colson Road landfill. This landfill accounted for almost 60 per cent of our Scope 1 and 2 emissions before its closure. Its closure, and the upgrades to the landfill gas capture system undertaken as part of the closure works, will remain as the single biggest initiative to reduce our organisational emissions because of how dominant it was in our emissions profile. The closed Colson Road landfill continues to emit greenhouse gases on a declining basis, but there is little, if anything, that we can do now to reduce those emissions any further. We still need to track and account for these emissions in line with global greenhouse gas inventory standards. This means that we appear to be largely achieving our organisational emission reduction targets through the ongoing reduction in those landfill emissions over time.

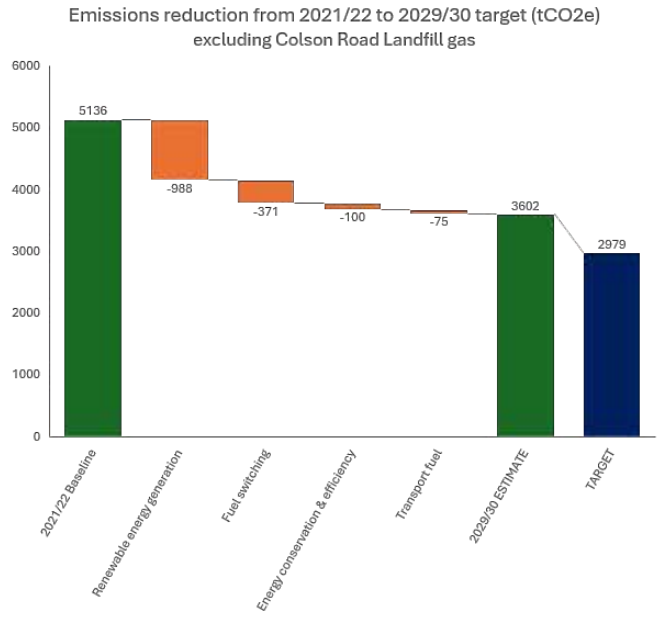


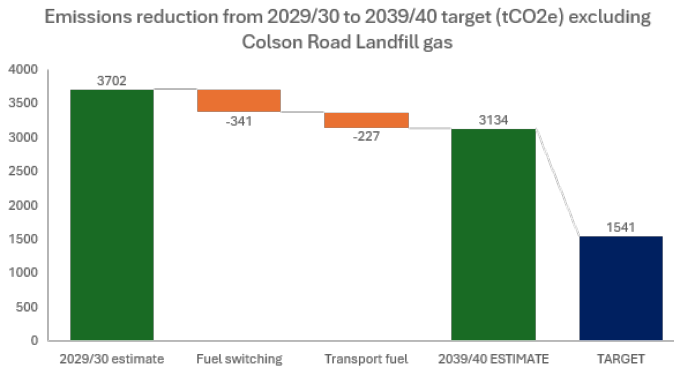


However, this does not mean that there is no need to undertake other initiatives. As outlined earlier, this successful action means that we can focus our work programme on actions that reduce energy and whole-of-life costs, and provide greater energy security.

The graphs show how we are tracking to meet our 2030 targets. This Plan will be revised in the future and may need to add or change actions to meet our 2040 target, but the initiatives outlined in this Plan and the Colson Road landfill emissions reductions should be sufficient.

The following two graphs show what would happen to this information if we were not accounting for the Colson Road landfill gas in our baseline, initiatives or targets. It shows that our planned actions would not be sufficient to meet our 2030 target but is not far off. The 2040 target would always be subject to further work to meet but indicates the size of the challenge if Colson Road is excluded. These new actions could include the outcomes of the two investigations outlined in our actions around the New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Taranaki Crematorium.





Community energy and resilience support

This section sets out how we will support community-level action on energy, resilience, and climate outcomes across the District. While we have established organisational emissions targets and plans, we do not have a community emissions reduction target or detailed plan. This reflects the reality that most emissions sit outside of our direct control and are strongly influenced by national policy, markets, and individual decisions. Whereas for adaptation and resilience, we have a much stronger role to play through adaptation planning and making our infrastructure more resilient, but we still do not have direct control over many aspects of resilience for existing homes or properties, particularly if they are not in the priority areas for local adaptation planning.

