



PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

9AM, WEDNESDAY 16 AUGUST 2023

COUNCIL CHAMBER, FIRST FLOOR CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 32 THE SQUARE, PALMERSTON NORTH

MEMBERS

Brent Barrett (Chair) Kaydee Zabelin (Deputy Chair) Grant Smith (The Mayor) Roly Fitzgerald Lorna Johnson Patrick Handcock Debi Marshall-Lobb (ONZM)

Leonie Hapeta

Karen Naylor

AGENDA ITEMS, IF NOT ATTACHED, CAN BE VIEWED AT

pncc.govt.nz | Civic Administration Building, 32 The Square City Library | Ashhurst Community Library | Linton Library

Waid Crockett Chief Executive | PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

Te Marae o Hine | 32 The Square Private Bag 11034 | Palmerston North 4442 | New Zealand prcc.govt.nz





SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

16 August 2023

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1. Karakia Timatanga
- 2. Apologies

3. Notification of Additional Items

Pursuant to Sections 46A(7) and 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, to receive the Chairperson's explanation that specified item(s), which do not appear on the Agenda of this meeting and/or the meeting to be held with the public excluded, will be discussed.

Any additions in accordance with Section 46A(7) must be approved by resolution with an explanation as to why they cannot be delayed until a future meeting.

Any additions in accordance with Section 46A(7A) may be received or referred to a subsequent meeting for further discussion. No resolution, decision or recommendation can be made in respect of a minor item.

4. Declarations of Interest (if any)

Members are reminded of their duty to give a general notice of any interest of items to be considered on this agenda and the need to declare these interests.



Page 7

5. Public Comment

To receive comments from members of the public on matters specified on this Agenda or, if time permits, on other Committee matters.

(NOTE: If the Committee wishes to consider or discuss any issue raised that is not specified on the Agenda, other than to receive the comment made or refer it to the Chief Executive, then a resolution will need to be made.)

6. Presentation - Palmy Climate Conversations

7. Confirmation of Minutes Page 9 "That the minutes of the Sustainability Committee meeting of 7 June 2023 Part I Public be confirmed as a true and correct record."

REPORTS

- Options to incentivise green buildings in the city
 Page 15
 Report, presented by David Watson, Climate Change Analyst.
- 9. Update on the Manawatū-Whanganui Climate Joint Action Committee Page 35 Memorandum, presented by David Watson, Climate Change Analyst.
- 10.Update on the Low Carbon Fund 2022/23Page 71Memorandum, presented by Adam Jarvis, Acting City Planning

Memorandum, presented by Adam Jarvis, Acting City Planning Manager.

- II.
 Update on the Climate Change Response Work Programme
 Page 77

 Memorandum, presented by Adam Jarvis, Acting City Planning
 Manager.
- 12. Committee Work Schedule

Page 81



13. Karakia Whakamutunga

14. Exclusion of Public

To be moved:

"That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting listed in the table below.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for passing this resolution

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as stated in the above table.

Also that the persons listed below be permitted to remain after the public has been excluded for the reasons stated.

[Add Third Parties], because of their knowledge and ability to assist the meeting in speaking to their report/s [or other matters as specified] and answering questions, noting that such person/s will be present at the meeting only for the items that relate to their respective report/s [or matters as specified].



PRESENTATION

TO: Sustainability Committee

MEETING DATE: 16 August 2023

TITLE: Presentation - Palmy Climate Conversations

RECOMMENDATION TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

1. That the Sustainability Committee receive the presentation for information.

SUMMARY

Robert Gibb will make a presentation on the four Palmy Climate Conversation events that were held in Palmerston North in June and July 2023. He will outline the leading ideas that arose from the conversations; and the group's future plans.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil



PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Sustainability Committee Meeting Part I Public, held in the Council Chamber, First Floor, Civic Administration Building, 32 The Square, Palmerston North on 07 June 2023, commencing at 9.00am.

MembersCouncillor Brent Barrett (in the Chair), and Councillors Kaydee Zabelin,Present:Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb
and Karen Naylor.

Non Councillors Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Billy Members: Meehan, Orphée Mickalad.

Apologies: The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillor Roly Fitzgerald (absent on Council business). Councillor Patrick Handcock (early departure).

Councillor Billy Meehan entered the meeting at 9.41am during consideration of clause 9. He was not present for clauses 6 to 8 inclusive.

Councillor Patrick Handcock left the meeting at 10.27am after consideration of clause 10. He entered the meeting again at 11.16am after it resumed. He was not present for clause 11.

Karakia Timatanga

Councillor Kaydee Zabelin opened the meeting with karakia.

6-23 Apologies

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

The COMMITTEE RESOLVED

1. That the Committee receive the apologies.

Clause 6-23 above was carried 11 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay and Orphée Mickalad.



7-23 Public Comment

Jacksen Love, Flamingo Scooters

Jacksen Love, Co-founder of Flamingo Scooters spoke in support of item 8 on the Agenda (E-Scooter – Review of Performance in Palmerston North 2023 – 2023). He commented on scooter user statistics in Palmerston North and how Flamingo Scooters runs a safety rewards programme which provides incentives for safe use of scooters; they also run regular safety events, are Kiwi owned and hire locally.

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

The COMMITTEE RESOLVED

1. The Committee resolved to receive the public comment for information.

Clause 7-23 above was carried 11 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay and Orphée Mickalad.

8-23 Confirmation of Minutes

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the minutes of the Sustainability Committee meeting of 29 March 2023 Part I Public be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Clause 8-23 above was carried 11 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay and Orphée Mickalad.

9-23 Desktop analysis of opportunities for solar power on Council owned buildings

Memorandum, presented by David Watson, Climate Change Analyst and Adam Jarvis, Principal Climate Change Advisor.

Councillor Billy Meehan entered the meeting at 9.41am.

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. The Committee resolves that the findings of the report titled 'Desktop analysis of opportunities for solar power on Council owned buildings' and further detailed investigations of opportunities for solar power on



Council buildings or other locations, be referred to the 2024-34 Long Term Plan process.

Clause 9-23 above was carried 11 votes to 0, with 1 abstention, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay and Orphée Mickalad.

Abstained:

Councillor Billy Meehan.

10-23 PNCC Organisational Emissions Inventory 2021/2022

Memorandum, presented by David Watson, Climate Change Analyst and Adam Jarvis, Principal Climate Change Advisor.

Officers noted an error on page 13 of Attachment 1 (page 35 of the Agenda); the text should read as follows:

Workplace Travel/Air Travel – Air travel domestic (noting it is inclusive of international air travel)

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

The COMMITTEE RESOLVED

1. The Committee noted that as a result of Council actions, PNCC emissions have fallen from 26,444 tCO2e in 2015/16, to 19001 tCO2e in 2021/22 (a 28% reduction).

Clause 10-23 above was carried 12 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Billy Meehan and Orphée Mickalad.

Councillor Patrick Handcock left the meeting at 10.27am.

11-23 E-scooters - Review of Performance in Palmerston North 2021 - 2023 Memorandum, presented by Peter Ridge, Senior Policy Analyst.

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

The COMMITTEE RESOLVED

1. The Committee noted that no change will be made to the current method of regulating e-scooter operators (the Mobile Trading Permit in the Signs and Use of Public Places Bylaw).

Clause 11-23 above was carried 11 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay,



Billy Meehan and Orphée Mickalad.

The meeting adjourned at 10.56am. The meeting resumed again at 11.16am.

Councillor Patrick Handcock entered the meeting again when it resumed.

12-23 Notes on the Taipei 2023 Net Zero/Smart Cities Summit

Memorandum, presented by Adam Jarvis, Principal Climate Change Advisor.

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

The COMMITTEE RESOLVED

1. The Committee receive the memorandum titled 'Notes on the Taipei 2023 Net Zero/Smart Cities Summit' presented on 7 June 2023.

Clause 12-23 above was carried 12 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Billy Meehan and Orphée Mickalad.

13-23 Summary of the changes announced for Aotearoa New Zealand's Waste System

Memorandum, presented by Bryce Hosking, Group Manager - Property and Resource Recovery, and Natasha Hickmott, Activities Manager -Resource Recovery and Sustainability.

An additional motion was passed for Council to investigate options for kerbside waste collection to lift diversion rates. Any work will inform the Long Term Plan 2014-34.

Officers noted they will be able to commence work however due to resourcing constraints a full review will unlikely be completed before the Long Term Plan.

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

The COMMITTEE RESOLVED

1. The Committee received the memorandum titled "Summary of the changes announced for Aotearoa New Zealand's Waste System" presented on 7 June 2023.

Clause 13.1-23 above was carried 12 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Billy Meehan and Orphée Mickalad.



Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

2. That in development of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan, Council explore a range of models for kerbside waste collection service delivery, including a single provider model, with a view to improving waste minimisation outcomes.

Clause 13.2-23 above was carried 10 votes to 2, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Patrick Handcock, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Rachel Bowen, Lew Findlay, Billy Meehan and Orphée Mickalad.

Against:

Councillors Leonie Hapeta and Vaughan Dennison.

14-23 Overview of regulatory and service provision options to minimise waste to landfill

Memorandum, presented by Peter Ridge, Senior Policy Analyst.

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

The COMMITTEE RESOLVED

1. The Committee received the memorandum titled "Overview of regulatory and service provision options to minimise waste to landfill" presented on 7 June 2023.

Clause 14-23 above was carried 12 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Billy Meehan and Orphée Mickalad.

15-23 Wastewater Discharge Consent Project - Quarterly Update

Memorandum, presented by Mike Monaghan, Group Manager - Three Waters.

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

The COMMITTEE RESOLVED

 The Committee received the report titled 'Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge Consent Project – Quarterly Update' presented on 7 June 2023.

Clause 15-23 above was carried 12 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Billy Meehan and Orphée Mickalad.



16-23 Opportunities for native species reintroductions in the Turitea Reserve Memorandum, presented by Adam Jarvis, Principal Climate Change Advisor.

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. The Committee received the memorandum titled 'Opportunities for native species reintroductions in the Turitea Reserve' presented to the Sustainability Committee on 7 June 2023.

Clause 16-23 above was carried 12 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Billy Meehan and Orphée Mickalad.

17-23 Committee Work Schedule - June 2023

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

The COMMITTEE RESOLVED

1. The Committee received its Work Schedule dated June 2023.

Clause 17-23 above was carried 12 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Billy Meehan and Orphée Mickalad.

Karakia Whakamutunga

Councillor Kaydee Zabelin closed the meeting with karakia.

The meeting finished at 12.55pm

Confirmed 16 August 2023

Chair



REPORT

TO:	Sustainability Committee
MEETING DATE:	16 August 2023
TITLE:	Options to incentivise green buildings in the city
PRESENTED BY:	David Watson, Climate Change Analyst
APPROVED BY:	David Murphy, Chief Planning Officer
PRESENTED BY: APPROVED BY:	David Watson, Climate Change Analyst David Murphy, Chief Planning Officer

RECOMMENDATION TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

- 1. That the Committee agree to one or a combination of the following options to incentivise green buildings in the city be referred to the 2024-34 Long Term Plan process for consideration:
 - A. Provide information / training on green development benefits.
 - B. Provide grants for completing third party certification.
 - C. Provide grants for reaching internally defined standards.
 - D. Fast-track consenting processes to incentivise outcomes. OR
- 2. That the Committee resolve not to progress any of the options outlined in this report.



