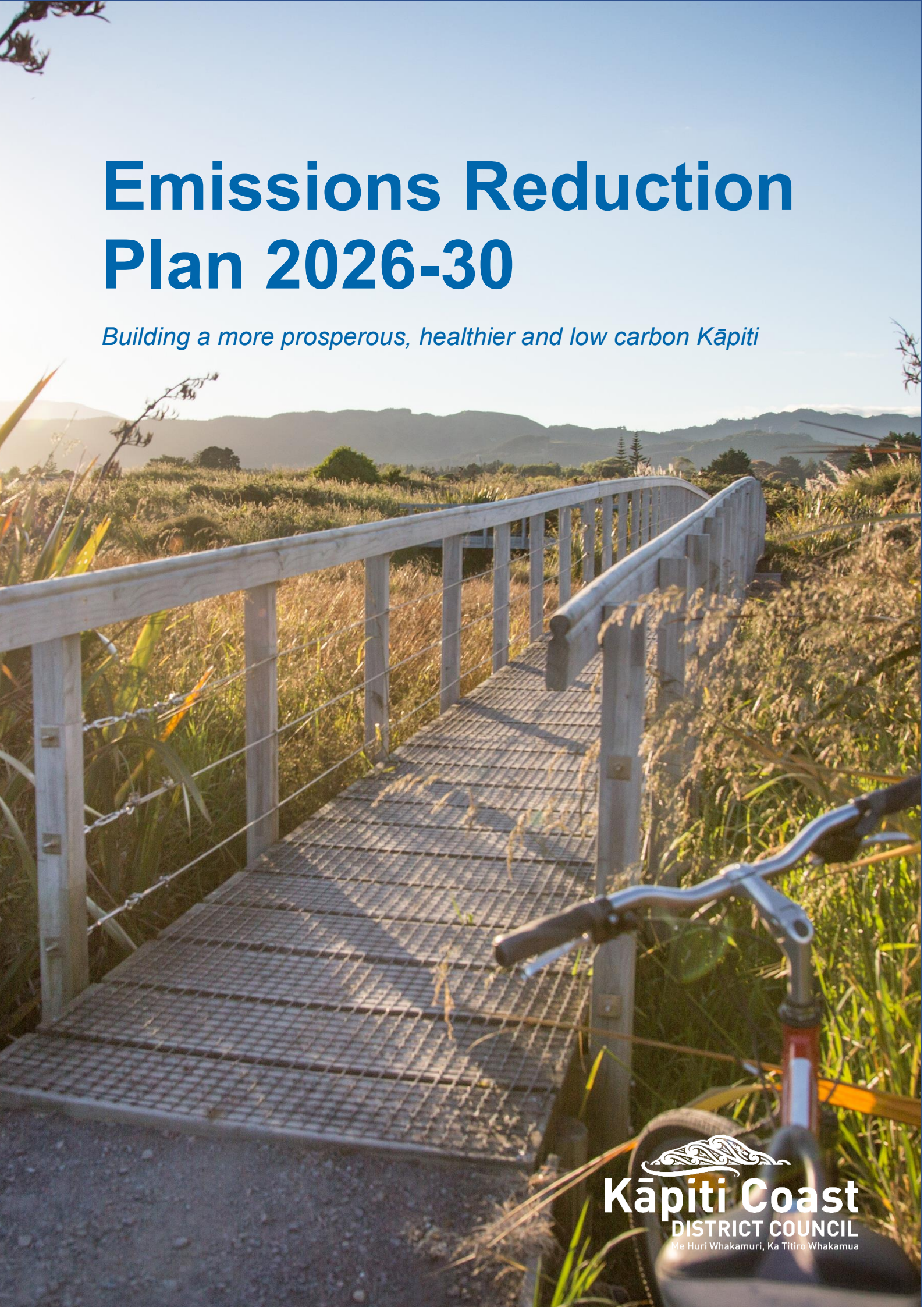
Emissions Reduction Plan 2026-30

Building a more prosperous, healthier and low carbon Kāpiti



Kāpiti Coast
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Me Huri Whakamuri, Ka Titiro Whakamua

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Net zero? Decarbonisation? Energy security?

Climate change language can be confusing, even for experts. You'll find a glossary at the end of this document explaining all the climate-related terms used in this plan.

Introduction

Supporting households and businesses to build a more prosperous, healthier and low carbon Kāpiti is one of the Council's top priorities

In 2025, the Council published an *Emissions Reduction Strategy* which sets out how we can work together to achieve our aspirational goal of being a 'net zero' emissions district by 2040 and collectively seize the benefits of decarbonisation.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions means playing our part to lessen the impacts of a changing climate, but the opportunities associated with decarbonisation go beyond climate change.

New Zealand's economy currently relies on over $12 billion of imported petrol, diesel and petroleum products every year.[1] This is risky and costly. Now is the time to accelerate our shift away from fossil fuels and towards a more prosperous, healthier, low carbon future.

What you told us

We received 74 submissions on the draft *Emissions Reduction Plan 2026-30*.

The key message across all submissions was that the Council needs to focus on evidence-based initiatives that deliver measurable local benefits. There was widespread support for actions that deliver cost savings, improve infrastructure resilience, and minimise waste.

You also told us that the Council has an important role to play around building the Kāpiti district in ways that enable low emissions living, so everyone can seize the benefits of reducing emissions.

Reducing emissions comes with many benefits

The core theme of the *Emissions Reduction Strategy* is to maximise the economic and social benefits of decarbonisation for people living and working in Kāpiti. These benefits include:

- Saving money through energy efficient, low emission technologies
- Reducing our dependency on imported fossil fuels
- Greater energy security through more local renewable generation and storage, such as rooftop solar and batteries
- Improved health outcomes from warmer and drier homes, improved air quality, and increased levels of everyday cycling and walking
- Enhanced community connectedness through smarter urban planning that creates vibrant, compact and less vehicle-dependent centres
- A more resilient, resource-efficient, and future-proofed local economy.

[1] Stats NZ (21 August 2026) *Fuel leads rise in imports in the year ended July 2026*

The opportunity for Kāpiti

Recent analysis has found that:

- Reducing emissions can help address cost-of-living pressures and cut costs for New Zealand households, businesses and councils.[2]
- A sustainable growth pathway, underpinned by renewable energy, could increase New Zealand's GDP by $22 billion a year by 2035 while significantly reducing emissions.[3]
- Electrifying homes and vehicles could save an average Kāpiti household $3,200 per year (including upfront costs) and help reduce Kāpiti district emissions by 100,000 tonnes of carbon per year. Between 2026 and 2040, rapid electrification could save $820 million across Kāpiti households and $61 billion across New Zealand households.[4]
- Transitioning to an accessible, safer, low emissions transport system could deliver $47 billion of health benefits to New Zealand between 2026 and 2040.[5]

We are building on climate action already underway

People and businesses across Kāpiti are already taking action to reduce their emissions by shifting to low emissions transport options, electrifying their homes and businesses, and minimising waste. Emissions across the Kāpiti Coast district reduced by 6% between 2018/19 and 2023/24, even as the Kāpiti population increased over this period.

The Council has also been taking climate action for a long time. We started reporting and reducing our operational emissions in 2010 – one of the first councils in New Zealand to do so. Since then, the Council has reduced its emissions by 69.5% and delivered other benefits, including cost savings.

Case study: Paraparaumu Wastewater Treatment Plant

In 2010, the Council converted the sludge dryer at the Paraparaumu Wastewater Treatment Plant from diesel fuel to wood chip fuel, eliminating 1,181 tCO_2 of diesel emissions from the Council's carbon footprint per year. In contrast, wood pellet fuel creates 12 tCO_2 of emissions per year.



