

Mahere āhuarangi hurihuri, toitūtanga

Climate change and sustainability plan

We want to reduce our emissions and the impact of climate change on the Council and the City. We want to make Council and community activities more sustainable.

Climate change is an urgent global challenge. We need to be a low-carbon, climate resilient city within a decade to avoid worsening the impacts of increasingly unstable and unpredictable weather. At the same time, we need to work with our partners to prepare our infrastructure and systems to cope with those unpredictable impacts.

We want to be leaders in sustainability. We do this best by including climate and resource use in all our decision making and by sharing our impact and successes with our community.

We want to do more to educate and support the residents, businesses and other city partners to deliver their own greenhouse gas emissions ambitions.



Reduce the production of greenhouse gases from Council activities (e.g. use of diesel, electricity and natural gas)

What will this mean?

There is sound information about the greenhouse gas emissions from Council activities. This information is used to make decisions about where to act first.

Ka aha mātou?

What will we do?

Specific actions

- Make decarbonisation improvements to Council facilities, processes and purchasing
- Provide the Environmental Sustainability Fund (for Council processes) to compensate for the additional cost of lower carbon and more energy-efficient purchases

New or one-off actions

- Develop guidelines to prioritise and implement low carbon practices across all Council activities (year 1)
- Audit high-emission council buildings and other infrastructure (from year 1)
- Develop management and efficiency plans for high-emission buildings and other infrastructure (from year 2)
- Install solar systems where this will efficiently reduce greenhouse gas emissions (year 1)
- Provide professional development opportunities for Councillors and Appointed members and staff [See **Governance and active citizenship plan**]

Encourage and promote sustainable best-practices in Council activities and the wider community

What will this mean?

Council shares sustainability expertise and experience with local and regional partners. Council activities support the climate goals of Rangitāne o Manawatū. Community groups delivering climate mitigation or adaptation projects are supported and celebrated.

Specific actions

- Develop a common tool set for understanding greenhouse gas emissions with local and regional partners
- Support Rangitāne o Manawatū to achieve their climate change aspirations
- Make sustainability improvements to Council facilities, processes and purchasing

New or one-off actions

- Develop guidelines to prioritise and implement sustainable practices across all Council activities (year 1)
- Provide information and education about effective sustainability and carbon reduction (from year 1)
- Provide funding to for-purpose organisations, local communities, and communities of interest through:
 - Strategic Priority Grants (including support for sector-leadership)
 - Environmental Initiatives Fund (through Environment Network Manawatū)

Strengthen our city's adaptive capacity to Palmerston North's climate-related risks

What will this mean?

City preparations for civil defence emergencies include assessment of likely changes to the weather as a result of climate change. Communities in current or predicted high risk areas have the information and support they need to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters and other emergencies.

Promote activities that support low-carbon city outcomes, including those that compensate for activities that produce greenhouse gases

What will this mean?

There is sound information about the greenhouse gas emissions from city activities. This information is used to make decisions about where to act first. The community have access to seed funding to support low-carbon city outcomes.

Specific actions

- Include an assessment of the greenhouse gas emissions of all Council decisions [see **Governance and active citizenship plan**]

New or one-off actions

- Identify options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport (from year 1) [See **Transport plan**]
- Implement actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport (from year 2) [See **Transport plan**]
- Develop a Green Building Fund (year 1) [See **Housing plan**]
- Support building owners and developers through a Green Building Fund (from year 2) [See **Housing plan**]
- Develop new native forest planting (year 1)
- Co-develop a community-focused city-wide climate action plan, including the articulation of local co-benefits and the identification of projects that may attract co-funding (year 1)

New or one-off actions

- Develop a community planning framework to adapt vulnerable communities to the predicted impacts of climate change (year 2) [See **Community safety and health plan** and **Water plan**]
- Provide information and education about nature-based solutions to climate change adaptation (from year 1)