Summary of options analysis

Problem or Opportunity	Construction and renovation practices across the city are contributing to climate change and waste generation.			
OPTION A:	Provide information / training on green development benefits			
Community Views	Government regulation is more effective than local incentives. Options and new regulation are not well understood.			
	Not a subsidy to private businesses.			
Benefits	Avoids benefits accruing to individuals.			
	Can be targeted at particular communities.			
Risks	Without funding or legal requirement may be ineffective.			
	May duplicate Government communications.			
Financial	Additional staff resource and delivery budget.			
OPTION B:	Provide grants for completing third party certification (the Wellington model)			
Community Views	If the requirements to be met lead to additional cost without equivalent rise in value (i.e. a short-term net financial benefit) then it will only be effective for long term builder-occupiers.			
Benefits	Simple to administer and updated by the certifying body. Clear and easy to understand.			
	Subject to changes by the certifying body.			
Risks	Additional development cost subsidised by Council borrowing.			
1(15)(5)				
	Longer term benefits accrue to the occupier.			
Financial	Longer term benefits accrue to the occupier. Costs can be fixed (e.g. a discrete funding pot) but benefit / uptake will fluctuate with market conditions.			
Financial OPTION C:	Longer term benefits accrue to the occupier. Costs can be fixed (e.g. a discrete funding pot) but benefit / uptake will fluctuate with market conditions. Provide grants for reaching internally defined standards			
Financial OPTION C: Community Views	Longer term benefits accrue to the occupier. Costs can be fixed (e.g. a discrete funding pot) but benefit / uptake will fluctuate with market conditions. Provide grants for reaching internally defined standards If the requirements to be met lead to additional cost without equivalent rise in value (i.e. a short-term net financial benefit) then it will only be effective for long term builder-occupiers.			
Financial OPTION C: Community Views Benefits	Longer term benefits accrue to the occupier. Costs can be fixed (e.g. a discrete funding pot) but benefit / uptake will fluctuate with market conditions. Provide grants for reaching internally defined standards If the requirements to be met lead to additional cost without equivalent rise in value (i.e. a short-term net financial benefit) then it will only be effective for long term builder-occupiers. Clear and easy to understand.			
Financial OPTION C: Community Views Benefits	Longer term benefits accrue to the occupier. Costs can be fixed (e.g. a discrete funding pot) but benefit / uptake will fluctuate with market conditions. Provide grants for reaching internally defined standards If the requirements to be met lead to additional cost without equivalent rise in value (i.e. a short-term net financial benefit) then it will only be effective for long term builder-occupiers. Clear and easy to understand. Maintain control over direction of incentives.			
Financial OPTION C: Community Views Benefits	Longer term benefits accrue to the occupier. Costs can be fixed (e.g. a discrete funding pot) but benefit / uptake will fluctuate with market conditions. Provide grants for reaching internally defined standards If the requirements to be met lead to additional cost without equivalent rise in value (i.e. a short-term net financial benefit) then it will only be effective for long term builder-occupiers. Clear and easy to understand. Maintain control over direction of incentives. May be overtaken by national legislation.			
Financial OPTION C: Community Views Benefits Risks	Longer term benefits accrue to the occupier. Costs can be fixed (e.g. a discrete funding pot) but benefit / uptake will fluctuate with market conditions. Provide grants for reaching internally defined standards If the requirements to be met lead to additional cost without equivalent rise in value (i.e. a short-term net financial benefit) then it will only be effective for long term builder-occupiers. Clear and easy to understand. Maintain control over direction of incentives. May be overtaken by national legislation. Needs to be carefully designed so as not to provide grants without additional effort on the part of the applicant.			
Financial OPTION C: Community Views Benefits Risks	Longer term benefits accrue to the occupier. Costs can be fixed (e.g. a discrete funding pot) but benefit / uptake will fluctuate with market conditions. Provide grants for reaching internally defined standards If the requirements to be met lead to additional cost without equivalent rise in value (i.e. a short-term net financial benefit) then it will only be effective for long term builder-occupiers. Clear and easy to understand. Maintain control over direction of incentives. May be overtaken by national legislation. Needs to be carefully designed so as not to provide grants without additional effort on the part of the applicant. Requires additional staff resource to administer and update.			
Financial OPTION C: Community Views Benefits Risks Financial	Longer term benefits accrue to the occupier. Costs can be fixed (e.g. a discrete funding pot) but benefit / uptake will fluctuate with market conditions. Provide grants for reaching internally defined standards If the requirements to be met lead to additional cost without equivalent rise in value (i.e. a short-term net financial benefit) then it will only be effective for long term builder-occupiers. Clear and easy to understand. Maintain control over direction of incentives. May be overtaken by national legislation. Needs to be carefully designed so as not to provide grants without additional effort on the part of the applicant. Requires additional staff resource to administer and update. Incentive and affordability may fluctuate with market conditions.			
Financial OPTION C: Community Views Benefits Risks Financial OPTION D:	Longer term benefits accrue to the occupier. Costs can be fixed (e.g. a discrete funding pot) but benefit / uptake will fluctuate with market conditions. Provide grants for reaching internally defined standards If the requirements to be met lead to additional cost without equivalent rise in value (i.e. a short-term net financial benefit) then it will only be effective for long term builder-occupiers. Clear and easy to understand. Maintain control over direction of incentives. May be overtaken by national legislation. Needs to be carefully designed so as not to provide grants without additional effort on the part of the applicant. Requires additional staff resource to administer and update. Incentive and affordability may fluctuate with market conditions. Fast-track consenting processes to incentivise outcomes			



	are getting more complex all the time.	
Benefits	Will allow leaders in this area to flourish.	
Derienis	Provides a quantifiable benefit to developers.	
Risks	Could overload the consents team, provide a misleading view of the consenting process and/or could be abused. Perception of fairness.	
Financial	Additional staff resource to provide fast track services	

RATIONALE FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. OVERVIEW OF THE PROBLEM OR OPPORTUNITY

- 1.1 Approximately 10 per cent of New Zealand's emissions are building-related¹. For example, they include:
 - emissions from the energy and other resources used when operating a building.
 - the carbon emitted by the manufacture and transport of the materials and products in a building across its life – including construction and maintenance.
 - □ the transport and disposal of materials upon deconstruction.
- 1.2 The building sector forms Chapter 12 of the National Emissions Reduction Plan (2022) which includes a goal that 'by 2050, Aotearoa New Zealand's buildingrelated emissions will be near zero and buildings will provide healthy places to work and live for present and future generations'.
- 1.3 Government is in the process of changing legislation including the Building Code and Resource Management Act as well as initiating programmes around energy efficiency and material use in construction. It is not yet clear to what extent this will achieve the stated goal, however there may be space within this process for local government to encourage, enable and incentivise green buildings. Council could use grants or other incentives to move faster than Government mandated changes with the aim of Palmerston North becoming a leader in this sector. Substantial changes to the construction sector within Palmerston North could lead to emission and landfilled waste reductions that would contribute to Councils goal of a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030².

¹ The building and construction sector was responsible for 7.4 Mt CO2-e of emissions in 2018. This represents 9.4 per cent of domestic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, or over 15 per cent of emissions if biogenic methane is excluded. (national emissions reduction plan 2022).

² Palmerston North Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2031



2. BACKGROUND AND PREVIOUS COUNCIL DECISIONS

- 2.1 On 30 March 2022 the Environmental Sustainability Committee received a presentation by the Green Building Council and resolved that the Chief Executive report back on the options and implications of policy changes recommended by that presentation.
- 2.2 The 21 September 2022 Environmental Sustainability Committee received the report requested on 30 March 2022 and resolved that the Chief Executive provide further analysis on Recommendation 1 (Reduced fees for consenting buildings that are certified as lower carbon) and Recommendation 5 (Reduced development contributions for sustainable buildings or homes) to support decision-making on those options.
- 2.3 The 29 March 2023 Sustainability Committee received a memorandum providing further analysis on the Green Building Council Recommendations 1 & 5 presented by Jono Ferguson-Pye, City Planning Manager. The committee resolved that the Chief Executive engages with stakeholders and provides Council with options to incentivise green building in the city.
- 2.4 As a response to a verbal question during the March Committee a memorandum detailing background information on alternative incentive models for green buildings was provided to elected members in April 2023.
- 2.5 In response to the March 2023 Committee resolution, this report provides an outline of potential options to incentivise green buildings in the city that could be included in the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan (LTP) deliberations.

3. NATIONAL POSITION AND DIRECTION

- 3.1 National direction includes several initiatives aimed at achieving the goal of near-zero building related emissions by 2050
- 3.2 The Building for Climate Change programme (BfCC) is intended to make energy efficiency and carbon emissions core considerations when building just as important as safety and cost.
- 3.3 Government is developing detailed regulatory proposals to bring whole-of-life embodied carbon and operational efficiency requirements into the Building Code. MBIE will consult publicly on these requirements in 2024.
- 3.4 The BfCC programme is considering measures to support three main ways of reducing the embodied carbon of buildings:
 - a) improving new building efficiency, for example ensuring new buildings are resilient, built-to-last, as big as they need to be and that we are making the best use of existing buildings,
 - b) improving material efficiency, for example designing smarter buildings that use less material for the same functionality and



performance, reducing waste at both construction and demolition stages through greater reuse and recycling of materials,

- c) reducing the carbon intensity of construction materials and products, for example through using lower carbon materials such as timber or reducing the emissions from the manufacture of materials such as concrete and steel.
- 3.5 The efficiency measures in point a) above have been outlined, and consulted on, in the Transforming Operational Efficiency Framework. The framework proposes that the new measures for operational efficiency will be implemented in a series of steps for new buildings:
 - a mandatory Operational Emissions Cap setting out the total allowable annual emissions per square meter per annum for all new buildings.
 - a mandatory Water Use Cap setting out the total allowable potable water use per square meter per annum for all new buildings.
 - defined Indoor Environmental Quality parameters for all new buildings to comply with.
- 3.6 Material efficiency measures in point b) above have been outlined, and consulted on, in the Whole-of-life Embodied Carbon Reduction Framework.
- 3.7 The Framework would require reporting and measurement of whole-of-life embodied carbon emissions – from manufacturing building materials to disposing of them at the end of a building's life. The framework would cap new buildings' whole-of-life embodied carbon and reduce the cap over time.
- 3.8 Measures to reduce the carbon intensity of materials in point c) above have been outlined in the Wood Processing and Manufacturing Industry Transformation Plan. The newly established Timber Design Centre is one example of support for innovative use of timber in buildings where this can reduce embodied carbon.
- 3.9 The emissions reductions work also includes legislative changes for Waste Minimisation Plans and Energy Performance Ratings as part of building consents. Up to half of all waste in Aotearoa is made up of construction and demolition waste, with 20 per cent of this waste going to municipal landfill and 80 per cent to non-municipal landfills or cleanfills.
- 3.10 A more circular economy, where existing materials are reused and recycled, will lower costs and reduce emissions associated with extracting resources and manufacturing new materials.
- 3.11 The transport of building and construction materials, products and workers generates emissions. Improving coordination and project management



across the construction supply chain will help reduce transport costs and emissions.

- 3.12 In addition, Government is exploring:
 - providing industry grants to increase the number of Environmental Product Declarations for building materials and products.
 - options to reduce barriers, such as financial incentives, green bonds or green loans
 - providing business change support and grants to help construction businesses move to a low-emissions business model.
- 3.13 Government is reducing its own waste and embedded carbon through the implementation of Rule 20 of the Government Procurement Rules³ and the Procurement Guide to Reducing Carbon Emissions in Building and Construction.
- 3.14 The Carbon Neutral Government programme works alongside these changes by requiring all departments, departmental agencies and the executive branch to implement NABERSNZ, a system for rating the energy efficiency of office buildings, from January 2021 for agencies that occupy large office space (over 2,000m2) and are covered by the Property Functional Leadership mandate.
- 3.15 There is also a mandate that Procurement mandated agencies are required to use an approved sustainable building rating tool⁴ when building a new Government owned non-residential building with an estimated capital value of \$9 million and over.
- 3.16 PNCC already provides an Eco Design Advisor service to help decarbonise buildings including new builds and renovations.
- 3.17 Buildings and houses are long lived, and the amount of energy used to heat, cool, light and maintain them is affected by their original design and construction. Designing, building, using and deconstructing our buildings

³ Government agencies should:

- support the procurement of low-emissions and low-waste goods, services and works.
- encourage innovation to significantly reduce emissions and waste impacts from goods and services.
- for designated contracts, agencies must support the procurement of low-waste and low-emissions goods and services and encourage innovation to significantly reduce emissions and waste impacts from goods and services.
- Agencies must have regard to guidance published by MBIE on the procurement of low-waste and low-emissions goods and services.
- Agencies must conduct sufficient monitoring of designated contracts to ensure that commitments made in contracts are delivered and reported on.

⁴ Green Star Design and As Built rating and minimum points requirements from specific credits.



more efficiently will provide more opportunities to reduce emissions across many sectors in the medium and long term. Conversely poor design choices now will lock in emissions generation, potentially for decades.

4. DESCRIPTION OF OPTIONS

Option A – Provide information / training

- 4.1 Actions by Government agencies have more scope and authority over construction sector decisions through the Building Code and other legislation than is available to local councils.
- 4.2 It is therefore possible that the role Council adopts is around informing and preparing the local construction industry, market and supporting systems about the upcoming changes and support them in transitioning to a more environmentally friendly business model.
- 4.3 Much of the development community feedback related to a lack of understanding by clients, designers, builders and developers of the scale of the BfCC program (and low carbon construction in general). Indeed, many had not heard of it at all and none of the BuildPalmy survey responses had. There is therefore a gap between the Government's ambitions and the preparedness of builders and designers. Recent changes such as the H1 insulation requirement under the Building Code are thought to be the main response, rather than the first change of many in this space over the next six years.
- 4.4 By acting as a communication amplifier for these changes local government can support local developers, manufacturers and designers to transition. We are also able to direct this communication to those areas where it is most necessary, such as developers currently building homes to code, commercial landlords and larger multi-unit developers.
- 4.5 Several opportunities will come up during the BfCC process to respond directly with Government over proposed changes. Closer communication and collaboration with the development community would allow a more detailed and substantive view of these proposed changes.
- 4.6 Care needs to be taken in repeating Government communications uncritically, especially in circumstances where this is future focussed and does not refer to finalised legislative changes. The risk of 'crying wolf' and promoting changes that do not eventuate would erode confidence in Council's message and relationships.
- 4.7 There are also ongoing issues around the cost to develop houses, due to current economic conditions, that is likely to be exacerbated by additional regulations and serial changes to well understood practices. There will therefore be pressure on Government at all levels to provide funding or subsidies to deliver green initiatives. Council can take a role in supporting



businesses to apply for any Government funding through advice, potentially delivered by CEDA.