Shifting from diesel to woodchip immediately reduced the Council's energy bill by $211,000 per year. These savings have compounded over time because the cost of diesel has more than doubled since 2010. Converting the sludge dryer cost $1.26m. The upgrade has also reduced the Council's reliance on imported fossil fuels, which has improved cost certainty and energy security.

[2] Climate Change Commission (2026) *Monitoring Report: Emissions Reduction*
[3] Sustainable Business Council (2026) *Driving Sustainable Growth: Opportunities for New Zealand's Economy*, sponsored by Business NZ
[4] Rewiring Aotearoa (2026) *Electric Homes & Vehicles*; and (2026) *Regional report: Electrifying Kāpiti Coast*
[5] All Aboard (2026) *Better Moves: A vision of transport for Aotearoa*

What we're doing

About this plan

The *Emissions Reduction Plan 2026-30* sets out what the Council is doing to:

- reduce emissions from Council's operations
- enable households and businesses to reduce emissions across the Kāpiti district.

This Plan is guided by the *Emissions Reduction Strategy's* pathways, principles and partnership model, which includes being fiscally responsible, amplifying the work of others, and focusing on maximising the benefits of reducing emissions.

The Council's role

To achieve our aspirational goal of a 'net zero' emissions district by 2040, everyone has a role to play. The Council can't and doesn't need to do everything. The best outcomes happen when we work together. The Council is committed to:

- demonstrating climate leadership where we can, such as through district planning, building infrastructure, and reducing emissions from Council operations
- working with and supporting the emissions reduction efforts of our iwi partners, community groups, and local households and businesses
- advocating to regional and central government for better emissions outcomes in Kāpiti.

Case study: LED streetlights



Since 2017, the Council has replaced 5,187 of 5,457 streetlights in the Kāpiti district with energy efficient LEDs. This has reduced our streetlight energy use by 62% and streetlight emissions by 72%. It has also significantly reduced the Council's energy bills. Without the LED upgrades, Council would be paying an additional $0.5 million every year in electricity costs (based on 2026 electricity prices).

The upgrades were made possible following a one-off contribution from NZTA, who provided 85% of the total $2.2 million cost to undertake the project.

Case study: Ōtaki Bike Space



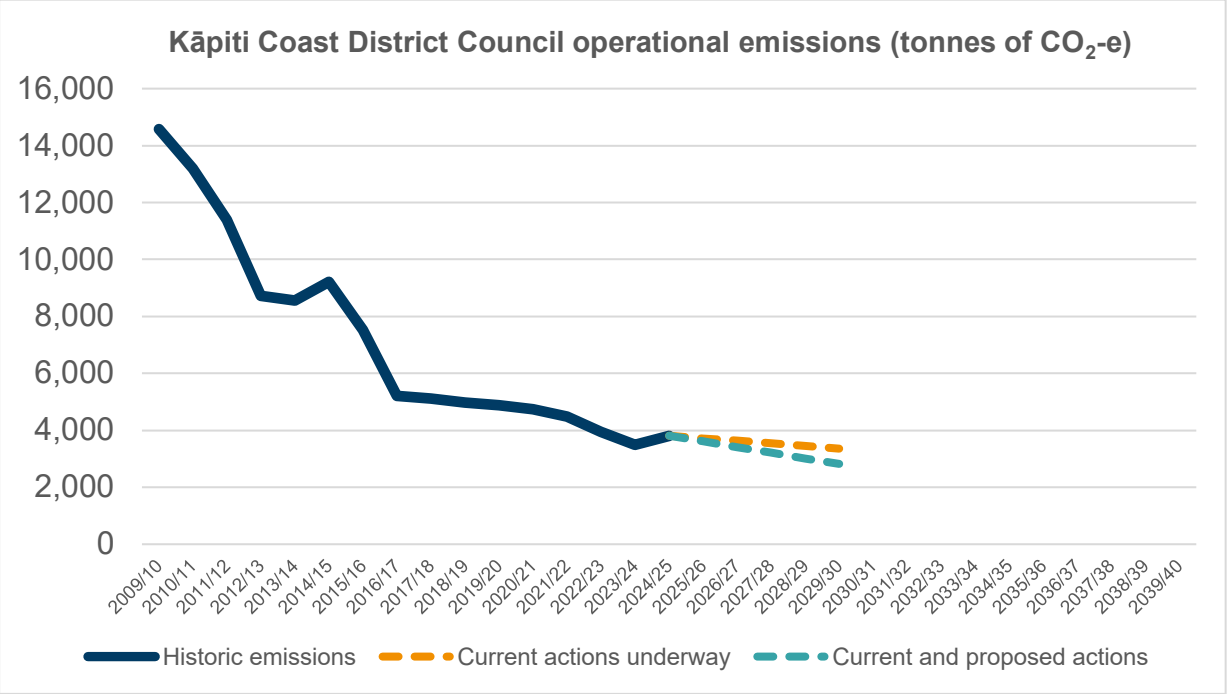
The Ōtaki Bike Space, Te Wāhi Pahikara o Ōtaki, is a community bike library that revamps old bikes, gifts them back to the community, and helps people repair and maintain their bikes. These efforts are helping to reduce emissions, minimise waste and promote connected community.

The Ōtaki Bike Space, run by Energise Ōtaki with support from the Council and New World Ōtaki, is just one of many community-led cycling initiatives underway across Kāpiti.

Council is committed to demonstrating climate leadership

The Council's operational emissions have fallen 69.5% between 2009/10 and 2024/25. We're proud of our progress, but there's more to do.

Graph 1: Kāpiti Coast District Council's historic operational emissions 2009/10 to 2024/25, projected emissions to 2029/30



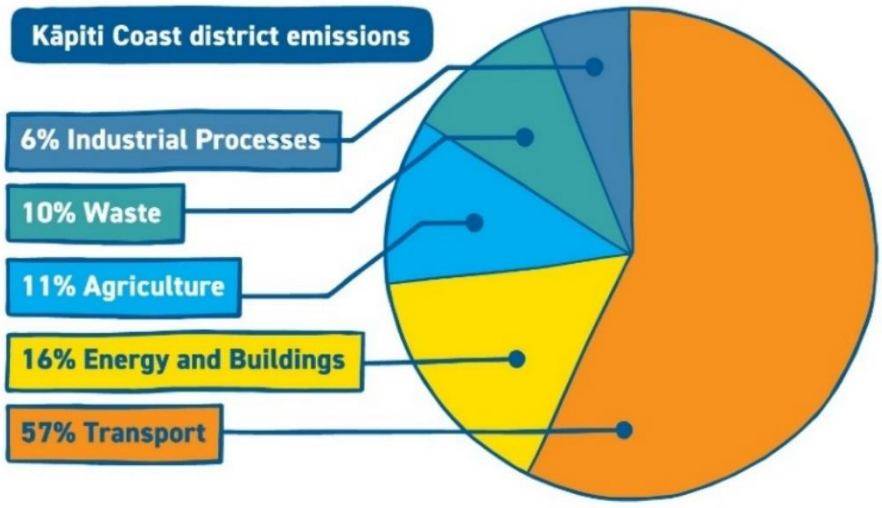
Between 2026-2030, the Council is on track to reduce its annual emissions by 468 tCO_2-e through actions already underway (see *Graph 1* above). For example, the Council is committed to replacing the Ōtaki Pool's gas boiler with an energy efficient heat pump as part of a wider pool upgrade in 2027/28. This will reduce the Council's overall gas use by 65%, emissions by 255 tCO_2-e, and net energy costs by up to $150,000/year.