We therefore acknowledge that there are wants and needs for the community to do more. We are taking a pragmatic and targeted approach that focuses on where we can add the most value to the community. Some of these actions will occur through the embedding of climate change considerations into other Council plans and strategies – for instance, active, public and electric transport issues are addressed through the Ngāmotu Integrated Transport Framework. This is addressed elsewhere in this Action Plan.

This Action Plan focuses on how we will support practical actions that improve how energy is used in homes and communities, strengthen resilience to disruption, and reduce long-term costs and pressures on households. This includes enabling better access to efficient technologies, supporting local energy solutions, and working alongside communities to prepare for and respond to climate risks.

By focusing on energy efficiency, affordability, resilience, and well-being - rather than emissions alone - we can deliver broader and more immediate benefits for our communities. This approach allows us to be agile, respond to changing conditions and opportunities, and support initiatives that are locally relevant and community-led. It positions us to enable meaningful progress while recognising our role within a wider national and global system. We also know that many households are under cost-of-living pressure, and are unlikely to be able to justify making changes if there are not significant and immediate benefits to them.

What is Council's role?

While energy efficiency, affordability, and energy wellbeing issues do not sit squarely within Council's statutory responsibilities, there is a clear and established role for us in providing enabling support where it delivers strong community benefit. An analogue can be drawn with housing: while Central Government holds primary responsibility for social housing, Council undertakes complementary action where local need is not being fully met, such as through Housing for the Elderly and support for homelessness services. In a similar way, energy affordability and electrification are largely shaped by national policy and market settings, but there is a strong case for targeted local involvement to improve outcomes for our communities. Our role is not to take ownership of these issues in full, but to act proportionately by reducing barriers, supporting trusted information and advice, and enabling community-led solutions. This approach ensures we achieve practical, cost-effective impacts while remaining aligned with our broader responsibilities and the wider system we operate within.

We have a clear role in ensuring our community is resilient and well adapted to a changing climate and more frequent severe weather events. Our constraint is about resourcing and the realities of undertaking adaptation planning everywhere. But we cannot simply wash our hands of areas that are outside those identified for local adaptation plans. These other areas may have lower risks, but may still benefit from some support to individual households to become more resilient.

Charge-up community energy and electrification

Households across the District are facing increasing pressure from rising energy costs, declining gas supply, and growing cost-of-living challenges. Rising energy costs in recent years are pushing more households into energy hardship, with about one in five households in Taranaki reporting that they have put up with being cold to keep costs down, and about 45 per cent reporting their house is colder than they would like (Statistics New Zealand, 2023 data). At the same time, nearly 30 per cent of households in our District remain connected to natural gas, exposing them to higher and more volatile costs as natural gas supply dwindles.

There is a clear opportunity to shift toward more efficient, electric energy alongside better insulating homes. Technologies such as heat pumps, hot water heat pumps, and rooftop solar can significantly reduce energy use and long-term costs. However, uptake remains constrained by upfront costs, limited access to finance, and low trust in information. Many households make decisions when systems fail, leading to like-for-like replacements that lock in higher costs over time.

These actions build on a foundation of work already underway from the Sustainable Home Advice service. This service was established in 2021 and provides free home energy assessments to households so that households can prioritise how to reduce energy costs and make the house warmer, drier and healthier. The service can also be made available to marae and other small community buildings upon request and based on capacity and suitability.

We are also currently working on the Ratepayer Assistance Scheme (the RAS). The RAS is a national solution to three different challenges. Of relevance to this Action Plan is the IMPACT Loan scheme, whereby households would borrow from the RAS for specific household improvements (initially solar, batteries, heat pumps and hot water heat pumps) and repay through a levy (effectively a targeted rate) over time that is secured to the property. The RAS works through being a joint venture of local councils around the country to secure low interest rates and local government collection powers. The RAS also offers substantial other benefits through its rates postponement scheme and deferred development contributions scheme.

We will enable community and household action by reducing barriers, supporting access to affordable finance, providing trusted independent advice, and working with local partners to deliver community-led solutions. This approach supports immediate cost-of-living relief, improves how homes perform, strengthens local energy resilience, while contributing to longer-term emissions reduction in a way that is practical, equitable, and locally driven.