4.8 Additional communications will require additional staff resource with a technical understanding of the construction industry. There will also be costs to deliver forums, meetings, literature and/or online training to the development community. Many of these relationships are already in place through the consents team.

Option B – Grants for third party certification

- 4.9 Wellington City Councils Environmental and Accessibility Performance Fund supports multi-unit (10+) residential projects and commercial buildings in the city that meet certain criteria. The Fund offers grants to address concerns such as the cost of certification, systems and materials. It is intended to cover a portion of the costs associated with building improvement, to support the broader Council outcomes around health, environment and accessibility.
- 4.10 The Wellington Fund is tied to certification by the NZGBC, Living Building Challenge or Lifemark standards. The higher the level of certification the more funding per m² is released up to fixed limit per unit. For example, a new residence that achieves a Homestar 7 rating would be eligible for a grant of \$15,000.00, up to a maximum of \$1m per development.
- 4.11 This system replaced a Development Contribution (DC) rebate. This change was primarily due to its simplicity, both in terms of being clear to understand and straightforward to administer, and the impact a reduction in DC had on the council's ability to provide infrastructure (funded by DCs). The new Fund is funded by borrowing.
- 4.12 Palmerston North development community feedback included a variety of concerns relating to the cost of green development. The primary concerns related to the increased building cost, how green elements are often value engineered out and how increased materials costs squeeze fixed construction budgets. The overall view was that unless an improvement paid for itself during construction then it would only be included if a specific client made it a priority (normally during bespoke architect designed projects).
- 4.13 The main benefit to using a third-party certification is the presence of a dedicated team of professionals who constantly monitor and update the requirements to keep pace with best practice, technology and legislation changes. The certifying body also produce detailed guidance, tools, training and other information to ensure that developers understand what is required. This process is national (or even international) in focus and learnings from one development can be used elsewhere to meet the same standard.
- 4.14 However, this process is not free and fees for green certification can be thousands of dollars just for completing and verifying an assessment.



- 4.15 There is also a concern around the accrual of value resulting from the increased efficiency of green buildings. Whilst the whole life cost of a green building over 50 years is lower, as it is well insulated and uses less energy, this does not necessarily translate into sale price. This means that the main value is to the occupier, not the builder. Average occupancy of a residence is approximately 7 years so even for builder-occupiers any green elements would have to pay for themselves in that period or less to be 'worthwhile' financially.
- 4.16 The main beneficiaries of green buildings are therefore those developers who are involved in the construction of a building, and can influence its design, and then go on to pay the upkeep costs for the long term. This limits the scope of financial self-interest to long term (forever home) builder-occupiers, commercial rental operators and public entities such as councils and Kianga Ora.
- 4.17 The use of third-party certification introduces additional risks around the delegation of the criteria by which grants are awarded. NZGBC recently announced the retirement of Green Star Design & As Built certification, due to be replaced by Green Star Buildings for New Zealand. This change is due to take effect in 2025 and will extend certification beyond traditional measures of environmental sustainability, recognising social and strong governance initiatives. This presents a shift of focus and the Wellington Fund, Carbon Neutral Government programme and any other incentives designed with Green Star as their metric for success will need to be revised and updated.

Option C - Grants for internal certification/standards

- 4.18 The issues around fees and delegating eligibility to a third-party certification can be overcome by creating a bespoke in-house system of approval. However, this increases the administrative cost of setting up and running the fund.
- 4.19 A bespoke system can be targeted more tightly at elements that align to Council's strategic direction and market conditions within Palmerston North. This would allow for a system that does not require the cost and difficulty of a third-party assessor and could, in theory, be included in the existing building inspection and consenting system.

For example, it is possible to design a system with simple discrete elements such as meeting a specific double-glazing standard, not including new gas connections or installing solar panels. These would be obvious and easily checked during post construction inspections.

4.20 The main risk with this approach is in the design of the certification to meet current regulations and best practice, provide enough incentive to produce the required outcomes, respond to changing conditions and avoid unintended consequences.



For example, double glazing is only effective if the house is well insulated; in rural locations where the cost of running electricity cables is prohibitive it would not be desirable to have no gas for heating; heavily shaded south facing roofs are unlikely to benefit from solar panels. Adding in sufficient detail and exceptions to solve these issues increases the complexity of explaining and operating the fund.

4.21 It is also possible that if grants are set for particular elements then market conditions will need to be taken into account, increasing the complexity of the administration or assessment of the fund (or both).

For example, if a fixed \$10,000 grant was provided for buildings with solar this is a good incentive when the price of solar is \$15,000, a poor incentive if the price is \$50,000 and poor use of resources if the price is \$5,000. Alternatively, the grant could be a % of the cost of the solar system to avoid this issue but that would incentivise a financially optimal system rather than one that is best suited to the needs of the building.

4.22 Solving these issues and any others that arise during the incentive design process and during the first few years of administering the fund will require a dedicated staff resource that is closely aligned with the building consents team, policy team, climate change team and the local development community.

Option D – Fast-track consenting for green buildings

- 4.23 Palmerston North development community feedback included concerns that innovation is not supported by the current regulatory system. Specifically, there was a perception that designing buildings that were above code would result in delays and additional costs during planning consents over and above the additional cost of the design and materials.
- 4.24 Proposed solutions included a local requirement to build 'better than code' buildings. However, this is specifically excluded under the Local Government Act 2002.

"A council may not make a bylaw under this Act that purports to have the effect of requiring a building to achieve performance criteria additional to, or more restrictive than, those specified in the <u>Building Act 2004</u> or the <u>Building Code</u>." Local Government Act 2002

4.25 One solution to this issue would be a process whereby buildings that meet agreed eligibility criteria, (e.g. Green Star Design) would enter a fast track system where specially trained and experienced planners and building officers would be available to support and process applications. This would remove the disincentive around innovation and allow designers to promote green options. This could also be used to deal with modular or off-site constructions where identical units could be pre-approved in certain circumstances.



- 4.26 If the fast track process was at a discounted cost and substantially faster than the current system then the inherent financial incentive would help to offset the cost of any higher specification materials. This is especially true for larger debt funded applications where delays in the consenting process can carry significant cost well above the fees charged.
- 4.27 For a fast-track process to be successful, experienced and highly trained planners and building officers would need to be available to complete the work. This would either leave the consents team short staffed or require additional staff resource. If the uptake of the fast track process was high then there would not be capacity to complete applications quickly enough, even with dedicated resource. If the uptake was very low then the consents team would be paying for additional capacity without additional work to do.
- 4.28 Given the relative lack of applications over the last six months due to current economic conditions the latter option seems more likely.
- 4.29 It may also be perceived, even if it not the case, that eligible applications are more likely to be approved because they are 'what Council wants' rather than by a fair application of the rules. This could be exacerbated by the use of highly skilled planners and building officers in assessing applications, as they are more likely to be able to solve problems and agree innovative solutions within the existing rules.
- 4.30 The provision of a fast track process also raises questions of fairness and perception of fairness in setting fees. Currently consents are charged at the same rate for all applications and all customers receive the same level of service. If a fast track process with specific entry criteria was provided using the same resources then this would constitute a subsidy, paid for by non-eligible applications. In effect the latter would be subsidising the former (even if this subsidy takes the form of delays to non-eligible applications that would not otherwise occur).
- 4.31 The current LTP includes in the Funding Policy 'Developers and property owners benefit from the building services advice, information and certainty provided by the Council. As the main beneficiaries are property developers and building owners they should pay for the majority of the cost of the activity'. This indicates that the beneficiary should pay for the service they receive and therefore a fast-track process should be more expensive based on the increase in benefit.
- 4.32 Finally, the rules for eligibility need to be carefully considered so that the system is not open to abuse. This will require constant monitoring of the Government position and changes to the building code to avoid low performing buildings being technically compliant and therefore receive fast-track support. It is likely that a complaints and arbitration process would be required to ensure fairness.



5. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 5.1 Further below in tables 2 and 3, each option has been scored against the criteria described below in order to provide a more quantitative analysis of the implications of each option.
- 5.2 **Community support** is a measure of how many mentions of a particular issue were received during the consultation process.

3 = 5+ mentions	2 = 3-4 mentions	1= 1-2 mentions	0 = 0 mentions
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- 5.3 Options **Benefits** were scored based on their fulfilling one or more of the below criteria:
 - A. Clear and simple to understand
 - B. Can be directed and targeted at certain markets or demographics
 - C. Provides a strong and adjustable incentive to participants
 - D. Simple to deliver and/or administrate
 - E. Directly promotes target behaviours (green buildings construction)

3 = 3+ benefits 2 = 2 benefits 1= 1 benefit 0 = No benefits	nefits 2 = 2 benet
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- 5.4 Options **Risks** were scored based on their potential to result in one or more of the below criteria:
 - F. Actions do not deliver desired outcomes
 - G. Constant revision required to avoid over/under incentivising as market fluctuates
 - H. Lack of control over criteria or outcomes
 - I. Benefits accrue solely to a company or individual
 - J. Actions made obsolete by Government legislation/programmes
 - K. Actions present a reputational risk (real or perceived)
 - L. Actions create disruption to existing teams and operations

3 = 0 risks	2 = 1-2 risks	1= 3-4 risk	0 = 5+ risks
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5.5 Options **Financial** impact was scored based on total cost, whether the cost was fixed or flexible and whether the cost was capital or operational in nature.

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Total Cost Low = 0 Moderate = 1 High = 2	0	2	2	1
Fixed = 0 Flexible = 1	0	0	1	1
Capital = 1 Operational =2 Both = 3	2	1	3	2
Total	2	3	6	4

In order to provide a direct comparison with other elements of the analysis this score was translated into a 0-3 scale for inclusion in the overall score.

3 = 0-1 2 = 1-2	1= 3-4	0 = 5+ risks
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- 5.6 **Strategic Alignment** to the 2021-31 LTP includes how closely options address elements of the plan that relate directly to green buildings. These are summarised below:
- 5.7 Goal 1: City Growth Measures of Success:

'There is an increase in range of building types being built in the city centre and local neighbourhoods (e.g. different densities, co-housing, CBD residential, green buildings). (new – currently there is little innovation in the type of houses being built to meet changing demographics and needs).'

Additional measures reported through the city dashboards:

'More 'Green Star' rated buildings (Green Building Council) are constructed throughout the city'

5.8 Goal 3: A Connected and Safe Community - Social Housing:

'Council's social housing is warm and safe, as shown by compliance with the Otago Medical School He Kainga Oranga Rental Housing Warrant of Fitness Standard. New Council housing is accessible (as shown by Lifemark 4 Star Design Standard accreditation) (new - Council's social housing meets the Otago Medical School and the new Healthy Homes Standards).'



5.9 Goal 4: Environmental Sustainability – Sustainable Practices:

'Use Council's legislative powers and policies to ensure urban development is sustainable now and into the future'.

'Educate the community, in particular, property owners, on the benefits of investing in sustainable building design and green buildings'.

'The purpose of this chapter is for the local community, and especially property owners, to understand the benefits of investing in sustainable building design and green buildings. We want Council to role-model sustainable practices and to share lessons learned with local communities.'

5.10 In addition to aligning with the current LTP, options were assessed against the draft 2024-34 LTP. This reflects the likely long-term nature of the assessed options. As these objectives are yet to be considered by Council they are weighted as of lower importance than existing goals when scoring options.

Future Goals

2024-34 Urban Design Plan:

'Provide and promote connected, sustainable, accessible, safe, and interesting public spaces'

2024-34 Economic Development Plan:

'Support sustainable business activity and labour market development'

2024-34 Climate Change and Sustainability Plan:

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

'Encourage and promote sustainable best-practices'

2024-34 Resource Recovery Plan:

'Promote waste reduction'

'Divert waste from landfill'

5.11 Each option was considered to align with a goal if it met the broad aspirations or specific wording of the goal. In some instances, the level of strategic alignment is dependent on the exact design and delivery of the options. Where there is uncertainty the lower of the two scores was used.