This Plan also includes proposed actions that are subject to future funding decisions. These actions have the potential to reduce the Council's emissions by a further 535 tCO_2-e per annum.

District emissions: more action is needed to reach our aspirational goal

Emissions across the Kāpiti Coast district reduced 6% between 2018/19 and 2023/24.

We're making good progress, but achieving our aspirational goal of 'net zero' by 2040 will mean reducing emissions across the district by **6.3% every year** (relative to 2018/19).



Council modelling indicates that taking action in line with the Climate Change Commission's 'demonstration path',[6] based on achievable shifts using currently available technology, could enable the Kāpiti Coast district to be net zero by 2045.

This would be a significant achievement. However, in light of the benefits and opportunities associated with decarbonisation, we've set an even higher level of ambition.

To address this 'ambition gap', the Council is committed to seizing new opportunities as they emerge, in line with the *Emissions Reduction Strategy*. This may include opportunities to accelerate behaviour change, embrace technology that enables faster and cheaper decarbonisation, and advocate to regional and central government for better emissions outcomes in Kāpiti, between now and 2040.

New Emissions Reduction Plans will be published every 3 years

Getting to 'net zero' will be a journey, not a sprint. To ensure our actions are aligned with community priorities and Council funding decisions, we'll publish new Emissions Reduction Plans on a 3-year cycle alongside our Long-term Plans (LTPs).

This *Emissions Reduction Plan 2026-30* is being released in 2026, a year ahead of the Long-term Plan 2027-37, so that people and businesses in Kāpiti can:

- understand what the Council is currently doing to reduce emissions and enable action
- provide ideas and suggestions to unlock further emission reductions, including proposals that could be considered as part of future funding decisions.

This Plan will be updated in 2027 to reflect funding decisions and commitments in the LTP 2027-37. New Emissions Reduction Plans will be published every 3 years thereafter.

Monitoring and reporting

Monitoring shifts in our emissions, and the benefits associated with reducing emissions, will be critical to success. It will help us better understand the effectiveness of the Council's actions, how your efforts are contributing, and where we should focus our future efforts.

From 2027 onwards, the Council will publish annual progress reports with the latest emissions data for Kāpiti, how we're tracking against our goals, and a status update for each action in this Plan.

For more information, see *Appendix: How we monitor emissions*.

Climate Action Loans reward councils for reducing emissions

In 2023, the Kāpiti Coast District Council became one of just seven councils to be approved for a Climate Action Loan through the Local Government Funding Agency. These loans provide interest rate discounts to councils that report on their emissions and have a plan to meet a specific emissions reduction target. As of June 2026, our Climate Action Loan is reducing the Council's lending costs by $52,000 a year.

From 2027 onwards, councils with Climate Action Loans are also required to report on and set targets for their supply chain emissions.

[6] Climate Change Commission (2024) *Advice on the fourth emissions budget 2036–2040*

Actions

Areas of focus

This plan sets out what the Council is doing to reduce emissions in each of the *Emissions Reduction Strategy's* key focus areas:

1. Transport
2. Energy & Buildings
3. Waste
4. Sequestration

Overarching actions

District planning

Some of the Council's work relates to all four of these focus areas. The most notable example is district planning, which influences emissions by informing where and how development occurs, what access people have to public transport, walkways and cycleways, and by enabling people to live a low emissions lifestyle. The Council's *Growth Strategy | Te Tupu Pai* includes "encouraging low-carbon living" as one of its six specific growth principles.

New Zealand's planning system has recently undergone a once-in-a-generation change. In September 2026, the Government replaced the Resource Management Act with the Planning Act and the Natural Environment Act. Further national direction will be introduced in 2027. The new planning system is expected to be fully operational by 2029. As we navigate this transition, the Council will continue to explore how we can best align the district plan with our community priorities and strategic objectives. For now, the Council is:

- Continuing to implement the Operative District Plan, which already requires or permits a range of emissions reduction activity. For example, Plan Change 1C (operative in 2024) specifies requirements for new developments to provide cycle parking. The district plan also incorporates the urban intensification framework introduced through Plan Change 2 (operative in 2023). A more compact urban form can help reduce reliance on private vehicles and improve access to public transport, walking and cycling networks.
- Working with developers through the development application process to identify emission reduction opportunities, such as improving building performance, enhancing connectivity, and building active transport infrastructure.
- Undertaking town centre planning for Ōtaki, Waikanae, Paraparaumu, Paraparaumu Beach, Raumati and Paekākāriki. These town centre plans will be informed by community input, aspirations identified through Vision Kāpiti, and will incorporate environmental, low emission and climate resilient outcomes.

Reducing emissions from Council's supply chain

Another cross-cutting area of work is the Council's increasing focus on monitoring and reducing emissions from our supply chain. This refers to our suppliers' transport, energy and waste emissions when they provide services to the Council, such as renewing roads or building infrastructure.

Many of our suppliers are already looking to seize the benefits of decarbonisation and reduce their fuel and energy costs. Working with our suppliers to seize these opportunities can lead to better project outcomes, cost efficiencies for ratepayers, and help accelerate emissions reduction efforts across different industries.

From 2027 onwards, the Council is committed to measuring, reporting and setting a target for our supply chain emissions. This aligns with the Council's obligations under our Climate Action Loan.

1. Transport



Progress so far

- Transport emissions in Kāpiti have fallen 10% between 2018/19 and 2023/24
- The Coast35 trail connects Paekākāriki to Ōtaki with a 35km off-road trail for walking, cycling and horse riding
- There are 1,374 fully electric vehicles registered in Kāpiti and 25 public EV charging points across Kāpiti

Opportunities

Transport accounts for 57% of emissions in the Kāpiti Coast district. While transport is our biggest challenge, it's also our biggest opportunity to reap the benefits of reducing emissions. The Council's *Emissions Reduction Strategy* and *Sustainable Transport Strategy* envision a future that is more connected, accessible, safer and healthier for people travelling around Kāpiti.

Did you know? Kāpiti has the highest proportion of young people that cycle to school in the Greater Wellington region.[7] This reflects efforts by Council, schools and community groups to enable safer cycling through infrastructure upgrades, speed management near schools, and safe cycling programmes.

The majority of transport emissions in Kāpiti come from petrol and diesel-powered cars, utes, vans and trucks. 80-85% of all trips in Kāpiti involve light vehicles.[8] There are two main ways to reduce these emissions:

- Providing attractive and viable alternatives to private vehicle use, such as walking and cycling, public transport, or working from home
- Reducing emissions from vehicle travel, such as improving fuel efficiency or switching to electric/hybrid vehicles.

All of these solutions have a part to play. For example, around 30% of car trips in the Wellington region are journeys of 2km or less.[9] Providing safe and accessible walking and cycling infrastructure, and creating more connected communities through smart district planning, gives people more options for shorter trips. Increasing the uptake of active transport can also have health benefits and help reduce congestion for other road users. For longer journeys, affordable, accessible and reliable public transport is key.

[7] Greater Wellington Regional Council (2025) *RLTP 2027 – State of Transport Network*, p 47-48
[8] Greater Wellington Regional Council (2025) *RLTP 2027 – State of Transport Network*, p 37
[9] Greater Wellington Regional Council (2025) *RLTP 2027 – State of Transport Network*, p 28

Did you know? In 2025, the Kāpiti Coast had the highest uptake of fully electric EVs (10.1% of all new vehicle registrations) in New Zealand. In 2026 so far, EV uptake in Kāpiti has increased to more than 20% of all new vehicle registrations, ahead of the national average of 13.8%.[10]

Kāpiti residents are increasingly interested in the benefits of electric and hybrid vehicles. Across the total Kāpiti vehicle fleet, the proportion of fully electric EVs remains modest (2.9%), but is tracking ahead of the New Zealand average (2.3%). New Zealanders tend to keep their cars for a long time, so while EVs are an increasingly large proportion of new vehicle registrations each year, changing the composition of our overall vehicle fleet can take decades.

