



Building a
stronger Kāpiti
together


Kāpiti Coast
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Me Huri Whakamuri, Ka Titiro Whakamua

Toitū Kāpiti

Kāpiti Coast District Council

Annual Report 2019/20

Our sustainability initiatives

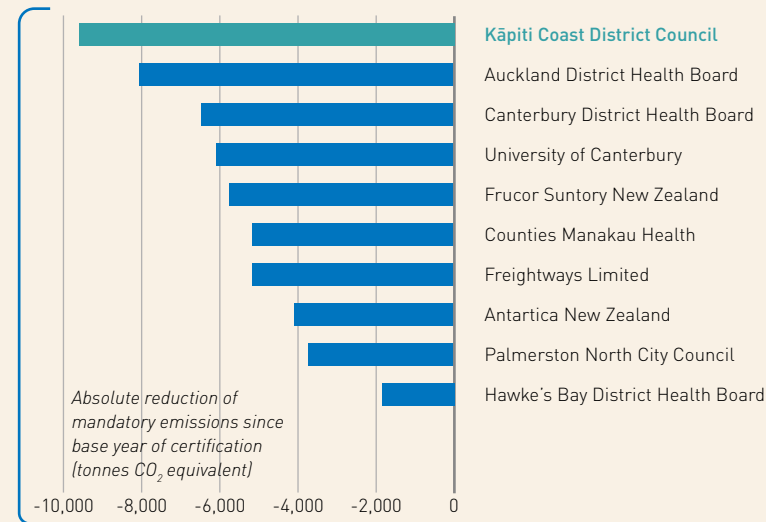
Improving sustainability and resilience is an important issue for our community and its wellbeing. This section outlines our main areas of work to lift sustainability in the district, including waste management and minimisation, carbon and energy management and the wider overview of climate change adaptation and mitigation across Council activities.

Council named Toitū's top carbon reducer for 2020

tCO₂e reduced
-55,979

Average reduction
26%

tCO₂e combined footprint
253,676



All reductions certified as of June 2020

Climate change emergency declaration

On 27 May 2019, Kāpiti Coast District Council declared a climate change emergency, signalling a strong desire to lift sustainability and resilience in the district.

In response to Council's declaration, a new Sustainability and Resilience team was established, combining carbon and energy management, overview of climate change adaptation and mitigation across Council, and waste management and minimisation.

Emissions reduction goals

On 27 May 2019, Council passed a resolution to pursue a goal of carbon neutrality by 2025.

This resolution built on the existing Carbon and Energy Management Plan adopted by Council in 2012, which set

a target of an 80 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the organisation by 2021/22, compared to its 2009/10 baseline year.

This was to be achieved through a range of actions including energy conservation, installation of renewable energy, switching from use of fossil fuels to renewable energy and changing how we dispose of waste.

To underpin our plan and provide an independent assessment of our progress, Council signed up to Toitū Envirocare's *Carbon Reduce* scheme. Under this scheme Council has its annual emissions inventory (carbon footprint) independently audited to gain accreditation to the ISO-14064 standard.

The actions taken over the past eight years in pursuit of that target have seen our Council consistently leading the local government sector in emissions reduction. We have received a number of awards, including from EECA and the Ministry for the Environment.

Carbon audit results for 2018/19

Our verified emissions result for the 2018/19 year was confirmed by Toitū Envirocare, our auditors, in mid-March 2020. That result reported total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of 2,867 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e), down 150 tCO₂e from the previous year, and contributing to a reduction of 77 per cent since 2009/10.

The two main positive contributors to the 2018/19 result were a reduction in the national grid emissions factor and further emissions reductions from our LED streetlight upgrade project. These factors combined resulted in a reduction impact of 293 tCO₂e.

However, that was significantly offset by increased emissions from a number of other Council activities, in particular from Aquatics (119 tCO₂e) and Water and Wastewater operations (24 tCO₂e), resulting in the net emissions reduction of 150 tCO₂e reported above. The Aquatics result was due to our Ōtaki Pool returning to its first full year of use following its rebuild in 2017.



Waste minimisation

Many people in our community are keen gardeners and composters and Council encourages composting as a contribution to minimising waste.

Council's Waste Minimisation Taskforce presented its final report in December 2019. In responding to the report, Council has been planning to undertake

projects that will support achieving its target to reduce waste to landfill by 30 per cent by 2026.

For more detail on our waste management and waste minimisation activities see the Solid Waste activity report, on page 69.