3 = Supports multiple goals	2 = Supports a single goal	1= Supports future goals (from the 2024-34 LTP)	0 = Supports no goals
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	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Community Support (5.2)	Several consultees did not understand the BfCC or the costs and benefits of green buildings	Additional cost was the most mentioned barrier to green developments during consultation	Additional cost was the most mentioned barrier to green developments during consultation	Consultees held opinions on regulation when prompted but this was generally a minor element
Benefits (5.3)	A, B, D	A, D, E	A, C, E	B, E
Risks (5.4)	F, J	H, I, K	F, G, I, J, K	G, I, K, L
Financial (5.5)	Costs largely operational (staff time)	Capital cost high due to grant funding (assuming high uptake)	Capital cost high due to grant funding; staff cost high due to administrative difficulty	Costs largely operational (staff time) but highly flexible due to market fluctuations
Strategic Alignment (5.6)	Goal 4	Goal 1 & Goal 4	Goal 1, Goal 3 & Goal 4	Goal 1, Goal 3 & Goal 4

Table 2 – Summary of Options Analysis

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Community Support	3	3	3	1
Benefits	3	3	3	2
Risks	2	1	0	1
Financial	2	1	0	1
Strategic Alignment	1	2	3	3
Total	11	10	9	8

Table 3 – Options Analysis Scoring



6. CONCLUSION

6.1 Government has the power to require changes to the type and method of construction explored in this report through the Building Code. Supporting and promoting the Building for Climate Change Programme to ensure that the local development community is prepared for upcoming changes is one way Council could incentivise green buildings in the city over the medium to long term. This is, however, an indirect approach and by itself would not lead to more green buildings.

7. NEXT ACTIONS

7.1 If one or more option(s) are selected for inclusion in the 2024-34 LTP they will be carried forward and included in the programme and project budgeting process. Councillors will have the opportunity to further debate and approve specific actions during LTP deliberations.

8. OUTLINE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

- 8.1 The development community was contacted through three primary methods;
 - □ A questionnaire was included in the Build Palmy newsletter which was sent to approximately 300 recipients within the development community.
 - Businesses based in Palmerston North were contacted and interviewed using the BuildPalmy questionnaire as a basis for this conversation. The final element of these conversations was to ask for recommendations for other local developers that could be approached for interview. This was continued until all contacted developers had been interviewed or declined to be interviewed (failure to respond was considered to be equivalent to declining).
 - □ Officers attended the July BuildPlamy forum and used this to interview willing attendees.



9. COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Does the Committee have delegated authority to decide?	Yes	
Are the decisions significant?	No	
If they are significant do they affect land or a body of water?	No	
Can this decision only be made through a 10 Year Plan?	No	
Does this decision require consultation through the Special Consultative procedure?	No	
Is there funding in the current Annual Plan for these actions?	No	
Are the recommendations inconsistent with any of Council's policies or plans?	No	
The recommendations contribute to		
Goal 1: An Innovative and Growing City		
Goal 2: A Creative and Exciting City		
Goal 4: An Eco City		
The recommendations contribute to the achievement of action/action Growth	ns in City	
The action is:		
Goal 1: City Growth - Measures of Success		
'There is an increase in range of building types being built in the city centre and local neighbourhoods (e.g. different densities, co-housing, CBD residential, green buildings). (new – currently there is little innovation in the type of houses being built to meet changing demographics and needs).'		
Additional measures reported through the city dashboards:		
'More 'Green Star' rated buildings (Green Building Council) are throughout the city'	constructed	
Goal 1: Transport – Mitigation of negative effects		
'Good local urban design, and city planning to reduce urban sprawl.'		
Goal 3: A Connected and Safe Community - Social Housing		
Measures of Success		
'Council's social housing is warm and safe, as shown by compliance with the Otago Medical School He Kainga Oranga Rental Housing Warrant of Fitness Standard. New Council housing is accessible (as shown by Lifemark 4 Star Design Standard accreditation) (new - Council's social housing meets the Otago Medical School and the new Healthy Homes Standards).'		
Goal 4: Environmental Sustainability – Sustainable Practices		



5. 'Use Council's legislative powers and policies to ensure urban development is sustainable now and into the future'.

6. 'Educate the community, in particular, property owners, on the benefits of investing in sustainable building design and green buildings'.

'The purpose of this chapter is for the local community, and especially property owners, to understand the benefits of investing in sustainable building design and green buildings. We want Council to role-model sustainable practices and to share lessons learned with local communities.'

Contribution to strategic direction and	As above
to social, economic, environmental	
and conordi weil-being	

ATTACHMENTS

1. Work programme for Building for Climate Change 🗓 🛣

Building for Climate Change

Work Programme





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ATTACHMENT . ITEM 8



MEMORANDUM

TO:	Sustainability Committee
MEETING DATE:	16 August 2023
TITLE:	Update on the Manawatū-Whanganui Climate Joint Action Committee
PRESENTED BY:	David Watson, Climate Change Analyst
APPROVED BY:	David Murphy, Chief Planning Officer

RECOMMENDATION TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

1. That the Committee receive the memorandum titled 'Update on the Manawatū-Whanganui Climate Joint Action Committee' presented to the Sustainability Committee on 16 August 2023.

1. ISSUE

- 1.1 The Palmerston North City Council (Council), through its regional agreements, supports and engages with region-wide climate change actions through several joint groups including the Manawatū-Whanganui Climate Action Joint Committee (Joint Committee). This Committee has produced the Manawatū-Whanganui Joint Climate Action Plan (Action Plan) (attachment 1), which includes actions to be led by local councils and further actions to be led by the Joint Committee regionally.
- 1.2 As part of the upcoming Long-Term Plan (LTP) process, Council will need to decide how to respond to the Action Plan and how to fund the Joint Committee to deliver actions it holds responsibility for. Members of the Joint Committee have agreed to work to ensure that appropriate information is available to local councils to enable them to consider climate change initiatives through their own LTP processes.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 In September 2019, in recognition of the urgency of responding to climate change, eight councils that comprise of the Manawatū -Whanganui region, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (attachment 2) to collectively address climate change resilience, mitigation and communication. In 2021 the signatories, comprising the sitting mayors, formed the local government members of the Joint Committee in accordance with the committee's terms of reference (attachment 3). Seven tangata whenua members appointed by Horizons Regional Council on the recommendation of lwi leaders each



contribute unique skills and experience; collectively, they ensure that a Māori perspective is reflected in the work of the Joint Committee.

2.2 The Joint Committee began drafting a join action plan in 2022. Council responded to the draft action plan in February 2023 (attachment 4) broadly supporting its aims and intent. The Joint Committee adopted and published the Action Plan in early 2023. This plan is about understanding how we will collectively respond to climate change in the Manawatū-Whanganui region and working together to reduce potential harm.

The Action Plan makes recommendations for actions to be embedded in councils plans at a local level. In summary, these are:

- Prioritise nature-based solutions in response to surface water issues and encourage on-site water retention and storage.
- Incorporate reasonable climate model predictions when planning for surface water issues and when assessing critical infrastructure. Prevent development in high risk areas.
- Develop community led adaptation plans.
- Reduce the need for short car journeys.
- Measure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from council activities.
- Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation into council procurement policies.
- Work with Joint Committee members to engage with youth, community and tangata whenua groups.
- Allocate resource to drive action, build relationships with tangata whenua and engage with communities.
- Respond proactively to Government direction.
- 2.3 The Joint Committee have identified actions they will lead as a committee. These are mostly around research, gathering and sharing information, modelling impacts, implementing a region-wide waste strategy, and evaluating the success thereof. Council officers anticipate a funding request to support these actions will be received from Horizons to be considered as part of the upcoming LTP deliberations.

3. **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

3.1 At a recent Joint Committee workshop, it was decided that certain councils would lead aspects of the delivery of the Action Plan. Manawatū District Council volunteered to work on the waste strategy whilst the Palmerston


North City Council volunteered to begin developing emissions data and monitoring tools.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 As part of the upcoming Long Term Plan (LTP), Council will need to consider its role in the Joint Committee and what mechanism is best suited to funding the actions of this committee.
- 4.2 The LTP will also include programmes that address the priorities detailed in the Action Plan and propose projects that would seek to address these.

5. COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Does the Committee have delegated authority to decide?		Yes
Are the decisions significant?		No
If they are significant, do they affect land or a body of water?		No
Can this decision only be made through a 10 Year Plan?		No
Does this decision require Consultative procedure?	consultation through the Special	No
Is there funding in the current Annual Plan for these actions? No		No
Are the recommendations inco plans?	nsistent with any of Council's policies or	No
The recommendations contribute to Goal 4: An Eco City		
The recommendations contribute to the achievement of action/actions in Climate Change The action is: Collaborate with regional partners to better understand climate change vulnerability and develop a coordinated adaptation response		
Contribution to strategic direction and to social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being Provide a mechanism for conversations with other territorial authorities and a forum for mayors and tangata whenua representatives to agree direction, receive updates and allocate resources.		

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Manawatū-Whanganui Joint Climate Action Plan 2023 🗓 🛣
- 2. Regional Climate Change Memorandum of Understanding 🖞 🛣
- 3. CAJC Terms of Reference 2022-2025 🖞 🛣
- 4. Manawatū-Whanganui Joint Climate Action Plan 2023 Consultation Response J 🖾





2022

Te Ao Māori

Across the Manawatū-Whanganui rohe that encompasses the principle homes of many lwi and Hapū, acknowledging a vast range of important maunga, awa, moana, ancestral sites / sacred areas and significant environmental entities in each of these different places, we acknowledge that the Māori worldview has foundations, ethics and understandings that differ from those that developed in Europe and its colonies.

These foundations include the notions that:

- The universe is holistic and dynamic; there is within it an ongoing process of continuous creation and recreation.
- Everything in the universe, inanimate and animate, has its own whakapapa, and all things are **ultimately linked** to the two primal beings of Ranginui and Papatūānuku.
- There is no distinction or break in this cosmogony, nor in the whakapapa between supernatural and natural. Both are part of a unified whole.
- The bond this creates between human beings and the rest of the physical world is both indisputable and nonseverable.
- Uri share this descent from the elemental atua or vast range of environmental entities, other supernatural guardians including taniwha and other spiritual beings¹.

This worldview has contributed to the development and practice of a unique environmental ethic, which holds Te Taiao as intensely central to human/environmental wellbeing. This ethic is sacred and remains in special places and spaces across the rohe. Tangata whenua relate to Te Taiao through genealogical connections from time immemorial. This is highlighted in meaningful ways because they live it as tangata whenua on their marae and remain embedded within nature.

Māori have traditionally ensured sustainability through the handing down of a sophisticated system of customary practices, developed over several generations. Connections to the land, sea, air, and water are recalled in layers of oral tradition; they are closely linked to customary rights and authority over an area defined by ahi kā. This is the continuous period of time the fires of an lwi have burned within their domain, undisturbed by conquest and despite the impacts of colonisation and environmental decline. Such long associations establish an intimate relationship between tangata whenua and the local environment, centred on sustainable use and guardianship of all kin therein. Knowledge is passed on to the next generation through oral traditions and practical observations - practices that remain vital for Māori wellbeing and cultural survival.

Tikanga varies between tribal groups, according to their own traditions and korero tuku iho and as an ongoing expressions of self-determination.

Who We Are

In 2021, in recognition of the urgency of responding to climate change, our region's eight councils agreed to form the Manawatū-Whanganui Climate Action Joint Committee. Iwi across this wide region were invited to identify nominees to join the committee. The seven lwi-nominated members each contribute unique skills and experience; collectively, they ensure that a Māori perspective is reflected in the committee's work.

This action plan draws on both Māori and Western worldviews to work together in response to climate change. It is an action plan that embraces Te Ao Māori and views the complex issues through the lens of our relationship with the environment. Te Taiao must be healthy for communities to thrive, therefore action to restore balance that traverses the environmental, cultural, social and economic realms, is urgent and critical.

The committee acknowledges the authority of individual Iwi and Hapū, and the importance of Treaty principles in relationships between councils and tangata whenua. These include partnership, reciprocity, autonomy, active protection, and equal treatment.

Committee members are:

Chris Shenton, Hannah Rainforth, Huhana Smith, James Kendrick, Jill Sheehy, Jonathan Proctor, Lorraine Stephenson, Andrew Tripe, Andy Watson, Bernie Wanden, Grant Smith, Helen Worboys. Rachel Keedwell, Tracey Collis, Weston Kirton

The committee acknowledges the contribution of Hamish McDouall and Don Cameron, members of the Climate Action Joint Committee until October 2022.

Supported by













 Ko Tā Whanganui Titiro/Whanganui Hapū/Iwi World View: Outstanding Natural Landscapes Cultural Assessment Report Prepared by Te Rūnanga o Tamaupoko & Te Rūnanga o Tūpoho to inform the Whanganui District Plan Review – Proposed Plan Change 48.

CONTENTS

OVERVIEW	4
KEY POINTS	5
OUR REGION	6
HOW WE DEVELOPED THE PLAN	7
LOCAL IMPACTS	8
ALIGNING NATIONAL AND LOCAL ACTION	10
MANAWATŪ-WHANGANUI PRIORITIES	12
ACTIONS WE CAN ALL TAKE	14
CASE STUDIES	16

C L INATE C H A NGE

The climate in our Manawatū–Whanganui region is changing now.