Our travel preferences and patterns have also shifted post-COVID. The proportion of Kāpiti residents that regularly work from home (WFH) has almost doubled since 2018. Similar trends are being seen across New Zealand and the world.

Flexible working is not possible for everyone, but it is an effective way to reduce emissions and can have benefits for businesses and workers. WFH preferences have, in part, contributed to the recent reduction in train patronage. The Kāpiti train line into Wellington has lower patronage on Mondays and Fridays, which are popular days to WFH.

Mode of travel to work - Kāpiti Coast residents (census 2023)

Travel Mode	Percentage	Change since 2018
Drive	59.4%	↓ from 64.2%
Work from home	23.5%	↑ from 12.5%
Train	7.8%	↓ from 12.7%
Car passenger	2.9%	↓ from 3.5%
Walk	3.1%	↓ from 3.4%
Cycle	1.5%	↓ from 1.6%
Bus	0.9%	= from 0.9%
Other	0.9%	↓ from 1.1%

We work closely with regional and central government

Greater Wellington Regional Council is responsible for delivering public transport through the *Wellington Regional Land Transport Plan* (RLTP). The Council supports the regional targets in the RLTP 2021:

- 40% increase in active travel and public transport mode share by 2030
- 35% reduction in transport-generated carbon emissions by 2030
- 40% reduction in deaths and serious injuries on roads by 2030

We know that good public transport is a critical part of an accessible, connected and sustainable transport network. We're working closely with GWRC to inform the development of the Wellington RLTP 2027. We also advocate strongly to GWRC for better public transport outcomes in Kāpiti, such as the 2029 rollout of new Tūhono battery-electric trains that will connect Kāpiti (including Ōtaki) with Wellington and Manawatū. This project is 92% funded by central government, with the remainder from Greater Wellington and Horizons regional councils.

[10] NZ Transport Agency, *Vehicle Fleet Open Data* (last updated 30 Sep 2026); EECA, *Public EV Charger Dashboard – EV metrics by district* (last updated 30 Sep 2026)

Central government has a range of levers to reduce transport emissions by supporting New Zealanders to shift away from fossil fuel powered vehicles. We take every opportunity to advocate to the Ministry of Transport, NZTA and Kiwirail about sustainable transport in Kāpiti and rely heavily on NZTA to co-fund local transport infrastructure. Recent NZTA funding changes have unfortunately constrained the delivery of local footpaths and cycleways.

Fuel situation

Global conflict in 2026 has put a spotlight on the cost and supply of fossil fuels into New Zealand. The Council has carried out planning to ensure its critical functions are maintained, and local impacts of any disruption are managed if the situation worsens. The situation is causing a temporary reduction in transport emissions as people and businesses explore alternative travel options to minimise fuel costs. Going forward, there may be opportunities to embed different transport behaviours in the district for everyone's ongoing benefit, including reducing our dependency on imported fossil fuels.

Actions to reduce transport emissions

Actions					Benefits	
Action		Key partners	Timeframe	Status	Potential emissions reduced per year	Broader benefits
Reducing emissions from Council operations						
Council vehicles	Continue converting the Council fleet to EVs and hybrids as part of ongoing asset renewal. We currently have 9 EVs and 9 hybrids in our fleet of 96 vehicles.		Ongoing	Underway	64 tCO_2	Fuel savings, energy security
	Purchase an electric rubbish truck for public rubbish bin collection		2027 – 2030	Subject to future funding decisions	15 tCO_2	Fuel savings, energy security
Staff commuting	Continue initiatives to reduce staff commuting emissions, including our flexible working policy and promoting cycling to work		Ongoing	Underway	53 tCO_2	Fuel savings, health benefits
Council's supply chain	Work with suppliers to measure and reduce transport emissions from capital works and services provided to Council	Council suppliers	Ongoing. Set a target by 2027.	Subject to future funding decisions	Pathways in-development	Cost efficiencies

Enabling emissions reduction across Kāpiti						
Walking and cycling network	Enable active transport by delivering the *Pathways Network Plan 2027-36*, a programme of 24 improvement projects to expand and enhance the safety of the Kāpiti walking and cycling network	NZTA	2027 – 2036	Subject to future funding decisions	Enabling action	Safety, access, connectivity, health benefits
Transport safety	Continue to deliver our active transport safety education programme so that users feel confident and safe	Schools, marae, community groups, Police, NZTA, GWRC	Ongoing	Underway	Enabling action	Safety, access, connectivity, health benefits
Speed management	Finalise and deliver our *Speed Management Plan 2026-36* to slow traffic near schools and civic areas to promote safer walking and cycling	Schools, marae, community groups, Police, NZTA, GWRC	2026 – 2036	Underway	Enabling action	Safety, access, connectivity, health benefits
Development opportunities	When assessing development applications, look for opportunities to provide improved connections and infrastructure to facilitate mode shift	Developers	Ongoing	Underway	Enabling action	Safety, access, connectivity
EV charging network	Work with private sector suppliers to increase the number of public EV chargers across Kāpiti	Suppliers of EV chargers	Ongoing	Underway	Enabling action	Fuel savings, energy security connectivity
Advocacy	Continue advocating to central and regional government for better public transport and sustainable transport outcomes in Kāpiti	Central government, regional council	Ongoing	Underway	Enabling action	Fuel savings, safety, access, connected communities

2. Energy & Buildings



Progress so far

- Emissions from energy and buildings in Kāpiti fell 6% between 2018/19 and 2023/24
- 1,842 Kāpiti homes and buildings have solar panels
- Council has replaced 5,187 (out of 5,457) streetlights with energy efficient LEDs, reducing Council's energy costs by $0.5m/year

Opportunities

Energy and Buildings account for 16% of emissions in the Kāpiti Coast district.

Around half of these emissions are from using gas, LPG, coal, petrol and diesel to power heaters, cookers, boilers and generators.

The other half are associated with electricity use. New Zealand's national grid currently generates around 88% of electricity from renewable sources, with the remainder generated by burning coal and gas.[11] By 2030, the national electricity grid is forecast to be more than 95% renewable,[12] which will significantly reduce emissions from electricity use.

There are three main ways to reduce emissions from energy and buildings in Kāpiti:

- Replace fossil fuel heaters, cookers and boilers with more efficient electric alternatives, such as heat pumps and electric cooktops.
- Improve energy efficiency, such as by upgrading insulation, to reduce overall energy use and create warmer, drier homes. The cheapest and cleanest form of energy is energy that doesn't need to be generated.
- Generate and store more renewable energy here in Kāpiti, such as with rooftop solar and batteries.

Did you know? Fully 'electric homes', which include electric appliances and EVs powered by solar panels, can save homeowners thousands of dollars a year in reduced energy costs.[13] Electric homes are also healthier and produce significantly fewer emissions than homes powered by fossil fuels.

[11] MBIE (2026) *Energy in New Zealand*
[12] Boston Consulting Group (2025) *Energy to Grow: Securing New Zealand's Future*
[13] EECA (2024) *The impact of electric homes*; Rewiring Aotearoa (2026) *Electric Homes & Vehicles*; and (2026) *Regional report: Electrifying Kāpiti Coast*

One of the key barriers preventing people in Kāpiti from benefitting from energy efficient 'electric homes' is financing the upfront cost. Some financial assistance is available, such as EECA Warmer Kiwi Homes subsidies for heat pumps and insulation. Many banks also offer low interest loans for sustainable home upgrades, although these are typically limited to people with a mortgage.