Action	Priority
Support the Ratepayer Assistance Scheme to fruition Continue to partner and invest into the RAS scheme to help provide access to long term, low-interest loans for the installation of household electrification including hot water heat pumps, space heating heat pumps, solar and battery systems on rateable properties.	High
Leverage the Ratepayer Assistance Scheme Leverage and promote the RAS to increase uptake, the use independent advice on home energy, support landlords to electrify rental properties, and obtain larger-scale wins (such as virtual power plants).	Medium
Turn the EnviroHub into a sustainable home demonstration site Work with local businesses and partners to enhance the EnviroHub at Brooklands Park to be a demonstration site for household energy efficiency and sustainable home upgrades.	Medium
Support solar for renters through a pilot Explore Housing for the Elderly as a pilot for solar for renters, sharing the benefits of solar to landlord and tenants.	Low
Support those in energy hardship Develop support for households experiencing energy hardship, including working with community partners, making Home Energy Assessment Tool (HEAT) kits available to households for free through our library networks and help households shift electricity use to lower-cost periods through advice and smart technology.	Low

Power up community-led climate action

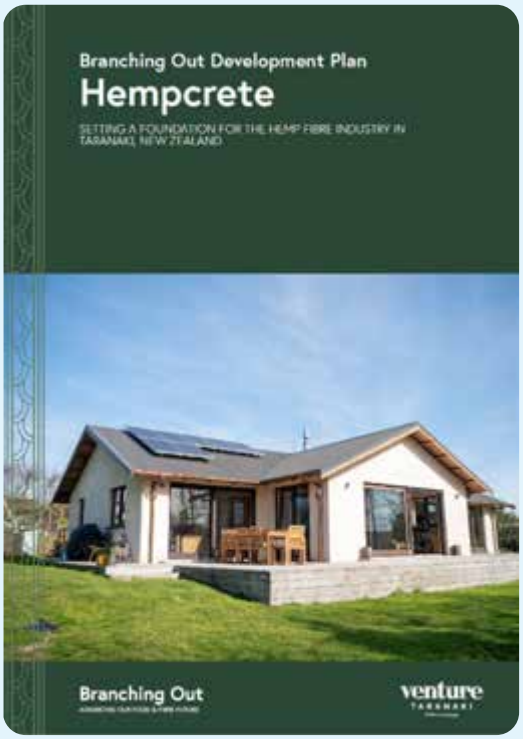
Across the District, communities, businesses, and local organisations are already acting in response to climate and energy challenges. These efforts are often driven by local knowledge, values, and a strong sense of place, but can be limited by access to funding, coordination, and technical support.

We want to build on this existing activity by supporting community-led action where it can deliver meaningful local benefits. This includes enabling projects that improve energy efficiency, reduce emissions, and strengthen resilience, as well as supporting innovation in how homes and buildings are designed and delivered to better meet future needs. Our role is to provide targeted funding, remove barriers, and connect people with the expertise and partnerships needed to turn ideas into action.

Case Study: Supporting Hempcrete

Venture Taranaki's Branching Out programme supports the transition to higher-value, low-emissions land use to build a more resilient regional economy. Within this, hemp fibre - particularly hempcrete - has emerged as a leading opportunity, linking agriculture with sustainable construction through local production and use. The project is taking a full value-chain approach, from crop trials to processing and construction capability, to establish hempcrete as a high-value building system that delivers strong thermal performance, moisture regulation, and healthier, more energy-efficient homes.

As a Council Controlled Organisation within the wider New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) whānau, we have collaborated and provided support to maximise value. NPDC has contributed guidance and expertise to help quantify the performance benefits of hempcrete, including its operational energy savings. Analysis underpinning the Development Plan shows that while hempcrete construction may increase upfront build costs by around five per cent, but would reduce heating energy demand by 26 per cent, resulting in improved long-term affordability and sustainability outcomes for homeowners.



Delivery will sit with communities, iwi and hapū, industry, and local organisations, recognising that they are best placed to lead solutions that reflect local priorities. By supporting and scaling community-led initiatives, we can achieve broader outcomes for resilience, affordability, and wellbeing, while fostering a more capable and connected community over time.

Community Climate Action Fund

The Community Climate Action Fund (CCAF) is a targeted grant programme established by New Plymouth District Council to enable community-led climate action and support the transition to a low-emissions, climate-resilient future. It empowers local organisations to deliver practical projects that reduce emissions, build resilience, and strengthen climate capability. The CCAF prioritises initiatives that deliver enduring community benefit, support vulnerable groups and rangatahi, align with mana whenua priorities, and act as catalysts for wider change.