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Flooding and damage to homes and transport networks are increasing. Many of the things we value are vulnerable to climate change. Without action, existing social and environmental issues are likely to get worse.

This plan is about understanding how we will respond to climate change in the Manawatū-Whanganui region and working together to reduce potential harm. The Māori worldview (Te Ao Māori) acknowledges that all living and non-living things are interconnected and the principles of kaitiakitanga (guardianship of the land) should guide us. This means caring for the land given to us by our ancestors, restoring mana to the land, and leaving it in a better state for future generations. It's about putting our local environment at the heart of our multi-faceted responses to climate change.

A healthy environment is critical for the social and economic wellbeing of everyone living in Manawatū-Whanganui. We need to look to the future of low-lying coastal communities, protect against flooding, preserve burial sites and other important cultural places and ensure the future of native species.

We also need a healthy environment to support a vibrant local economy – a changing climate will impact fisheries, farming and forestry, as well as transport networks and supply chains.

We must take action to adapt and reduce carbon emissions. The sooner we act, the more options we will have for building our community's resilience and preserving our environment.

It's about central Government, local authorities, tangata whenua, businesses, communities and individuals working together to get the best results for our region. Many council and community projects are already underway, including flood protection, improved town water supplies and better public transport, cycleways and walkways.

The Manawatū-Whanganui Climate Change Action Plan builds on this work and makes recommendations to councils and communities on ways we can collaborate on issues we can't solve on our own. A welldesigned plan means our efforts are aligned – locally and nationally.

This plan looks at changes we can make that will improve our lives, strengthen our economy and help reduce adverse impacts on the environment at the same time.

We have numerous opportunities to take a lead in developing and delivering new technologies that will change how we travel, eat and interact with each other in the future.

As one of our consultation participants noted 'We still have the luxury of choices in our part of the world'. Let's choose the sort of future we want and work together to achieve it – sharing lessons learnt and celebrating success along the way.

Dr Huhana Smith Dr Rachel Keedwell

Co-Chairs Climate Action Joint Committee

KEY Points



Rangitīkei – GNS

- The changing climate is happening now. Over time, it will affect our whānau, farms, businesses and communities in many different ways.
- 2 Climate change is one aspect of the relationship between people and the environment. Supporting a healthy environment by actively enhancing Te Taiao is at the heart of our response to climate change.
- Councils will work with communities, tangata whenua and central Government to adapt to the changing climate, make our region more resilient and reduce emissions.
- As we adapt to climate change, councils are committed to making changes in a fair and equitable way and upholding the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

- This report makes recommendations to the eight councils in the region and includes proposals to reduce our contribution to climate change and adapt to its effects in Manawatū-Whanganui.
- Councils also need central Government's support to adapt and transition.
- There are things we can all do now, to make the things we care about more resilient to the impacts of a changing climate. Each of us doing what we can to reduce our carbon footprint will also reduce the severity of those impacts.
- Taking action now to adapt and reduce carbon emissions will give us more options to respond as the climate changes.



The Manawatū-Whanganui region extends from Ruapehu in the north and Horowhenua in the south, to Whanganui in the west and Tararua in the east.

Almost a quarter

of our region's

people identify as Māori.

There are many lwi and

Hapū and more than

60 MARAE

6

We have

7 DISTRICTS and approximately 890/0

of our ratepayers live in urban centres

We have one of the largest areas of hill country in New Zealand and

HIGHEST PROPORTION OF HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND OF ANY REGION

We have

3 major river systems

2 COASTS

and the Central Plateau

There are over

35,000KM

of waterways in the Horizons Region

Approximately

109,000 ratepayers contribute to

ratepayers contribute to our work programs

There are



in our region, including Manawatū Estuary, an internationally recognised RAMSAR site





of the nation's versatile soils are in the region

The Horizons Region is made up of

2.2 MILLION

HECTARES

OF LAND

8% of New Zealand's total

land area, plus 31,000

hectares of marine area

Mean annual rainfall in

the region ranges from

900MM TO OVER

2,000MM

LAND USE



We have

230 LAKES This includes 67 dune,

44 riverine, 24 landslide, 7 volcanic lakes and 88 artificial reservoirs



7

HOW WE DEVELOPED THE PLAN

Over the course of 2022, the Climate Action Joint Committee developed the *Manawatū-Whanganui Climate Change Action Plan*. We drew on the <u>Manawatū-</u> <u>Whanganui Regional Climate</u> <u>Change Risk Assessment</u> published in September 2021, information about the region's emissions profile and emerging central Government policy. We considered our key regional climate change challenges and how we can work together more effectively.

Tangata whenua told us about how they are responding to climate change through efforts to care for the environment and communities. We spoke with Palmerston North and Whanganui youth councils to better understand the perspectives of younger people.

Those conversations – like this action plan itself – are just the beginning of ongoing dialogue with our wider community about our changing climate.

A reo Māori version of the Manawatū-Whanganui Climate Change Action Plan has also been made available. 'Our plan focuses on how we can work together – councils, tangata whenua and communities – to collectively tackle the issues we can't resolve alone.'

Page | 45

LOCAL IMPACTS

The impacts of climate change are wide-ranging, rippling out beyond weather patterns to affect people's assets and community infrastructure, biodiversity and human health.

The <u>Manawatū-Whanganui Regional</u> <u>Climate Change Risk Assessment</u> highlights specific risks for the districts of our diverse region.

IMPACTS

8

- Hill Country: Transport networks damaged by landslides and soil erosion. Extreme weather events cause crop damage and economic disruption. Increased fire risk.
- Plains: Damage to housing, public spaces and infrastructure from flooding. Crop damage caused by drought.
- Estuaries: Erosion and coastal inundation in some coastal areas – damage to commercial and residential buildings, and energy infrastructure.
- Social Impacts: Risk of inequitable outcomes as costs and impacts fall unevenly across the community.
- **Tourism:** Reduced snow and ice cause economic disruption. Extreme weather events impact tourism.
- Urban Areas: Landslides, soil erosion and inland flooding highest risk to urban areas like Palmerston North. Extreme weather events. Water supplies affected by reduced rainfall and drought.

IMPACTS

Tohu* change and are less reliable, affecting planting, resource gathering and hunting.

Damage to culturally significant **marae and urupā** from flooding and erosion.



Manaakitanga threatened if manuhiri cannot be offered local delicacies and marae are damaged.

Loss of **tikanga and mātauranga** around resources, affecting future generations.

CASE STUDIES

See pages 16–23 for case studies of Climate Change actions already underway.

ADDITIONAL Impacts on Māori

Climate change is likely to have a bigger impact on Māori because of their relationship to the environment, the things that are culturally significant to them, and the ongoing effects of our colonial past.

* Tohu are indicators (the blossoming of a flower, the departure of a migrating bird, the appearance of a star in the predawn sky) developed and used by Māori to track changes in the natural environment.

https://environment.govt.nz/facts-and-science/ climate-change/how-climate-change-affectsmaori/

https://www.horizons.govt.nz/HRC/media/ Data/20210902_Horizons-CCRA_Report-signed _1.pdf





ALIGNING National and Local Action

10 IN DEVELOPING OUR ACTION PLAN, WE HAVE DRAWN ON THE EVOLVING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT.

Local leaders recognise the need to work constructively with central government to address climate change. There will be issues to work through as national policy develops, to ensure that it meets local needs. The <u>National Adaptation Plan (NAP)</u> was released in August 2022. It aims to ensure communities have the information and support they need to prepare for the impacts of climate change.

The first plan focuses on setting out what the government will do to enable better risk-informed decisions, drive climate-resilient development in the right locations, help communities assess adaptation options (including managed retreat) and embed climate resilience into all of the Government's work.

Actions in the NAP focus on reforms already underway, including resource management reform to foster collaboration between local and central government, the local government review, three waters reform.

Central government has committed to explore co-investment with local government in flood protection. The NAP identifies three main roles for local government:

PROVIDING LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AND ENSURING IT IS RESILIENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

PLANNING AND REGULATING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

BEING THE AGENCIES CLOSEST TO EXPOSED COMMUNITIES

We believe central government and local government need to work together to resolve funding questions and make processes more efficient – improved alignment will support local communities in their response to climate change.' Dr Rachel Keedwell



Manawatū River

IN MAY 2022, THE GOVERNMENT RELEASED FINAL EMISSIONS BUDGETS FOR 2022-35 AND AN <u>EMISSIONS</u> <u>REDUCTION PLAN (ERP)</u>.

The ERP implies several strengthened or new expectations of councils:

- Funding local infrastructure.
- Delivering Te Ao Māori-centred, nature-based solutions.
- Driving towards a circular economy, and preventing organic waste from entering landfills.
- Reducing vehicle kilometres travelled (including specific targets for Palmerston North).
- Providing walking and cycling infrastructure, including active transport plans around schools.

- Supporting community based transition plans.
- Supporting increased public transport use.
- Reducing high-emissions energy generation and support renewables.
- Supporting sustainable construction and renovation of existing buildings.
- Implementing national direction under the proposed Natural & Built Environments Act and National Planning Framework, including planning for compact, functional urban form.

THE ERP INCLUDES A FOCUS ON Empowering Māori.

The Government undertakes to work with Māori to:

- Embed partnership and representation.
- Support Māori-led strategy and alignment, elevating Te Ao Māori within the climate response, in a way that is aligned with Māori customs and protocol (tikanga and kawa).
- Fund kaupapa Māori and tangata Māori actions and solutions.

Strategic planning legislation is also being developed and will potentially be a useful tool in our climate response. Regional spatial strategies will, however, only be as good as the data and discussions that inform them. The work we do now will help to ensure spatial planning is effective.

MANAWATŪ-Whanganui Priorities

12

PUTTING THIS PLAN INTO ACTION WILL REQUIRE INVESTMENT TO IMPROVE TRANSPORT NETWORKS AND STORM-WATER MANAGEMENT, ADDRESS RISKS AND ENCOURAGE CLIMATE-RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT.

SOMETIMES, THIS WILL REQUIRE RETHINKING HOW WE HAVE DONE THINGS IN THE PAST. INVESTMENT WILL BE REQUIRED IN RELATIONSHIPS, TOO, AS LOCAL COUNCILS SUPPORT COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE TRANSITION AHEAD. Groups across the region are already working to tackle climate change: some of these initiatives are illustrated in the case studies on the following pages. Local councils, iwi and communities are working with Massey University to develop climate response plans at Tangimoana and Pūtiki. A similar project has been completed with the community at Anzac Parade in Whanganui.

This action plan will inform councils' future decisions, in consultation with affected communities, about priorities, approaches, and funding. It provides a foundation for us to work together to respond to climate change and ensure our region remains a great place to live for future generations. The Climate Action Joint Committee recommends that councils in the region commit to the following actions:

- Prioritise nature-based solutions in response to flooding, coastal issues, storm water, and erosion.
- Incorporate projected changes in rainfall patterns (drought, flood, and erosion risk), and impacts on biodiversity into integrated catchment management (Regional Council).
- Review planning provisions to encourage on-site storm-water management and (on-farm) water storage.
- Limit exposure to hazards by preventing development in areas at heightened risk of flooding or erosion as a result of climate change.
- Reduce the need for short car trips by developing compact, well-designed urban centres and prioritising active transport infrastructure (Territorial Authorities).
- Assess and manage climate related risks to local services and critical infrastructure.
- Redouble efforts to address existing issues that will be exacerbated by climate change such as freshwater health, biodiversity loss, flooding and erosion.

COUNCILS IN OUR REGION RECOGNISE THAT CLIMATE CHANGE REQUIRES URGENT AND COLLECTIVE ACTION. OUR ACTIONS FOCUS ON FOUR KEY AREAS:

Empowering communities

Working with nature

Addressing known issues

Supporting good decisions



Manawatū River, Palmerston North

- Work with at-risk communities to develop local adaptation plans (including community-led initiatives).
- Measure and reduce emissions from council activities.
- Incorporate carbon emissions and a preference for naturebased solutions into council procurement policies.
- Work with Joint Committee members to engage with youth, community, and tangata whenua groups in support of local climate action.
- Allocate resource to drive action forward, build relationships with tangata whenua, and engage with communities.
- Respond proactively to Government direction that enables further local action on climate change.
- Embed this joint response into each council's own plans at a local level.

The Climate Action Joint Committee proposes to lead several joint initiatives:

- Support sharing of mātaurangabased responses to climate change.
- Make widely available information that supports individual and community action.

- Identify and prioritise information we need to guide future decisions (such as adaptation planning, development strategies, and investment decisions).
- Incorporate projected changes in rainfall intensity into stormwater, drainage and flood risk modelling for population centres and areas where growth is planned.
- Identify communities with the greatest need for support in responding to a changing climate.
- Work to better understand impacts on tangata whenua and how local government can best help.
- Produce and implement a region-wide waste strategy.
- Engage central government support for our region's transition, and align the region's response to government direction.
- Monitor the effectiveness of this joint action plan and update it as new information comes to hand.
- Investigate:
 - Ecological impacts of a changing climate in our region and how we can support healthy, connected ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity.