A more accessible, emerging finance option is the proposed 'Ratepayers Assistance Scheme' which includes low interest loans for sustainable home upgrades, such as solar panels and heat pumps. The loans will be made available to ratepayers through participating councils, but the debt will sit off councils' balance sheets. The scheme requires Government approval. In September 2026, the Council declared its 'in-principle' support for the Ratepayers Assistance Scheme and we are monitoring its progress. For more information, see the Local Government NZ website: Ratepayer Assistance Scheme.

Case study: Waikanae pool upgrades

Over the last three years, the Council has improved energy efficiency at the Waikanae pool by installing more efficient pumps, fine-tuning the existing gas boiler, and repairing pool covers and water leaks.
These upgrades have reduced emissions by 49 tCO_2, a 33% reduction of the pool's total emissions. They've also reduced the pool's overall energy use (electricity and gas) by 27%, saving the Council up to $30,000 per year in energy costs. The upgrades cost $20,000 which have been paid back in the first year of operation.



Actions to reduce emissions from energy and buildings

Actions					Benefits	
	Action	Key partners	Timeframe	Status	Potential emissions reduced per year	Broader benefits
Reducing emissions from Council operations						
Ōtaki Pool upgrade	Convert from gas boiler to heat pump as part of broader pool facility upgrades	Iwi partners, pool users, Ōtaki community, Electra	2027 – 2028	Underway	255 tCO_2	Energy savings, energy security, improved user experience
Waikanae Pool upgrade	Explore options to convert from gas boiler to heat pump, as part of broader pool facility upgrades and asset renewal decisions	Iwi partners, pool users, Waikanae community	2027 – 2037	Subject to future funding decisions	89 tCO_2	Energy savings, energy security, improved user experience

Solar panels on Council buildings	Install solar panels on Council buildings at the Paraparaumu Civic precinct		2027 – 2030	Updated business case awaiting approval	65 tCO_2	Energy savings, energy security
	Install solar panels on Council buildings at the Paraparaumu operational depot		2027 – 2030	Subject to future funding decisions	20 tCO_2	Energy savings, energy security
	Develop business cases for larger solar farms at various Council sites, including the Paraparaumu Wastewater Treatment Plant		2027 – 2037	Subject to future funding decisions	TBC	Energy savings, energy security
Energy efficiency	Convert remaining streetlights across Kāpiti to LEDs as opportunities arise	NZTA	Ongoing	Underway	13 tCO_2	Energy savings
	Continue to improve energy monitoring across Council operations and reduce costs through energy efficiency. We are aiming to reduce Council's overall energy consumption by 1% per annum.		Ongoing	Underway	17 tCO_2	Energy savings
Council's supply chain	Work with our suppliers to measure and reduce energy emissions from capital works and services provided to Council, including the emissions embodied in materials such as steel, concrete and asphalt.	Council suppliers	Ongoing. Set a target by 2027.	Subject to future funding decisions	Pathways in-development	Energy savings, improved health & safety
Enabling emissions reduction across Kāpiti						
Community solar resilience project	Install solar panels and batteries at nine community emergency hubs, including marae, schools and halls. This will improve community resilience during emergency events and reduce each building's energy bills and emissions at other times.	Iwi partners, local schools, Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority (EECA), Electra	2026	Underway. 75% funded by EECA, 25% by Council.	23 tCO_2	Energy security, community resilience, energy savings
Ratepayer Assistance Scheme (RAS)	Explore opportunity to adopt the RAS, which could provide low-interest finance for Kāpiti residents to undertake sustainable home upgrades	LGFA, central government	Ongoing	Subject to Government approval and future funding decisions	Enabling action	Energy savings, energy security, healthier homes

Business education	Continue to educate and support local businesses to seize the benefits of decarbonisation	Local businesses	Ongoing	Underway	Enabling action	Energy savings, energy security, local economy
Community education	Continue to educate and support households and community groups to seize the benefits of decarbonisation, including offering free Healthy Home Kits from our libraries, our Sustainable Spring and Greener Neighbourhoods programmes, and delivering climate education through Enviroschools.	Community groups, local schools, Enviroschools	Ongoing	Underway	Enabling action	Energy savings, energy security, healthier homes, connected communities

3. Waste

Progress so far

- Emissions from waste in Kāpiti increased 10% between 2018/19 and 2023/24
- Otaihanga Zero Waste opened in mid-2024 and has diverted 500 tonnes of materials and products from landfill
- There are no open landfills in Kāpiti. Our landfill waste is transferred to other districts. Council manages three closed landfills in Kāpiti.



Opportunities

Waste accounts for 10% of emissions in the Kāpiti Coast district.

Most of these emissions are from biogenic methane, a potent greenhouse gas that is generated when organic material like food scraps and garden waste go to landfill and break down in an oxygen-free environment. In Kāpiti, more than half of what we put in our kerbside rubbish bins – totalling over 5,000 tonnes/year – is food and garden waste.[14] Across the country, it's estimated that New Zealanders throw away $3 billion worth of food every year.[15] We can reduce these emissions by minimising food waste and composting organic material instead of sending it to landfill.

We also have a broader opportunity to save money and improve efficiencies by making better use of the resources we have. This includes redesigning products and services to minimise waste, repairing assets to make them last longer, and reusing material instead of sending it to landfill. These actions can reduce the emissions, energy and transport costs associated with producing new things.

Did you know? As part of building Te Ara Whetū, the new library for Waikanae, 97% of demolition waste has been diverted from landfill. The Council has worked with Otaihanga Zero Waste and our lead contractor Naylor Love to separate and reuse or recycle these resources.

Regional and national collaboration to minimise waste

In 2023, the Council worked with seven other councils to develop the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2023-29, including a local action plan for Kāpiti. The Council's work programme has a strong focus on making better use of existing resources and supporting communities and

[14] Kāpiti Coast District Council (2026) *Solid Waste Composition Analysis*
[15] Rabobank and KiwiHarvest (2025) *Food Waste Survey*

businesses to take action in line with the 'waste hierarchy'. This means minimising waste through redesign, reduction, reuse, repair and repurposing, rather than relying on waste management such as recycling and disposal services.

Much of the Council's waste minimisation work is funded from the national Waste Levy, rather than general rates. The Waste Levy is paid by landfill operators for each tonne of waste sent to landfill. Councils receive 50% of these funds from the Ministry for the Environment (now the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) on behalf of the Government. Councils use Waste Levy funding to promote and achieve waste minimisation.

Case study: Kaibosh Food Rescue

Kaibosh is a food rescue charity that operates across the Greater Wellington region. Since 2008, Kaibosh has rescued and distributed over 6 million kg of food to local whānau experiencing food insecurity. Preventing food from going to landfill helps to reduce methane emissions.

In 2024, with Council support, Kaibosh initiated a 'Second Harvest' pilot project in Kāpiti-Horowhenua that rescued 50,000 kg of crops from local growers that otherwise wouldn't make it to market. Kaibosh has also recently received a Waste Levy-funded 'Less Waste Grant' to expand the capacity of their Kāpiti Community Kitchen.