In 2025/26, the CCAF supported a diverse portfolio of community-led initiatives across emissions reduction, adaptation, and education, with $75,000 allocated and demand exceeding available funding. A key theme has been investment in solar energy and electrification projects, which reduce emissions while significantly lowering ongoing operating costs for community organisations, improving their long-term financial sustainability and resilience. Alongside this, funding enabled climate education programmes reaching thousands of students, rainwater harvesting to strengthen water resilience, and iwi-led wetland restoration grounded in mātauranga Māori.

Collectively, the fund demonstrates how our targeted investment can unlock lasting community resilience outcomes.

Action	Priority
Collaborate with key Council partners and community organisations Work with Council's partners and community organisations to identify opportunities to collaborate on their response to building resilience and reducing energy and emissions in their organisations and their wider networks.	Medium
Community Climate Action Fund Continue to support community-led climate action through the Community Climate Action Fund with a focus on initiatives that support community organisations to reduce energy costs and build resilience.	Medium
Strategic partner(s) for community energy Identify one or more strategic partners in the Long-Term Plan 2027-2037 to support community electrification and solar uptake to improve energy efficiency, electric vehicle uptake and other initiatives for affordability, emissions reduction and resilience benefits.	Medium
Support industry to deliver sustainable homes Support builders, developers, architects, and other industry professionals to deliver innovative energy efficient, low emissions, resilient homes fit for an affordable future, including support to navigate compliance of innovative sustainable construction solutions.	Low

Enable community-driven resilience

Our communities are increasingly exposed to disruption from severe weather, infrastructure outages, and wider system shocks. Our role is to focus on the communities most at risk through working on local adaptation plans and on infrastructure and asset resilience. That work will focus strongly on the most at-risk areas and assets. At the same time, there is strong local interest in practical steps that can improve preparedness and strengthen the ability of neighbourhoods to support each other.

We see a clear role in supporting community-driven resilience by enabling local, place-based solutions that improve preparedness and response. This includes strengthening access to backup power and water where appropriate, and providing clear, practical advice to help households and neighbourhoods plan for and respond to climate risks.

We also see a significant national gap in the insurance industry. Insurers are increasingly taking a risk-based pricing approach. Some homeowners are now struggling with insurance costs. However, there is little reward for those households if they undertake appropriate measures to reduce their risks. We are aware that the Australian insurance industry has collaborated with the sustainable household advice sector to establish a scheme whereby households that implement approved risk-reduction measures may be eligible for reduced insurance premiums. We see real potential for New Zealand to take a similar approach. This will require a 'coalition of the willing' to work together to achieve.

Our role is to coordinate, support, and help unlock funding and partnerships, while communities, iwi and hapū, and service providers lead delivery on the ground. By taking this approach, we can help ensure that the community builds resilience in ways that are locally relevant, equitable, and enduring - supporting communities to adapt, recover, and continue to function during disruption.

Action	Priority
Community Welfare Hub solar support Coordinate and support unlocking funding for solar and battery installations for Community Welfare Hubs across the District.	Medium
Provide advice to households on being more resilient Consider the viability and implications of expanding the existing Sustainable Homes Advice service to provide residents with advice to enable households to advance their resilience to climate change (e.g. flooding, household overheating). Implement an appropriate programme to enhance the service offering over time.	Medium
Supporting resilient households to lower insurance costs Initiate and support national conversations about how certified resilience interventions could support reducing insurance premiums.	Medium
Community energy resilience Support neighbourhoods with high solar penetration rates to get through regulatory and practical barriers to develop microgrids to support each other post-disaster.	Low
Rainwater tanks and harvesting Develop measures to support and incentivise rainwater harvesting to support water resilience and emergency preparedness across the District.	Low

Cross-cutting issues

This section addresses action areas that go across Energy and Emissions, Climate Risk, Resilience and Adaptation and Community Energy and Resilience Support - embedding climate change into our business-as-usual and using nature for our climate response. Rather than addressing these action areas in each section, we have brought them together. This enables a more cohesive approach moving forward as well.

Embedding climate change into our business-as-usual

While this Action Plan addresses the unique challenges that addressing climate change brings to us, climate change also affects how we do our existing business as a Council. The long-term success for addressing climate change is that it becomes increasingly business-as-usual and part of our standard way of thinking, talking and doing. Climate-related issues should be as much a part of our thinking as budgets, community wellbeing, and supporting our local economy. Over time, success on this front is that climate-related issues are not something that has to be deliberately thought about, but part of the normal modus operandi.