One of the district's public EV charging stations. Through a trans-regional partnership with Horowhenua District Council, and some match-funding from EECA, Council installed five public fast chargers in Kāpiti in early 2019. In early 2020, we started exploring options for more to be installed in coming years.

Emissions reduction initiatives in 2019/20

Electric vehicles (EVs)

We purchased a second Nissan Leaf in early December 2019, giving us two EVs in the Council fleet. In March 2020 we also purchased a Nissan Leaf as the new mayoral vehicle – with the Mayor's previous vehicle, a Corolla hybrid, now being used in the fleet.

EV charging stations

Following the decisions to purchase these new EVs, installation of additional EV charging stations at the Civic building was planned. Installation was delayed due to the COVID-19 lockdown. It will be completed in the first half of 2020/21.

Decarbonising our fleet

We've started reviewing our vehicle fleet to ensure it is optimised and identify options for reducing its carbon footprint. The review will produce a decarbonisation plan which will provide us with a roadmap for transitioning our fleet to lower emission alternatives (including EVs, plug-in hybrid EVs and standard hybrid vehicles), ensuring that we replace vehicles at the end of their useful life with cost-effective, low-emission and fit-for-purpose alternatives.

Community solar power at the Ōtaki wastewater treatment plant (WWTP)

Energise Ōtaki, a community organisation focused on clean energy production, made progress over the year on its proposal to install a solar photovoltaic (PV) array at the Ōtaki WWTP. The array will supply renewable electricity directly to the treatment plant, reducing its carbon footprint.

Agreements for land use and power supply with the Council were developed and signed and site preparation work got underway.

Installation was scheduled for July-August 2020 and the array is envisaged to be commissioned and generating power in September 2020.

Exploring decarbonising the Ōtaki Pool

Council undertook a study into the feasibility of improving the energy efficiency of the water and space heating at the Ōtaki Pool and upgrading the plant to reduce carbon emissions. There are significant costs associated with an upgrade, and we will consider options as we develop the Long-term Plan 2021-41.

Embedding climate change into Council's planning

To enable consistency in climate change responses across Council, we are working to ensure that all asset and activity managers have the tools needed to develop evidence-based responses to existing natural hazards that are exacerbated by climate change, particularly in the areas of mitigation and adaptation.

Climate change mitigation

The emissions reduction achieved to date has been due to our across-Council commitment to achieve the targets set out in the Carbon and Energy Management Plan.

While reducing emissions directly from our activities remains a key focus, work is underway to develop the guidance and tools needed to enable more sustainable procurement. Sustainable procurement practices will help to reduce indirect emissions, while also promoting sustainable practices in our suppliers.

Climate change adaptation

To deliver a wide range of sustainable and resilient services, we need to consider the potential impact of the effects of climate change on Council assets and activities, as well as the wider Kāpiti Coast community, and incorporate climate change adaptation into our planning when required.

We determined that updated climate change assumptions for the Kāpiti Coast were required to do this well,

particularly prior to the development of the Long-term Plan 2021–41 (LTP 2021).

To access the most current science while working alongside our regional partners, we turned to NIWA and Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) to develop a robust set of climate change assumptions for the Kāpiti Coast. During the development of the LTP 2021 over the next year, the Sustainability and Resilience team will work alongside asset and activity managers from across Council to use these assumptions in their planning processes.

Regional alignment

While each council in the Greater Wellington Region may experience different impacts from climate change, there is still considerable value in working together as a region.

The Wellington Region Climate Change Working Group was established in 2017 to provide a forum through which elected members and mana whenua from across the Wellington Region could network, discuss issues, share information, and (where appropriate) achieve a consistent approach across all jurisdictions on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Council has been a keen participant in the working group since it was established.

Development of a sustainability and resilience (climate change) strategy

A sustainability and resilience (climate change) strategy is a key deliverable, particularly in light of Council's climate change emergency declaration, and Council seeks to work with mana whenua and engage with the wider community on its development.

It is anticipated that the current focus on incorporating climate change mitigation and adaptation into the development of the LTP 2021 will provide a strong base for the development of this strategy.

Government reporting requirements

With the recent assent of the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill, Council is preparing itself for when the Minister for Climate Change or the Climate Change Commissioner establishes reporting requirements for local authorities. In addition, as a provider of large infrastructure services, Council is also preparing for any climate-related financial disclosures that may be required in the near future as well.



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