Actions to reduce waste emissions

Actions					Benefits	
Action		Key partners	Timeframe	Status	Potential emissions reduced per year	Broader benefits
Reducing emissions from Council operations						
Wastewater treatment	Explore options to manage biosolids from wastewater treatment and identify alternatives from being sent to landfill	Iwi partners, Water Services Authority	Ongoing	Subject to future funding decisions	Up to 411 tCO_2-e	Waste reduction, cost efficiencies
Council waste	Continue initiatives to minimise waste from Council operations, including staff education, diverting food scraps to our worm farm, and regular waste audits		Ongoing	Underway. Waste Levy funded.	<1 tCO_2-e	Waste reduction, cost efficiencies

Council's supply chain	Introduce waste minimisation plan requirements for all Council contracts over a certain threshold	Council suppliers	2026 – 2028	Underway	TBC	Waste reduction, cost efficiencies
Enabling emissions reduction across Kāpiti						
Household food waste	Deliver education to minimise food waste including Love Your Compost workshops and the Love Food Hate Waste campaign		Ongoing	Underway. Waste Levy funded.	Enabling action	Waste reduction, reuse resources
	Support development of a private sector food waste collection service or facility	Waste collectors	Ongoing	Underway. To be externally funded	Enabling action	Waste reduction, cost efficiencies
Waste education	Continue to deliver waste minimisation education, including Enviroschools and Zero Waste Education at participating Kāpiti schools	Local schools, Enviroschools	Ongoing	Underway. Waste Levy funded.	Enabling action	Connected communities
Business & community-led projects	Provide 'Funding for Less Waste' grants (formerly Waste Levy Grants) to support projects that will enable less waste in Kāpiti. There are 3 funds available: • Small Community Projects ($2,000) • Local Business ($50k total) • Community Projects ($50k total)	Community groups, local businesses	Ongoing	Underway. Waste Levy funded.	Enabling action	Waste reduction, local economy, connected communities
	Continue to support waste minimisation at large events through implementing the solid waste bylaw, providing bookable resources, advice on waste planning and post-event waste audits	Large event organisers	Ongoing	Underway. Waste Levy funded.	Enabling action	Waste reduction
Construction & demolition waste	Work with the regional 'Build Cluster' to advocate for pathways to minimise Kāpiti construction and demolition waste	Build Cluster (businesses, industry experts)	2026 – 2027	Underway	Enabling action	Waste reduction, reuse resources
	Trial the use of biochar to convert treated timber waste into a reusable resource	Otaihanga Zero Waste	2026 – 2027	Underway	Enabling action	Waste reduction, innovation, local economy
Recovery, recycling,	Support Otaihanga Zero Waste expansion and operations, including the new Reuse Shop	Otaihanga Zero Waste	Ongoing	Underway. Waste Levy funded.	Enabling action	Waste reduction, local economy, reuse resources

disposal services	Continue offering TyreWise, a scheme to recycle and repurpose end-of-life tyres free of charge	TyreWise	Ongoing	Underway. TyreWise is funded by fees collected on imported tyres.	Enabling action	Environmental health, reuse resources
	Continue to increase engagement with specialised recycling programmes, such as batteries, tetrapaks, lids, e-waste	Otaihanga Zero Waste	Ongoing	Underway. Waste Levy funded.	Enabling action	Environmental health, reuse resources
Solid Waste bylaw 2021: construction & demolition waste	Implement the new Solid Waste bylaw control threshold, set in 2026, requiring Building Consent applicants for developments above $2m to submit waste management plans and to monitor, audit and direct waste from construction	Building Consent applicants over threshold value	Ongoing	Underway	Enabling action	Waste reduction, cost efficiencies
	Require Multi-Unit Developments of 10 units or more to use waste calculator tool	Developers	Ongoing	Underway	Enabling action	Waste reduction, cost efficiencies
Closed landfills	Continue aftercare of closed landfills, including maintenance of wetlands and planting native trees to sequester carbon		Ongoing	Underway	TBC	Environmental health
	Improve emissions data collection from closed landfills, such as through gas surface monitoring, and explore options to capture or minimise these emissions		2026 – 2027	Underway	TBC	
Transport emissions from waste	Improve data collection around transport emissions from waste collectors operating under licence in Kāpiti	Waste collection licensees	2026 – 2027	Underway	Enabling action	Cost efficiencies

4. Sequestration



Progress so far

- The amount of carbon sequestered by trees in Kāpiti has increased 21% since 2018/19
- Since 2022, Council has planted 20ha of native trees at the Waikanae Dam
- In the winter of 2026, over 20,000 native plants were planted at 34 sites across Kāpiti with support from schools, iwi and community groups

Opportunities

Sequestration is about capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to reduce its impact on the climate. Trees, soil, wetlands, and the ocean can sequester a significant amount of carbon.

As set out in the *Emissions Reduction Strategy*, our priority is to reduce 'gross' emissions (from transport, energy and buildings, waste) as much as possible, then use sequestration to 'offset' any difficult remaining emissions. Rather than purchasing carbon credits, our focus is on increasing sequestration within the Kāpiti Coast district in ways that bring about other environmental, social and economic benefits. The key focus of our *Open Space Strategy* is to continue protecting, restoring, connecting and enhancing our natural environment in Kāpiti.

Did you know? Kāpiti has over 30 local restoration groups that deliver environmental projects and work to preserve our flora and fauna, including tree planting and pest control. New volunteers are always welcomed. For more information, see the Council website: Local restoration groups.

Plantation forestry in the Kāpiti Coast currently absorbs or sequesters around 78,500 tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere each year, equivalent to 25% of our gross emissions. These levels fluctuate with harvest cycles and sourcing good forestry data from private land is an ongoing challenge. Key opportunities to sequester more carbon across the Kāpiti Coast include:

- Preserving, restoring and maintaining our existing forests and carbon sinks, such as the 41,000 ha of forest in the Tararua ranges
- Planting more trees
- Improving our sequestration data and monitoring research at the national level around measuring and accounting for the carbon sequestered by other sources, such as wetlands and peat soils.

The Council is committed to undertaking further analysis to identify cost-effective and beneficial sequestration opportunities in Kāpiti. Our key next step is a district-wide survey to identify these opportunities, across both Council-owned and privately-owned land, to inform the Council's actions from 2027 onwards.

Actions to enable carbon sequestration in Kāpiti

Actions					Benefits	
Action		Key partners	Timeframe	Status	Potential emissions sequestered per year	Broader benefits
Assess opportunities	Undertake a district-wide survey of cost-effective and beneficial carbon sequestration opportunities across Kāpiti	Iwi partners, community groups, local businesses	2026 – 2027	Underway	Enabling action	Biodiversity, resilience, local economy
Plant trees on Council land	Continue to investigate planting and restoration projects on Council land, including at: • Mataihuka • Maungakotukutuku • Ngawhakangutu Reserve, Peka Peka • Otaihanga • Otaraua Park • Pharazyn Reserve, Waikanae • Reikorangi	Iwi partners, community groups, local communities, regional council	Varies by project	Subject to future funding decisions	TBC	Biodiversity, resilience, local economy, community connection
Data and monitoring	Collect data about urban trees across Kāpiti, including species, condition, run-off avoided and carbon sequestered, to inform asset management and renewal decisions		2026 – 2027	Underway	Enabling action	Biodiversity, resilience, cost efficiencies
	Explore options to extend sequestration monitoring to Council reserves	Iwi partners, community groups	Ongoing	Subject to future funding decisions	Enabling action	Biodiversity, resilience, cost efficiencies

	Monitor research at national level regarding sequestration through other sources, such as wetlands and peat soils	Central govt, regional council, researchers	Ongoing	Underway	Enabling action	Biodiversity, resilience
Community-led action	Continue supporting local restoration groups, including the provision of technical advice, Council officer labour, Riparian Support grants of $33k/year and Heritage and Environment grants of $47k/year.	Iwi partners, community groups	Ongoing	Underway	Enabling action	Biodiversity, resilience, community connection
Pest control	Continue supporting animal pest and environmental weed control efforts across Kāpiti, alongside predator free community groups and GWRC	Iwi partners, community groups, regional council	Ongoing	Underway	Enabling action	Biodiversity, resilience
Regional collaboration	Continue partnering with GWRC on initiatives including re-wetting and riparian planting	Regional council	Ongoing	Underway	Enabling action	Biodiversity, resilience

What you can do

Everyone has a role to play

People and businesses across Kāpiti are already reducing emissions in ways that lead to lower bills, healthier homes and more connected communities. These efforts are helping to create a more prosperous, healthier, low carbon Kāpiti.