There is no simple answer for how this shift can occur. But we have two key actions that will support this shift – ensuring climate change outcomes are considered in planning and strategy, and improving climate-related issues in our asset and infrastructure management approach.

Planning and strategy

To be effective, we need to drive climate change considerations into all our plans and strategies that set out our commitments to our communities. We've already done this across several key plans and strategies. The table shows several key strategies and plans we've undertake in recent years and how they embed climate change into their goals and actions.

Existing plan or strategy	Climate change related goals	Climate change related actions
Tapuae Roa Strategy and Updated Action Plan *Tapuae Roa is our economic development strategy. It has an associated Action Plan that is updated on a regular basis.*	The Tapuae Roa Strategy includes an overarching value of Kaitiakitanga/guardianship and a strategic value of Resource use efficiency, waste-minimisation, biodiversity, environmental sustainability.	The updated Tapuae Roa Action Plan includes a focus on Energy Future and Food and Fibre Future as key focus areas for economic development. The Energy Future focuses on supporting the transition of the energy sector to retain and grow this critical industry. Food and Fibre Future supports emissions reduction and climate resilience in the agricultural and horticultural sectors. Other focus areas also include relevant actions, such as working with tourism providers on sustainable visitor experiences as part of the Visitor Future plan.
The District Plan *The District Plan sets out the land use planning framework for New Plymouth District, regulating and enabling how land can be used while balancing private property rights.*	The District Plan includes Strategic Objectives that: • The District develops and changes over time in a cohesive, compact and structured way that, among other things, takes into account the short, medium and long-term potential impacts of natural hazards, climate change and the associated uncertainty; and • The benefits of activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions are recognised and supported.	The District Plan includes: • Greater mapping of natural hazard risks, including bringing in climate change forecasts, and placing greater control on activities in these areas. • Enabling urban intensification through increased medium density zoning • Reduced consenting requirements for renewable energy. • Enhancing protection of significant natural areas and waterbodies. • Identification of priority public access corridors (e.g. for future extension of walking and cycling networks).

Existing plan or strategy	Climate change related goals	Climate change related actions
Ngāmotu New Plymouth City Centre Strategy *The Ngāmotu New Plymouth City Centre Strategy identifies a 30-year vision for improvements to the City Centre to be a thriving area.*	The Ngāmotu New Plymouth City Centre Strategy identifies a principle of Hāpainga te ahuarangi Responding to Climate Change.	Key moves that enhance the City Centre and respond to climate change issues, including: • Huatoki Corridor Master Plan. • Huatoki Daylighting. • Pedestrian and cyclist priority across SH45. • Coastal Boulevard. • Pukekura link: Liardet Street. • Pūkākā link: Queen Street, Robe Street and Robe Street Park. • Green initiatives. • Promote and facility city living. • Sustainability Initiatives.
Stormwater Vision and Roadmap *The Stormwater Vision and Roadmap outlines Council's approach to improving stormwater management as a significant climate change risk.*	The Stormwater Vision and Road includes an aspiration for Resilience – urban communities are resilient to flooding.	The Stormwater roadmap identifies stormwater flooding hazards through a planned series of stormwater modelling and catchment management plans. Stormwater flooding risk is assessed at various climate change forecast levels.
Waste Management and Minimisation Plan *The Waste Management and Minimisation Plan leads our decision-making on our waste services and efforts to reduce and manage waste.*	The Waste Management and Minimisation Plan sets out a pathway to a circular economy for New Plymouth District and Taranaki. The circular economy links to reduce emissions through reducing the manufacturing, consumption and disposal of materials; with waste being a large emissions source for both Council and the community.	The Plan sets out a wide range of actions to support developing a circular economy. The Plan also identifies an emissions reduction target for waste and sets out improvements to the closed Colson Road Landfill's gas capture system (which was completed in 2024). The Plan also includes identifying closed landfills at risk of erosion from climate change, and establishing a regional plan for waste resulting from civil defence events (which includes, but is not limited to, those arising from climate change).