 Ways to ensure food supply (including mahinga kai) is resilient to a changing climate.

13

- Options to improve the energy efficiency and climate resilience of buildings.
- Best use of forestry, including native reforestation, as part of the region's climate response (incorporating biodiversity, pest control, carbon sequestration, erosion, fire risk, and other outcomes).

The Climate Action Joint Committee acknowledges the leadership role of the Regional Transport Committee in reducing the region's transport emissions. Integrated transport planning can support wider climate action by:

- Increasing use of public transport.
 - Reducing dependence on private motor vehicles for short trips.
- Helping to make active transport safe and convenient.
- Improving use of rail and port infrastructure.

Building community and household resilience



Water Store rainwater for emergencies and to ease shortages in summer.



Plant trees Many trees provide shade in hot summers.



Building or renovating Expert advice and financial support is available to help make homes and other buildings warmer, drier and cheaper to run as well as reducing their emissions.



House and contents insurance Provides peace of mind as we face more



Well-installed insulation Keeps your home warm in winter and cooler in summer. Government Warmer Kiwi Homes grants are available for insulation and/or an efficient heater for lowerincome households.



Plan emergency housing

How might climate change affect your home? What would you do in an emergency? How would you keep your family safe?

14

There are actions we can take to make our communities and households more resilient, reduce our carbon footprints, and *improve our lives* at the same time.

Reducing our carbon footprint



Shopping Planning meals for the week will help cut down on takeaways and the stress of deciding what to cook. Shopping 'retro' can save you money and help keep clothes and other items in circulation for longer.

Consider a meatless

meal once a week.

University of Otago research estimates emissions from the

typical Kiwi diet could

drop by 7% if we ate

of meat for one meal

vegetables instead

Eating

a week.



Travel

Using public transport, walking or biking can reduce carbon footprint – and it might improve your health and wellbeing, too. 19% of New Zealand's emissions are from transport: changing how you get to work just one day a week would make a difference.



Encouraging others Take the time to talk to friends and family members about our changing climate and actions we can take. If you've saved money by installing insulation or riding your bike to work, tell them about it!



Around home and on the marae

Plant trees, reduce water use, recycle and avoid wasting electricity. Switching your lightbulbs to LEDs will save energy and cut down your power bill.

15

'DOING WHAT WE CAN INDIVIDUALLY IS A STEP TOWARD SYSTEMIC CHANGE' Dr Rachel Keedwell EECA's Gen Less website has lots of ideas about how to reduce your carbon footprint. There is also advice and tools for businesses: genless.govt.nz

The Ministry for the Environment also has good tips for cutting emissions on the marae and at home:

environment.govt.nz/what-youcan-do/

Visit the Horizon's Regional Council website for more ideas about things you can do – or to find out if funding is available for your project: horizons.govt.nz/climate <u>Clean Car Discount</u> supports change to low or zero emission cars to reduce emissions

<u>Future Fit</u> provides a snapshot of your impact on the planet, and helps you make positive changes in the way you live to help reduce your personal carbon footprint.



Full tide by the Ōhau River where spawning of inanga/whitebait takes place and where enhanced constructed wetlands shall be expanded with extensive native planting.

16 CONSTRUCTING WETLANDS IS A RELATIVELY LOW-COST WAY TO PROTECT AGAINST FLOODING AND MAKE LOWER REACHES OF LAND TOWARDS SEA MORE CLIMATE RESILIENT.

An example of this type of restoration is Tahamata Incorporation's coastal farm, south of Levin, an Iwi/Hapū led enterprise which traverses both banks of the Ōhau River. The Board decided it needed to act to protect the operation against the risk of flooding and the increase in frequency and intensity.

479-HECTARES

Dairy farm runs 520 cows.



when the Ōhau River was diverted or cut for the development of coastal farmland. Adjacent swamps and wet areas were drained and whilst intensive dairying was profitable, mana whenua became increasingly concerned about pollution in the Ōhau River remnant lagoon and its poor water quality. Kaumātua reported the loss of bountiful supplies of fish, and healers were reluctant to use the water because of pollution.

Iwi/hapū led research assessed a range of adaptation strategies for the farm and three surrounding land holdings in Māori tenure, with the changing climate making these issues increasingly urgent. For the Tahamata case study, researchers recommended re-creating wetland ponding systems, in areas where the pastures were marginal along the Ōhau River.



Kuku Õhau Estuary with loop area marked in dark green, constructed wetlands marked in white within the wider area marked in light green requiring coastal protection and enhancement from climate change impacts, including protecting significant ancestral landscape features.

17

The Board is exploring innovative land uses, such as flax production for fibre, with additional projects that aim to use natural dyes.

Ponding systems

Ponding systems are successfully used in the Waikato and the board wanted to build on this work, while incorporating tried and proven Mātauranga Māori approaches that had been activated since 2002. The Kuku ponding systems were co-designed and co-developed with a freshwater engineer, a climate modeller, a Māori designer and Māori researchers, who were supported by the Māori Farm Board, food gatherers and Māori shareholders.

Wetland construction

Constructing wetland ponds is relatively simple and low-cost. Large, shallow planted ponds filter stormwater runoff, slow flows and help control flooding. These constructed environments provide home and shelter to wildlife, similar to a natural wetland. The wider area is renowned for its peat (due to being deep wetland regions before they were drained); enhanced peat formation in the constructed wetlands acts as a carbon sink.

The Kuku coastal land project aims to trial practical solutions to climate resilience, building upon a body of research about wetland ponding systems and their effectiveness. Plantings of reeds, grasses and sedges will also support a habitat for whitebait spawning, with whitebait being restored to abundant levels again, reflecting its long-standing status as a taonga species and food source for mana whenua.

Looking forward

To restore the land to some of its former glory, whānau volunteers are also replanting many native species such as harakeke (flax) and manuka along the banks of the Ōhau River, leading to discussion about future use of the land. The board is exploring innovative land uses, such as flax production for fibre, with additional projects that aim to use natural dyes. Dairying will continue on the productive pastures.

Sharing of knowledge

An important aim of the constructed wetlands project is to build upon research knowledge about naturebased solutions to climate change. These solutions will support hapū agricultural landowners with low-lying coastal farms to transition to innovative land uses in the face of a changing climate. Results from the trial will be shared with other iwi and hapū, councils and interested stakeholders.



castieciijj – whanganai District Couri

KEY Challenges Include

Erosion

18

Significant natural sand movement

Ecological degradation of the beaches due to human land use A community led coastal action plan is making the coast from Castlecliff to Kai Iwi more resilient in the face of climate change.

500+ PEOPLE

Recently responded to a Whanganui District Council survey about what they value about their coastline.

Responses came from

EVERY SUBURB

in Whanganui and comments reflected how important the coast is for the health and wellbeing of the entire community.

Watching the sunsets, gathering resources such as driftwood and harakeke and shellfish, and building sandcastles.'



, The coast makes me feel renewed and alive.'



'For Māori, the connection to the elements is entrenched in whakapapa.'



Kai lwi – Whanganui District Council

19

Different parts of the coastline have very specific issues and will need their own management approaches.

Castlecliff

Gradual build-up of windblown sand has created an extensive and unstable dune system. The community has also raised problems with rubbish, vehicles on the beach and dogs.

To develop a management plan, the Whanganui District Council is working alongside Te Mata Puau to make sure hapū are at the centre of all planning, through application of a framework, He Ara Tuku Rau, which ensures compliance with Te Awa Tupua. The plan will go beyond the protection of facilities and aim to improve social, cultural and environmental health.

Kai lwi

Kai lwi faces significant challenges from a rapidly retreating coastline and erosion, which is likely to accelerate with a changing climate. People responding to the survey also raised concerns about water quality in the stream. The council is working with the community, the Tamareheroto Hapū and specialists to consider proposals for Kai lwi, using past reports and submissions by community members. Proposals include managed advance (in the form of an offshore reef), managed retreat, installation of a breakwall, new and reinforced seawalls, or a combination of options. Survey responses highlight that the community wants an abundant coastline – healthy seafood, sustainable coastal management, healthy dune systems and coastal forest.

Next steps for the coastal plan include meetings between the council and key community groups, community-based resource mapping and engineering and ecological advice and costing for potential management options.

The plan will provide a pathway for the community to work together to increase the wellbeing and resilience of the people and environment 50 to 100 years into the future. It will be a 'living document', regularly reviewed and updated to reflect any changes in scientific data, community aspirations and access to funding. For example, South Beach is now being scoped for inclusion in the plan, following feedback from the community.



Tranzit Coachlines, Palmerston North

THE UAS HAS. IN EFFECT.

TAKEN 173 CARS OFF THE

IN BUS USE DURING THE

COVID PANDEMIC. SAVED

AN AVERAGE OF NEARLY

70 TONNES OF CARBON

ROAD AND, DESPITE A FALL

20

Transport is responsible for 20% of New Zealand's total greenhouse gas emissions – fossil fuels, such as petrol and diesel, produce harmful emissions that contribute to climate change.

Reducing car use

To encourage people to get out of their cars, Horizons Regional Council and Massey University offer free bus trips for students and staff on all services in Palmerston North through an Unlimited Access Scheme (UAS). This is funded by Waka Kotahi, Massey University and Horizons.

At their peak, free UAS trips have exceeded 600,000 annually, making up nearly half of all bus trips in the region.

The UAS started as a small scheme with UCOL in 2004. It was expanded in 2005 to solve parking congestion at Massey University, and to ease peak traffic congestion in the city. Councils and Waka Kotahi also wanted to minimise expansion of roading infrastructure by shifting more people onto public transport.

Initially, the free bus service was funded by Massey University, which introduced car parking charges on its campus to cover costs. The trial was successful and expanded to connect to Massey University from the CBD and suburbs of Palmerston North.

EMISSIONS A YEAR.

Scheme expansion plans

More recently, the scheme has further expanded to include two other tertiary education providers: English Teaching College and IPU New Zealand.

Horizons Regional Council is encouraging other organisations to offer free travel on council services. Horizons' Regional Public Transport Plan (2022-2032) promotes free transport schemes to support organisations working to encourage the use of more sustainable transport modes.

Horizons' plans target a 30% reduction in regional carbon emissions from land transport by 2030, including a lower-emissions public transport fleet.

Council policies support the Government's Emissions Reduction Plan which highlights the importance of reducing emissions from transport through better public transport, walking and cycling. As well as reducing emissions, 'mode shift' will support access to affordable housing and improve the liveability of our urban centres.

Find out more

Horizons Regional Public Transport Plan Information on mode shift



Riparian planting – Stewart Dairylands

21

'People come and go, but the land remains forever. We don't own it, we just pay for the privilege to look after it. It is now our turn.'

David A Stewart.

Going beyond compliance

The Stewart family has farmed for over 120 years in the Manawatū. Their mission is to produce highquality dairy products from healthy, well-bred animals, by caring for their animals and the environment.

For the Stewart Dairylands team, it's about going beyond compliance and becoming a carbon neutral business. An environmental plan covers the entire farm, there are regular open days, and relationships with both environmental and iwi groups.

Reducing carbon emissions

Stewart Dairylands has installed solar panels on the dairy shed roof to replace a gas-fired system that heated hot water in the dairy shed. Installing solar panels has reduced total energy use by 30%. Stewart Dairylands is close to the Bunnythorpe sub-station and there is potential for the property to become a solar farm and run sheep around the solar installations.

Building ecosystems

The team actively looks for opportunities for the least productive land, such as gullies. Over the past decade, 10,000 trees have been planted on the less viable parts of the property. The team is focusing on how to plant trees to reduce the farm's carbon footprint – rather than planting solely for water quality and shelter.

The goal is also to build and protect ecosystems – by planting contoured native woodlots, creating manmade wetlands, sediment traps, nutrient interceptor beds and innovative ecological engineering for water flow harvesting.

Field days are used to show these innovative approaches to neighbours and other farmers, who have now formed the Stoney Creek Catchment Collective, covering 2400 hectares. This dedicated catchment group works proactively on their land to help improve and further enhance the water quality of the Stoney Creek catchment.



Paetawa Station

22 THE GOAL IS TO RESTORE THE LAND TO ESTABLISH A THRIVING MĀORI AGRIBUSINESS WITH A NET ZERO CARBON FOOTPRINT.

Te Urumingi Whanau Trust Descendants of Te Ratana Te Urumingi and Heeni Piirato have big aspirations for their land.

Their 1214–hectare Paetawa Station is located in rugged Whanganui River hill country, with only about 80 hectares suitable for traditional farming. Te Urumingi Whanau Trust runs the station through its subsidiary company Heeni Investment. Heeni Investment faced challenges, including previous over-spraying, limited grazing, weeds and poor pasture.