Case study: Kāpiti College Māra Kai



In 2024, Kāpiti College used a Climate Action Grant from the Council to deliver composting and sustainable garden education to over 300 students as part of their Year 9 Noho Marae programme. The Māra Kai programme has built a culture of climate action aligned with restoring the mauri of the whenua.

Kāpiti College has seen a measurable reduction in food scraps going to landfill, which helps to reduce methane emissions.

What you can do to reduce emissions

Getting around

- *Active transport*: walk, run, bike, scoot, skate if you can. Find local bike and walking maps on the Council website: Tracks and trails.
- *Public transport*: catch a bus or train. Find more information on the Council website: Public transport.
- *Shared transport*: carpool or ride-share with colleagues or friends.
- *Efficient vehicles*: use fuel efficient, hybrid, or fully electric vehicles where possible.

Use energy efficiently

- Insulate your home and workplace, install curtains, block draughts.
- Borrow a Healthy Home Kit from your local library to test how your home is currently performing. Find more information on the Council website: Healthy Home Kit.
- When replacing appliances, choose an energy efficient option. Switch to electric heating, hot water and cooking.
- Conserve energy by turning off lights and appliances when not in use.
- Rooftop solar is a cost-effective option for many households. Low interest green loans can help with upfront costs.

Minimise waste

- Follow the 5 Rs: refuse, reduce, reuse, repair, recycle.
- Buy secondhand, trade, or share with friends and whānau.
- When purchasing new items, opt for local, sustainably-made, durable, and energy-efficient products with repairable or replaceable components.

Live well locally

- Share emissions reduction tips with friends, whānau and workmates.
- Buy locally produced food – or start your own veggie garden!
- Support local conservation and environmental restoration groups. For more information, see the Council website: Local restoration groups.

For more tips on reducing emissions, check out the Council's brochure: Climate Action: how to take positive steps towards a better future.

Did you know? Kāpiti Coast's per capita emissions are **5.5 tCO_2-e** each year, which is significantly lower than the New Zealand average (over 14 tCO_2-e per person).

The difference reflects the relatively low level of agricultural emissions in Kāpiti (12% of total), compared with 53% of New Zealand's total emissions coming from agriculture. If we focus on carbon dioxide only, Kāpiti emissions are 3.9 tonnes per capita, compared to a national average of 5.9 tonnes per capita.

Where to find further guidance and support

We also recommend checking out:

- FutureFit for simple advice to help you understand your carbon footprint and reduce emissions from transport, energy and waste.
- EECA (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority) for advice on how to use less fuel, save money, and create a warmer, healthier, energy efficient home through smart energy use. EECA also offers a range of funding for households and businesses, including Warmer Kiwi Homes grants for heat pumps and insulation upgrades.

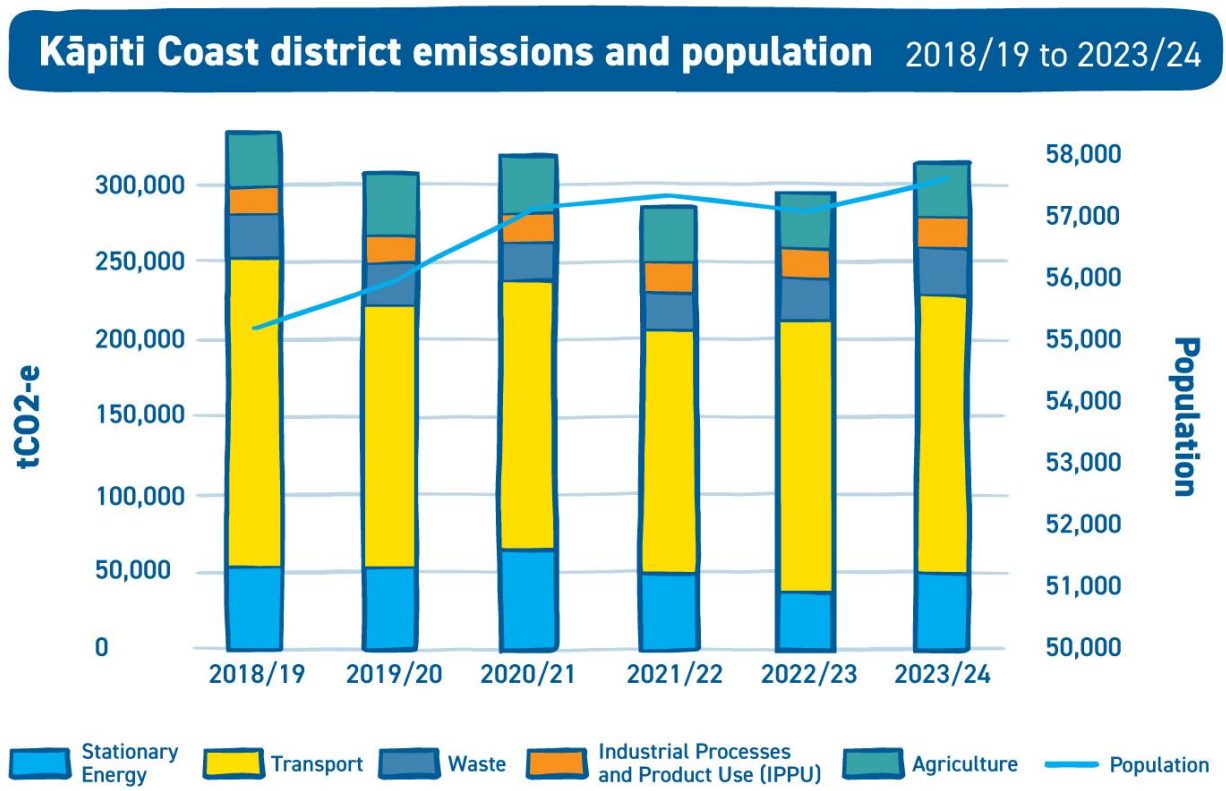
For more guidance and support, check out the Council's website: Reducing emissions for home and business.

Appendix: How we monitor emissions

Measuring Kāpiti Coast district emissions

In 2023/24, total greenhouse gas emissions from the Kāpiti Coast district were around 315,000 tCO_2-e. Our district emissions have reduced 6% between 2018/19 and 2023/24, even as the Kāpiti population increased over this period.

Graph 2: Kāpiti Coast district emissions and population 2018/19 to 2023/24



Kāpiti district emissions have been measured bi-annually since 2018/19 as part of the Greater Wellington Regional Council's regional emissions inventory. We work closely with GWRC to prepare these regional inventories, which are available on GWRC's website: Regional emissions monitoring.

This work is undertaken in line with the Global Protocol for Community Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (GPC), a global framework for measuring emissions at a local government level.

GWRC's regional emissions inventory for 2025/26 is underway and due to be published in late-2026. Detailed updates about Kāpiti district emissions will be included in our annual monitoring reports under this Plan.