Existing plan or strategy	Climate change related goals	Climate change related actions
Ngāmotu Integrated Transport Framework *The Ngāmotu Integrated Transport Framework guides Council's transport investment decisions.*	The Ngāmotu Integrated Transport Framework identifies climate change as a Strategic Priority area, including climate resilience, emission reduction and environmental sustainability.	The Framework includes increasing bus frequency (a responsibility of Taranaki Regional Council), making it easier for people to walk, cycle or scoot, and to reduce reliance on fossil-fuelled vehicles (in line with national fleet changes). The Framework also initiates a business case into a second crossing of the Waiwhakaiho River which could provide a resilient transport route over a river that could flood significantly.
Tiritiri o Mātangi: The Waitara Spatial Plan *Tiritiri o Mātangi: The Waitara Spatial Plan outlines a 30-year vision for growth and development in Waitara.*	Tiritiri o Mātangi: The Waitara Spatial Plan identifies having a resilient community as part of its vision, and has a goal to work with the environment.	The Plan includes actions to undertake projects which improve the resilience of Waitara to natural hazard risks, including to undertake a local climate change adaptation plan. The Plan includes actions to restore the awa and whenua. The Plan also includes improving walking and cycling connections and public transport options.

Moving forward, we plan to continue to embed and address climate change into new plans and strategies as we develop them. Each plan or strategy needs to consider the key climate change impacts and objectives within it. While each plan or strategy is different, with different subject matters, timeframes and so forth, considering the following four factors should highlight the key climate change issues at play.

Risk and resilience	Energy and emissions	Future scenarios	Roles and responsibilities
How is the issue exposed to climate change and natural hazards risks? What level of resilience is required? What are the consequences of insufficient resilience? What are the different options to achieve sufficient resilience?	Is the issue a significant source of emissions or energy use by the community or Council? Can changes be made that support reducing energy and emission use? What would happen if energy or emissions pricing was significantly higher?	How does the timeframe for the issue relate to timeframes to be net zero by 2050 and climate change forecasts? What would the issue look like under different climate change scenarios for the future?	What roles and responsibilities does Council have over the issue? What is the scope of control, direction or influence for Council over the climate change issues? What roles and responsibilities do partners, central government and other key stakeholders have over the climate change issues?

Each plan or strategy will then need to consider how to address those issues within the wider context of the issue at hand. This approach integrates climate change considerations so that a service or issue can be managed cohesively into the future. It places climate change into the core of each plan or strategy and becomes part of the business-as-usual. Over time, this integration will mean our many of investments towards climate change initiatives are indistinguishable and inseparable from our overall investment. It also enables us to understand and make trade-offs that may need to be made between different drivers.

Action	Priority
Embed climate change considerations into strategies and plans as they are developed Each strategy or plan will need to address the unique climate change issues that are within its subject matter or area scope. The development process for each strategy or plan should consider risk and resilience, energy and emissions, future scenarios, and roles and responsibilities. Trade-offs should be made in a transparent manner.	High

Infrastructure and asset management

Infrastructure and asset management are central to embedding climate change considerations into Council's business-as-usual operations. Decisions made today about planning, investment, maintenance, and renewal will shape both our resilience to climate risks and our energy and emissions profile over the long term. As such, a whole-of-life, risk-informed approach is required.

Improving infrastructure and asset management is a foundational action. Having better data and information provides significant benefits to a long-term response to climate change as well as other long-term challenges such as infrastructure affordability and optimising assets. Having the right asset data is also critical to understanding our overall risks and exposure to increasing severe weather.

The two key documents are the Infrastructure Strategy and Asset Management Plans. The two work in unison, with the Infrastructure Strategy driving the strategy and decision-making and asset management plans identifying the challenges, needs and opportunities. An effective Infrastructure Strategy cannot work with Asset Management Plans detailing the issues, and Asset Management Plans cannot be effective without a strategy to prioritise investments. Both of these documents rely on high-quality asset data and information, often at a component level, to provide the foundational knowledge.

Infrastructure Strategy

Infrastructure planning begins with Council's Infrastructure Strategy, the 30-year outlook that identifies key challenges and options for managing growth, service levels, and asset performance. Within this framework, climate change considerations, both resilience and emissions, will be integrated across all decision drivers.

This means that resilience to hazards and the whole-of-life costs of infrastructure (including energy and emissions impacts) are not treated as stand-alone drivers, but considered across traditional drivers such as levels of service, renewals, and growth. Over time, this will ensure that climate change becomes a standard and embedded component of infrastructure decision-making.