USING EXPERT ADVICE, HEENI INVESTMENT NOW HAS AN INTEGRATED FARM PLAN, BASED ON A MÃORI TAIAO PERSPECTIVE OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

Actions taken

The station team has designed a cost-effective biological approach to the remediation of the soil – by building up its microbial health and feeding the microbes with a mixture of seaweed and fish-based products.

This has led to increased production, and controlled weeds, without using synthetic fertiliser. Stock is in better condition, healthier and getting better prices – and there is less use of drenches.

THE BUSINESS **IS RUN ON FOUR PRINCIPLES:**

Taiao (Environment)

Improve our natural asset base (soil and water quality; erosionprone land; waterway margins; biodiversity).

Mātauranga (Education) Cultural: enhance our

mahinga kai; kaitaikitanga, whakairo, maanakitanga, whakawhanaungatanga.

Create an opportunity through a kaupapa Māori nursery for our people to return to the Whanganui River to learn and to work.

Ōhanga (Economics)

Create diverse sustainable economic opportunities through the expansion, permanence, and diversification of forest on our whenua.

Kīnakitanga (Enhancement)

Leadership: establish a thriving Māori agribusiness with a net zero carbon footprint that demonstrates minimal reliance on synthetic fertilisers to reduce on-farm biological emissions and nutrient run-off into waterways.

So far, Heeni Investment has

PLANTED 400 TIVES & MANUKA

20 HECTARES REDWOODS & EUCAI YPTUS

River flats on the station are now ready to be fenced and planted in native species such as totara, rimu, and kahikatea.

INSTALLING SEDIMENT TRAPS

To capture runoff and protect waterways.

TO HELP REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS

Heeni Investment is shifting from breeding cows to dry stock and is exploring carbon farming, potato milk and alternative proteins.

'We know what the land looked like 40 years ago and we want to bring it back to its full glory. We still have Kaumatua who know this stuff. We have got to set in place something for future generations and we are now on that journey."

Ben Potaka, Heeni Investment Co Ltd.



Kahikatea swamps are favoured habitat for native fish, including tuna (elvers) and provide the paru (mud) used to dye harakeke for puipui, kete and whariki.

23



Memorandum of Understanding

Working together to adapt to climate change

Our councils recognise the urgent need to address the challenge presented by climate change. We acknowledge that action is needed now to avoid its worst effects and achieve a just transition to a resilient, sustainable future. It is a matter of great significance to the communities our councils serve.

We believe local government has an important role to play in helping communities in the region adapt to a changing climate. We see this as the most significant area of work for local government. We also have a role in helping to mitigate climate change by making our contribution to reducing the causes of climate change.

The purpose of this MoU is to enshrine a collaborative approach across the Horizons region with a focus on how we work to adapt to a changing climate

As a group of Councils working on climate change we undertake to:

- collaborate across our organisations on action to build organisational, community and regional resilience in the face of a changing climate;
- collaborate across our organisations to take action to mitigate the effects of climate change;
- Collaborate and communicate within our organisations and our communities, openly sharing how our community can transition to a sustainable future and a significantly lower contribution to the causes of climate change;
- Place priority on developing strategies to address climate change;
- communicate openly, sharing what we know about likely effects and response options;
- engage and involve our communities in decisions that affect them;
- give effect to our engagement responsibilities with iwi and hapū in our areas of responsibility and arrangements detailed in Treaty of Waitangi Settlements;
- report regularly on work going on to address climate change adaptation and mitigation across the region;
- support each other with skills and knowledge from our respective organisations;
- work collectively as a region to engage with central Government.

Our councils are signatories to the Local Government Declaration on Climate Change. The forthcoming Triennial Agreement is an opportunity to consider further cooperation in response to climate change. We will seek agreement from our respective Councils to include the content of this MoU in the next triennial agreement.

Signed on 319119 by

Mayor of Ruapehu District Council

Mayor of Whanganui District Council

Mayor of Rangitikei District Council

Mayor of Manawatu District Council

Mayor of Palmerston North City Council

Mayor of Tararua District Council

Mayor of Horowhenua District Council

Chair of Horizons Regional Council

Appendix Two Climate Action Joint Committee Manawatū-Whanganui Region Terms of Reference

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Climate Action Joint Committee is to support a coordinated response to climate change across the councils and communities of the Manawatū-Whanganui Region.

It is established in accordance with clauses 30 and 30A of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

Objectives

The Climate Action Joint Committee's operating objectives are to:

- Collaborate on action to build organisational, community, and regional resilience in the face of climate change;
- Make use of available environmental, social, cultural and economic research, skills and capabilities to leverage opportunities and mitigate the impacts of climate change;
- Develop a climate action plan, including recommended actions for councils to contribute to mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and to support community resilience to the effects of climate change
- Work collectively as a region to engage with Central Government, including any actions to deliver
 on responsibilities under the National Adaptation Plan and Emissions Reduction Plan, and to
 support a Just Transition for our region;
- Promote consistent and effective leadership, advocacy, communication and engagement on climate change issues to enable individual and collaborative action;
- Champion the integration of partner strategies, programmes, and plans and encourage partnerships with iwi and others in central and local government, health, education, youth, NGOs and business;
- Oversee implementation of agreed joint projects;
- Share climate change evidence and guidance to inform council work programmes and support
 explicit consideration of climate change impacts in decisions; and
- Monitor and report annually on implementation of the joint action plan.

Page | 33

Powers

The Climate Action Joint Committee does not have the power to legally bind any council to any act or decision, unless that act or decision has been agreed to by decision of that council. Within that context, the parties agree to:

- Have particular regard to the recommendations of the Committee in developing policies, determining priorities, and allocating resource;
- Progress, to the fullest possible extent, actions identified through joint planning and decision-making arrangements.

The Climate Action Joint Committee shall have the power to:

- Receive regular monitoring reports and presentations on the matters relevant to the Committee's objectives;
- Develop, adopt, and progress a joint climate action plan;
- Make of submissions and undertake advocacy to external organisations on matters germane to the Committee's objectives;
- Engage with key agencies and neighbouring regions on matters relating to the Committee's objectives;
- Recommend to the parties actions that materially contribute to attainment of the Committee's objectives;
- Receive any grant or subsidy;
- Receive financial contributions from member authorities, as may be mutually determined and acceptable to individual local authorities; and
- Determine and make payments from its funds for any or all of the purposes of its objects.

Council decisions on the Joint Committee's recommendations

Where a Council makes specific decisions on the Climate Action Joint Committee's recommendations, these will be reported to the Joint Committee by its delegate. Where the decision is materially different from the Joint Committee's recommendation the report will set out the reasons for that decision.

Committee Membership

The Committee consists of the following members:

- The Mayor/Chair or designated delegate of each local authority within the Manawatū-Whanganui Region (total 8 members); and
- Up to eight non-Councillor members, to represent the views of Tangata Whenua. These
 appointments will be made by Horizons on the recommendation of iwi leaders, taking into
 consideration their skills, attributes or knowledge that will assist the work of the Committee.

This Committee may invite advisers to attend relevant portions of the Committee's business.

Page | 34

Election of Co-Chairs

The committee will elect Co-Chairs by the system described in clause 25(4) Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The governance group will have two Co-Chairs:

- A Councillor member of the group, and
- A Tangata Whenua member of the group.

Each Co-Chair shall preside on an alternate basis. If a Co-Chair is absent from a meeting at which they are scheduled to be the presiding member, the other Co-Chair shall preside at the meeting.

Meetings

The Committee will sit at least twice each year.

Special meetings may be called at the request of members.

Agendas for meetings will be issued and minutes will be taken and circulated.

Approved minutes and approved final reports and papers will be made available via Horizons' website and a Microsoft Teams portal.

Quorum

The quorum will consist of:

- Half of the members if the number of members (including vacancies) is an even number; or
- A majority of members if the number of members (including vacancies) is an odd number.

Non-elected positions to which no appointment has been made are not considered to be vacancies for the purposes of forming a quorum.

Meetings may be held in person or by other means (such as audiovisual link) as the Committee agrees where permissible under New Zealand law and the standing orders of the parties.

Decision making

The practice of the Forum will be to determine issues before it by consensus.

If the consensus is to determine issues by voting, the determination shall be determined by a majority of votes of members attending the meeting.

Remuneration and Expenses

Each party shall be responsible for remunerating its representative on the Committee.

Tangata whenua members shall be eligible for compensation for Joint Committee activity including travel and attendance at meetings.

Standing Orders

The Committee shall apply the standing orders of Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council.

Duration

In accordance with clause 30(7) of Schedule & of the Local Government Act 2002, the Climate Action Joint Committee is *not* to be discharged following each triennial local government election.

Variations to this Agreement

Amendments to this agreement may be required from time to time. Changes will be approved by the parties, on the recommendation of the Climate Action Joint Committee.

Page | 36

15/02/2023

Dr Rachel Keedwell, Chairperson Climate Action Joint Committee, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North, Manawatū-Whanganui 4410



pncc.govt.nz info@pncc.govt.nz

Te Marae o Hine The Square Private Bag 11034 Palmerston North 4442 New Zealand

Dear Dr Keedwell,

Draft Manawatū-Whanganui Climate Change Action Plan (2022)

Submission from Palmerston North City Council (PNCC)

PNCC acknowledge, endorse and support the intent and specific actions detailed in the Manawatū-Whanganui Climate Change Action Plan.

We acknowledge the severity and urgency of the challenge presented by climate change. We intend to take an active role in reducing carbon emissions to minimise the severity of climate change whilst simultaneously preparing for the predicted impacts of a warming planet on our communities.

We look forward to working together with central Government, other local authorities, tangata whenua, businesses, communities, individuals and the Climate Action Joint Committee to get the best results for our city and region.

Yours Sincerely

Grant Smith Mayor Palmerston North City Council

Waid Crockett Chief Executive Palmerston North City Council



MEMORANDUM

TO:	Sustainability Committee
MEETING DATE:	16 August 2023
TITLE:	Update on the Low Carbon Fund 2022/23
PRESENTED BY: APPROVED BY:	Adam Jarvis, Acting City Planning Manager David Murphy, Chief Planning Officer

RECOMMENDATION TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

1. That the Committee receive the memorandum titled 'Update on the Low Carbon Fund 2022/23' presented to the Sustainability Committee on 16 August 2023.

1. ISSUE

- 1.1 The Low Carbon Fund was established through the 2021 Long Term Plan (LTP) and provides up to \$1,000,000 of capital funding per year to enable investments in organisational greenhouse gas emission reductions. The fund prioritises for allocation to internal projects based upon their capital cost, operational savings, emission savings, and wider strategic benefit. This memorandum provides information on the activities of the Low Carbon Fund during the 2022/23 financial year (FY).
- 1.2 Collectively, the projects delivered through this fund during the 2022/23 FY are estimated to save 1,513 tCO2e over their lifetimes. They will also provide considerable return on investment due to lower energy and maintenance requirements, with an estimated net present value of ~\$860,000 compared to a total capital cost of \$563,392. Hence, the projects will deliver approximately \$300,000 of financial value to Council. The remainder of the fund which was not allocated to any project (i.e. \$436,608) expired and was not borrowed or carried-forward.

2. BACKGROUND

Strategic Context

2.1 The Eco City Strategy 2021 sets a 30% reduction target for citywide greenhouse gas emissions (compared to the 2018 baseline). Council recognises that a key aspect of achieving this goal must be reducing its own operational emissions. Progress has been steady, with a 27% reduction in organisational emissions since 2015/16, as reported in the Annual Organisational Emissions Inventory. However, there is still a long way to go to meet, for example, the requirement of the Climate Change Response (Zero



Carbon) Act 2019 for net-zero emissions by 2050. In light of this, infrastructure decisions made today will often 'lock-in' emissions through the lifetime of the asset, in some cases making Council's task more difficult (and more costly) than it needs to be in the absence of up-front investment (e.g. through expensive retrofitting).

2.2 Even in absence of this strategic driver, a substantial incentive exists to modernise Council assets and reduce costs through improved energy efficiency. Thus, the purpose of the Low Carbon Fund is to provide flexibility, enabling Council to take advantage of unforeseen and unbudgeted opportunities, such as sources of external funding, synergies with other programmes or early renewal of energy-inefficient assets, in order to reduce organisational emissions and, where possible, costs.