Key progress indicators

In addition to emissions, the Council monitors a range of key indicators to better understand the effectiveness of our actions and estimate shifts in emissions where high quality emissions data is not available. These indicators include:

- Proportion of people using public transport, active transport and working from home
- Petrol and diesel sales
- Electric vehicle ownership rates
- Number of publicly accessible EV charging stations

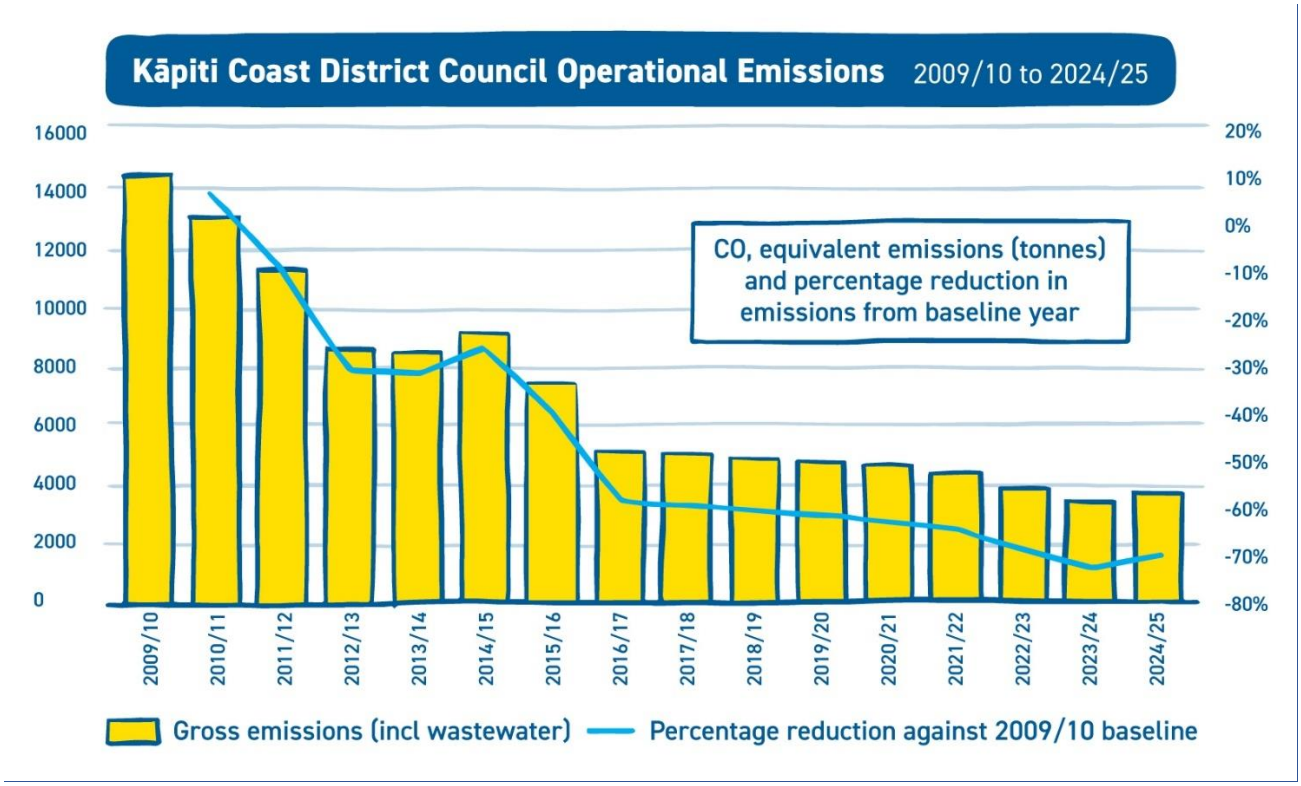
- Electricity and natural gas consumption
- Rooftop solar uptake
- Composition of waste going to landfill
- Waste diversion rates from landfill
- Tree coverage in urban areas.

Measuring the Council's emissions

The Kāpiti Coast District Council began reporting its operational emissions in 2009/10. Since then, the Council's emissions have reduced by 69.5%.

Our performance is independently audited every year by Toitū Envirocare. You can find the Council's audited emissions inventory reports on the Council website: Greenhouse gas emissions inventory reports.

Graph 3: Kāpiti Coast District Council operational emissions 2009/10 to 2024/25



In 2023, Council adopted two new targets in line with Toitū requirements and best practice:

- a long-term aspirational target of net zero emissions by 2040
- a mid-term 'further reductions' target to reduce our category 1 and 2 emissions by a further 15.5% by 2032 (from a 2021/22 baseline).

We are currently tracking ahead of our mid-term target to reduce our category 1 and 2 emissions by a 'further' 15.5% by 2032.

The Council's emissions inventory for 2025/26 will be audited and published in late-2026. Detailed updates about Council's emissions will be included in our annual monitoring reports under this Plan.

From 2027 onwards, the Council is committed to also measuring, reporting and setting a target for its broader supply chain emissions.

Glossary

- **Active travel**: Any form of travel that is 'person powered' eg walking, cycling, scootering.
- **Carbon**: Generic climate term often used as a shorthand for carbon dioxide.
- **Carbon dioxide (CO_2)**: A long-lived greenhouse gas, produced by burning fossil fuels, which stays in the atmosphere for hundreds to thousands of years.
- **CO_2-e**: Refers to 'carbon dioxide equivalent' which is used to describe the warming potential of different greenhouse gases compared to carbon dioxide over a specified period.
- **Decarbonise / decarbonisation**: The reduction of carbon dioxide emissions specifically, but often greenhouse gas emissions broadly.
- **Emissions**: Generic climate term often used as shorthand for greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Energy efficiency**: Using less energy to achieve the same or increased level of performance from machines and buildings that are powered by electricity or other fuels.
- **Energy security**: The concept of having an energy supply that is secure from disruption, whether political, economic, or environmental in nature.
- **Fossil fuels**: Natural fuels (oil, coal, and gas) formed in the geological past from the remains of living organisms. When used as fuel, they emit greenhouse gases.
- **Greenhouse gases (GHGs)**: Includes all atmospheric gases that trap heat and contribute to climate change. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O) and refrigerant gases (hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF_6)).
- **'Gross' emissions**: Total greenhouse gas emissions from human activity, such as burning fossil fuels.
- **Low carbon**: Term used to describe low levels of (but not necessarily zero) gross greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Methane (CH_4)**: A short-lived, but potent, greenhouse gas. It degrades in the atmosphere over decades but has a warming effect twenty eight times greater than CO_2 over 100 years.
- **'Net' emissions**: The overall balance between total greenhouse gases produced from human activity, minus greenhouse gases removed from the atmosphere.
- **Net zero**: Refers to balancing emissions to zero which means emissions produced by human activity and emissions removed from the atmosphere (eg using trees) are equal.
- **Offsets**: Actions or projects to reduce or remove emissions from the atmosphere which, from an accounting perspective, are then used to reduce the emissions footprint of an organisation or country. For example, an organisation may offset its emissions by buying carbon credits produced by planting trees.
- **Resilience**: The ability of a system, community, or society to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to the impacts of climate change, while maintaining essential functions and adapting to changing conditions.
- **Sequestration**: The process of capturing and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to reduce its impact on the climate. Trees, soil, wetlands, and the ocean sequester a significant amount of carbon dioxide.
- **Stationary energy**: This category of emissions is from energy used at fixed locations, such as electricity in buildings or burning fossil fuels for heat. Stationary energy can be contrasted with transport (non-stationary) energy.