Asset management

Embedding resilience and emissions reduction in asset management is fundamentally dependent on robust, high-quality data that is accessible for proactive planning. We need to improve our asset data.

- Risk and resilience
  - Developing a clear understanding of the hazards affecting our assets (e.g. flooding, coastal erosion, landslides) and the risks these pose to service delivery.
  - Using this information to identify vulnerable assets and networks and reporting this information into asset records and Asset Management Plans.
  - Developing targeted management responses to mitigate risk.

- **Energy, emissions and whole-of-life management**
  - Maintaining accurate data on asset condition, age, performance, and maintenance history to support proactive lifecycle management.
  - Prioritising maintenance and renewal timing to extend asset life where appropriate. Extending the useful life of assets reduces the need for new construction, which is often the most cost-effective approach to infrastructure management.
  - Recognising that the most effective way to avoid emissions in infrastructure is often to avoid or defer building or full renewal, while still safely maintaining levels of service.
  - Improving whole-of-life outcomes by balancing operational, renewal, and carbon costs over time.
  - Integrating energy and emissions data into asset management.

Action	Priority
Embed and improve climate considerations into Infrastructure Strategy and Asset Management Strategy Continue to integrate resilience, energy, emissions and whole-of-life costs into these key strategic documents.	High
Improve data quality and reporting capabilities Continue to improve asset data and information on: • Hazard and risk exposure. • Action plans for assets exposed to hazards and risk. • Whole-of-life and emissions data.	High

Using nature for our climate response

There is a strong ability to use nature to help with our infrastructure challenges. Doing so not only provides climate change benefits but also provides an attractive landscape, biodiversity benefits, and restores cultural links for mana whenua.

Our dune restoration initiatives across the District's beaches are a prime example of how natural solutions can provide real benefits to reducing risks. Once initial re-establishment has occurred these dunes can become largely self-managing through coastal erosion and accretion over time. This reduces the risks to the areas immediately inland of the dunes, while providing opportunities for coastal birds and critters to live.

While nature-based solutions won't always be possible or sufficient to manage risks, there are opportunities to use them more often.

There are also opportunities to use voluntary nature and carbon markets to fund these activities. These markets attract investors that are looking to offset negative environmental impacts from their activities with activities that benefit nature. This can provide funding for projects that we may not otherwise able to fund. There are downsides for us though as we would not then be able to count any carbon sequestration funded this way towards our emissions inventory as the benefits cannot be double counted. However, this approach can still provide a mechanism for projects not needed for our emissions targets and for nature enhancing projects that would not sequester carbon.

Action	Priority
Continue and expand Planting our Place Planting our Place is our programme to plant at least 1.4ha of native forest per annum. This programme has two original goals: • Significant biodiversity benefits, helping to meet our obligations to have at least 10 per cent of urban areas in native forests. • Sequestration of carbon from the atmosphere, helping to meet our 2050 net-zero targets. Moving forward, we need to continue and expand the programme into more communities and areas. There are also opportunities to think at a larger-scale about where to reforest for ecological corridors, and where reforestation may provide other benefits (such as reducing flooding risks and providing cooler areas in heatwaves). Planting our Place may require additional funding to maintain momentum as sites already planted need to be maintained (such as weeding) for several years afterwards. This maintenance cost will take an increased proportion of the budget in coming years, reducing funding available for planting	**High**
Waiwhakaiho Wildlink The Waiwhakaiho Wildlink Vision has been adopted by Council as a long-term restoration project for the Waiwhakaiho Awa. The Vision takes a strong ecological approach to restoring the Waiwhakaiho, its resources and the cultural identity of mana whenua through the reconstruction of an ecological corridor. The Wildlink provides significant benefits across multiple different climate and non-climate issues and therefore becomes a more cost-effective solution than having numerous smaller and distinct initiatives that can only achieve one or two of these benefits on their own. The Wildlink will require a long-term collaborative approach to achieve between us, mana whenua, landowners and community groups.	**High**
Nature-based solutions framework Enhance the use of nature-based solutions across operations, asset management, planning and development through guidance, standards and examples, including cost-benefit analysis tools. This includes assessing how we can use financing methods such as voluntary nature and carbon markets, and whether planting can be capitalised as ecosystem creation.	**Medium**

Monitoring, accountability and review

This Action Plans forms a commitment to our community on how we will build resilience, manage energy, and undertake our other climate actions. To ensure we are accountable for delivery, we have to monitor and report on our progress.