Scope and Methodology

- 2.3 The purpose of the fund is to flexibly provide capital to enable operational emission reductions. The scope for funding is therefore the same as that in Council's annual organisational emissions inventory. These are emissions that occur across the lifetime of an asset or activity and sit within our operational control. Conversely, 'embodied emissions' of construction materials, or emissions otherwise controlled by another organisation are out of scope for funding through the Fund.
- 2.4 Council officers have identified several eligible and operationally deliverable projects which were assessed by the Senior Climate Change Advisor with assistance from the Finance Unit. Each project is analysed in terms of its 'Net Present Value' (specifically, looking at their projected operational savings discounted by the Council's cost of capital subtracted by the capital cost of the project), the projected carbon savings, and a 30% weighting to wider strategic benefit, if any. Applications are then prioritised by which projects deliver the greatest benefit per dollar. Consequently, leaving aside deliverability concerns, the fund is generally ambivalent to the scale of the project, and a \$30,000 application is at no inherent disadvantage compared to a \$300,000 application. If the former provides greater value for money, then it will receive priority. The current cut off benchmark for funding is the spot price of carbon through the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) (\$59.75 per tonne on 01.08.2023) - only projects that deliver emission reductions at a lower cost per tonne of carbon equivalent than the cost Council could pay through the ETS are eligible.
- 2.5 Following this analysis, a series of recommendations are made to the Chief Executive to approve the re-allocation of funds from the Low Carbon Fund into the respective programmes associated with each project that meets the above criteria. These are then delivered by the respective activity teams as with any other programme.


3. FUNDING ALLOCATION – 2021/22

3.1 A total of \$563,392 was allocated during the 2022/23 FY to the following capital programmes:

Project Description	Capital Cost	Net Present Savings	Project Status
Central Energy Trust Arena Energy Efficiency Upgrades and lighting improvements	\$106,000	\$5200 50tCO2e	Minor delays due to contractor availability. Expected completion Aug 23.
Council vehicle EV upgrade	\$31,000	\$4800 32tCO ₂ e	Complete
CAB Basement EV fast-chargers	\$29,047	Accounted for in vehicle upgrades	Purchased 2022/23 FY, installation currently underway
Esplanade wood pellet boiler improvements	\$5,423	Previously accounted in 2021/22	Complete
Lido Aquatic Centre Energy Efficiency Improvements (Pool covers, LED lighting)	\$269,162	\$131,000 1076†CO2e	Final commissioning due first quarter 2023/24 FY
Various heat pumps & LED lighting across 16 changing rooms, pavilions, and remote office sites	\$122,760	\$190,000 355tCO2e	Complete

Table 1 - List of 2021/22 Low Carbon Fund Allocations

- 3.2 Over the lifetime of these assets, the projects are estimated to save ~\$300,000 (above capital and interest costs, in 2023 dollars). The projects are estimated to save 1,513 tCO2e that would otherwise have been emitted.
- 3.3 The following projects were considered but not funded due to an expectation of a poor return on investment. These projects remain potentially eligible for future funding through the Low Carbon Fund should circumstances change (e.g. declining costs, EECA co-funding).



- Completion of LED street lighting upgrades
- Sensor lighting control systems at the Arena
- Early replacement of gas hot water units at various changing rooms and office facilities with electric units
- Replacement of the Council Ferguson St Depot boiler with a wood pellet system
- 3.4 The following projects were considered, but require further investigation before a funding decision can be made:
 - Various energy efficiency improvements to the CAB (e.g. double glazing)
 - Installation of rooftop solar PV panels at the Central Energy Trust Arena
 - Upgrades to the CAB rooftop solar PV panels array
- 3.5 Officers also considered building upon the 2022/23 FY Low Carbon Fund supporting Electric Vehicle (EV) purchases to fund further replacement of Council petrol fleet vehicles with EVs. However, with the decision to reduce funding for vehicle purchases through the 2023/24 annual plan process, it was determined that there was insufficient mandate for such an allocation at that time.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 The officers responsible will continue to work across the organisation to identify carbon reduction projects. These projects will be analysed through the Low Carbon Fund process outlined above, with eligible projects receiving funding. This process is ongoing, but officers expect significant opportunities this financial year in the delivery of rooftop solar PV panels, and in recommencing the rollout of electric vehicles within Council's light vehicle fleet.
- 4.2 When the fund was first developed, officers had a considerable backlog of potential 'shovel ready' projects ready for consideration through the Low Carbon Fund. However, the lack of resource for investigatory work is becoming a bottleneck for the approval and delivery of projects through the Low Carbon Fund. For example, conducting energy audits of Council facilities is likely to reveal significant opportunities for further emission/cost reductions, while resource to contract specialist advice (e.g. structural engineering advice for solar PV panel rooftop installation) would provide the required level of certainty of the feasibility of those opportunities sufficient to make a funding decision. In this regard, officers expect to bring a proposal for Elected Member's consideration through the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan Process.



5. COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Does the Committe	Yes			
Are the decisions s	Νο			
If they are significa	Int do they affect land or a body of water?	No		
Can this decision o	only be made through a 10 Year Plan?	No		
Does this decis Consultative proce	ion require consultation through the Special edure?	Νο		
Is there funding in	the current Annual Plan for these actions?	Yes		
Are the recommer plans?	ndations inconsistent with any of Council's policies or	Νο		
The recommendat	tions contribute to Goal 4: An Eco City			
The recommendations contribute to the achievement of action/actions in Climate Change				
The action is: Create a low carbon fund to allow Council the flexibility to respond to opportunities to reduce organisational emissions and, where possible, costs.				
Contribution to strategic direction and to social, economic, environmental and cultural well- being	Reducing greenhouse gas emissions while red economic impact of the delivery of Council services	ducing the		

ATTACHMENTS

Nil



MEMORANDUM

TO:	Sustainability Committee
MEETING DATE:	16 August 2023
TITLE:	Update on the Climate Change Response Work Programme
PRESENTED BY:	Adam Jarvis, Acting City Planning Manager
APPROVED BY:	David Murphy, Chief Planning Officer

RECOMMENDATION TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

1. That the Committee receive the memorandum titled 'Update on the Climate Change Response Work Programme' presented to the Sustainability Committee on 16 August 2023.

1. ISSUE

- 1.1 The Committee work schedule previously indicated that a series of climate change related reports would be delivered to this Committee. Delivery of some of these reports has been delayed to future meetings. This memorandum provides background for these changes.
- 1.2 Updates to the Low Carbon Roadmap and Zero Carbon Feasibility Study have been delayed to allow better integration with the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan (LTP) strategic planning and programme development progress currently underway.
- 1.3 The 2022 Citywide Emissions Inventory is complete, but currently out for external auditing. After finding numerous errors in the original methodology provided to us by a consultant in 2017, Council officers have overhauled the inventory process and built a new methodology based on Ministry for the Environment (MfE) guidelines. To provide assurance that the overhauled methodology is correct, the revised inventory is currently being reviewed by a certified external auditor. Officers expect the revised inventory to be presented to the 11 October 2023 Sustainability Committee.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Strategic and programme development for the 2024-2034 LTP is currently underway. Elected members have previously provided guidance regarding the scope of climate change programmes they wish to consider through LTP deliberations in 2024. In particular, roughly 80% of effort should be on programmes that seek to maximise emission reductions per unit resource, with



the remaining 20% providing options for more experimental options to deliver longer-term value through, for example, second-order effects such as attempting to foster economies of scale.

- 2.2 Details of this ongoing work will feed into the forthcoming update to the 'Low Carbon Roadmap', which will provide a broad overview of the entire emission reduction work programme as well as an overview of key emerging issues, national direction, etc.
- 2.3 In order to provide greater specificity and detail to the exercise, the strategic planning and programme development that is currently underway will be used to inform the scenarios of the updated Zero Carbon Feasibility Study, allowing much greater insight into the emission implications of both the Draft and Final 2024-2034 Long Term Plan, and helping to inform any revisions to Council's emission targets that elected members may wish to make through that process.
- 2.4 During the presentation of the <u>2021 Citywide Emissions Inventory</u> in September 2022, officers provided guidance that with additional resource within the climate change team, officers would overhaul the compilation methodology prior to the development and presentation of the 2022 Inventory. The key driver behind this decision was the identification of numerous errors that had been spotted in the existing methodology, which was originally developed by an external consultant for the 2016/17 year, and subsequently refreshed each year by council officers with new activity data.
- 2.5 Compilation of the 2022 Citywide Emissions Inventory has subsequently been completed in-house by officers, alongside the development of a revised methodology in-line with the MfEs 2022 Greenhouse Gas Inventory guidelines. Provisional results of the updated methodology differ from the previous model, so to provide assurance that these revised figures are correct, Council is currently going through an auditing process with an external certifier. This process has delayed reporting of the inventory relative to previous guidance provided to this committee.
- 2.6 The new reporting methodology, once audited and shown to be robust, will also be retrospectively applied to previous inventory data going back to the baseline year (2015/16), in order to provide a consistent basis for comparison.

3. NEXT STEPS

- 3.1 Continue LTP development, providing a range of options for climate change response for elected member consideration through the LTP process.
- 3.2 Deliver the 2022 Citywide Emissions Inventory to the 11 October 2023 Sustainability Committee, following an external audit to provide assurance in the revised methodology.
- 3.3 Deliver the Low Carbon Roadmap to the 11 October 2023 Sustainability Committee, allowing for better incorporation of current strategic thinking.



3.4 Deliver the Updated Zero Carbon Feasibility Study to the 1 March 2024 Sustainability Committee, allowing incorporation and analysis of draft 2024-2034 LTP programmes and providing the committee with emission forecasts for the various pathways open to the Council regarding achieving longerterm emission reduction targets.

4. COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Does the Committee h	Yes		
Are the decisions signif	No		
If they are significant d	to they affect land or a body of water?	No	
Can this decision only l	be made through a 10 Year Plan?	No	
Does this decision require consultation through the Special No Consultative procedure?			
Is there funding in the a	current Annual Plan for these actions?	Yes	
Are the recommendations inconsistent with any of Council's policies or plans?			
The recommendations contribute to Goal 4: An Eco City			
The recommendations contribute to the achievement of action/actions in Climate Change			
The action is: Implement the Palmerston North Low Carbon Roadmap			
Contribution to De strategic mit direction and to futu social, economic, environmental and cultural well- being	elivery of the Climate Change Work Programme as tigation of and adaptation to climate change, wit rure impacts across all four well-beings.	sists with the h significant	

ATTACHMENTS

Nil



COMMITTEE WORK SCHEDULE

TO: Sustainability Committee

MEETING DATE: 16 August 2023

TITLE: Committee Work Schedule

RECOMMENDATION TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

1. That the Committee receive the Work Schedule dated August 2023.

Estimated Report Date	Subject	Officer Responsible	Current Position	Date of Instruction & Clause number
16 Aug 2023	Options to incentivise green building in the city	Chief Planning Offic o r		29 March 2023 Cla⊍se 3.2
16 Aug 2023 11 Oct 2023	Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2019 - Annual Progress report	Chief Infrastructure Officer	Delayed allowing Officers to further clarify expected content	<u>9 September 2020</u> <u>Clause 17-20</u>
16 Aug 2023	Low Carbon Fund – Annual Report 2023	Chief Planning Offic o r		<u>Committee of</u> <u>Council</u> <u>9 June 2021</u> <u>Clause 28.18-</u> <u>21</u>
16 Aug 2023	Update on the Regional Climate Change Committee	Chief Planning Offic o r		<u>Climate</u> <u>change plan</u> <u>ongoing</u> <u>action #1</u>
16 Aug 2023 11 Oct 2023	Citywide Emissions Inventory 2022	Chief Planning Officer	Pending external audit results	<u>Climate</u> <u>change plan</u> <u>ongoing</u> <u>action #3</u>

SUSTAINABILITY WORK SCHEDULE – AUGUST 2023



16 Aug 2023	Update on the Climate Change Response Work Programme	Chief Planning Offic o r		<u>Climate</u> <u>change plan</u> <u>ongoing</u> <u>action #1</u>
16 Aug 2023 11 Oct 2023	Low Carbon Roadmap - options to achieve the city-wide goal of 30% reduction in emissions by 2031	Chief Planning Officer	Delayed until Oct, following programme development	30 March 2022 Clause 6-22, Climate change plan ongoing action #5
11 Oct 2023	Wastewater Discharge Consent Project - Quarterly Update	Chief Infrastructure Officer		<u>11 May 2022</u> <u>Clause 26-22</u>
Early 2024	Waste Management and Minimisation Plan	Chief Infrastructure Officer	Aligned with LTP process	Terms of reference
16 Aug 2023 Early 2024	PNCC Zero Carbon Feasibility Study - options emissions reductions scenarios	Chief Planning Officer	Aligned with LTP process	Environmental Sustainability Committee 21 September 2022 Clause 22-22
Mid 2024	Environmental Sustainability Report 2023	Acting Chief Executive Unit Manager		Terms of Reference
Mid 2024	PNCC Organisational Emissions Inventory 2022/23	Chief Planning Officer	Last report presented Jun 2023	Climate change plan ongoing action #1
Mid 2024	Opportunities for native species re-introductions in the Turitea Reserve area - Update (including projected funding requirements)	Chief Planning Officer	Last update presented Jun 2023	<u>17 November</u> <u>2021</u> <u>Clause 38.21</u> <u>7 June 2022</u> <u>Clause 16-23</u>