That monitoring also provides a useful baseline for reviewing this Action Plan and formulating its replacement in time.

Monitoring and accountability framework

There are two key monitoring and accountability mechanisms for this Plan.

First, this Plan proposes that the next Long-Term Plan consider three key performance indicators to measure the implementation of this Plan. This will need to be considered in the Long-Term Plan 2027-2037 and 2030-2040, and will be subject to decisions made at that time.

The second mechanism is an annual report. This report will provide two sets of information. First, it will include a more detailed set of performance indicators and actions. Second, it will track indicators across a range of community and economic areas that may influence Council's decisions but are not part of Council's performance per se.

Long-Term Plan key performance indicators

The below key performance indicators (KPIs) are considered suitable for inclusion into the Long-Term Plan as high-level summarising measures of actions. KPIs in the Long-Term Plan are reported through each Annual Report, and are also measured quarterly wherever possible. They must also meet the standards to be auditable by Audit New Zealand – which means, for instance, that scope 3 emissions are not suitable for inclusion as they can only be audited to a lower standard than that Audit New Zealand uses. They are our levels of service and commitment to the community.

	Financial Year						Comments
	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	
Reduction of scope 1 and 2 emissions – from the 2021/22 baseline.	At least a 33.6% reduction	At least a 37.8% reduction	At least a 42.0% reduction	At least a 44.8% reduction	At least a 47.6.4% reduction	At least a 50.4% reduction	This is from the science-based target methodology and requires a 4.2% annual reduction to 2030 and then a 2.8% annual reduction thereafter.
Number of local adaptation plans in place.	1	1	2	2	3	3	By mid 2030s every plan required by the Regional Spatial Plan will need to be completed.
Local Government Funding Agency Climate Action Loan status.	Maintained	Maintained	Maintained	Maintained	Maintained	Maintained	LGFA Climate Action Loans provide a discount to Council's total borrowing.

Regular reporting of actions and metrics

To support these Long-Term Plan KPIs, a range of other performance indicators have been identified for annual reporting to Council. These provide greater detailed information about performance and progress. These will be reported in about April each year, providing a six-monthly rolling approach between this and the Annual Report (which reports on the Long-Term Plan KPIs and is due by 31 October each year). The reports will also be made publicly available on Council's website.

These regular reports will focus on the actions that have been undertaken or in progress (including issues encountered and opportunities to change approach), key metrics across Council (such as energy consumption, severe weather event response costs, maintenance costs on seawalls), metrics within the community (such as any information on insurance retreat provided to Council, community energy costs), and the impacts of any relevant national policy or legislative changes. These regular reports will also include the full annual greenhouse gas emissions inventory for Council.

These regular reports will also provide an opportunity for any deviations from this Action Plan to be considered.

Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) reporting

LGFA requires CAL borrowers to submit an annual report by 30 November each year (within five months of the end of the sustainability reference period). The report must include:

- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory
- Performance Against Emissions Reduction Targets.
- Confirmation of Target Achievement.
- Progress on Emissions Reduction Actions.
- Progress Against Any LGFA-Specific Conditions.

Review

This Plan is intended to outline our key actions through to **2032**. We will need to begin reviewing this Plan in **2031**.

In 2031 we will be looking to a range of different signals and consider what we need to start, stop, keep, change or update. While there is a lot we don't know now, we do know some things that our review will need to consider, including:

- Setting out a full course to meet our 2040 emissions targets
- Finalising our first set of local adaptation plans, prioritising communities that could benefit from a local adaptation plan that are not identified by the regional spatial plan, and beginning to initiate reviews of plans put in place
- Assessing new laws, policies, or global agreements that might have any implications for our approach
- Understanding whether global emissions have tracked down, stabilised or increased
- Considering the most recent scientific information from the IPCC and indications of where forecasts, and the certainty of forecasts, have changed
- Evaluating the impact of emissions pricing, technological changes, energy markets and other economic factors
- Looking at the impact of any climate change-exacerbated events in our communities and further afield
- Analysing new trends and initiatives that others have successfully taken up as to whether they will work for us.
- Contemplating any changes to the role, shape and functions of local government in Taranaki.

The review will be guided by our Elected Members and our community.

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