

# Emissions Reduction Strategy


Building a more prosperous, healthier, low carbon Kāpiti



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Tree planting with the Kāpiti Horticulture Society, Raumati South School.

# Message from the Mayor

Addressing a changing climate and supporting households and businesses to build a more prosperous, healthier and low carbon Kāpiti is one of the Council's top priorities.

I'm very pleased to be sharing this strategy which sets out how we can work together to achieve our bold emissions reduction goals and collectively seize the benefits of decarbonisation.

For a long time, the Council has been demonstrating climate leadership by focusing on cutting its own emissions, which have reduced 72% since 2010. These efforts have helped to improve energy efficiency and reduce our operational expenditure. But the Council also has an important role to play in setting the local conditions to enable others to reduce emissions in ways that are ambitious, practical and affordable.

This strategy sets out the principles, pathways and partnership model that we will follow to help realise our collective goals and build a more prosperous, healthier and low carbon Kāpiti for everyone who lives and works in the district.

We've heard from people across Kāpiti who are concerned about climate change and are already taking action to reduce their emissions by shifting to low emissions transport options, electrifying their homes and businesses, and

minimising waste. We've also heard that our community wants to accelerate these efforts in ways that bring wider benefits, such as lowering our energy bills, improving health outcomes through warmer and drier homes, and promoting energy security by generating more power locally.

Our aspirational goal of a 'net zero' Kāpiti by 2040 will require ambition and commitment. Everyone has a role to play. The reality is that if we work together, we can shift the 'emissions dial' and reap the benefits. Our community is engaged and motivated, and we largely have the tools we need.

We look forward to working with you as our strategy is put into action.

Me mahi tahi tātou mō te oranga o te katoa.

We work together for the wellbeing of everyone.



**Mayor Janet Holborow**  
Kāpiti Coast District Council

# Purpose

## A more prosperous, healthier, low carbon Kāpiti

This is not your usual Council strategy – it is a proposal for collective action given the impact of our changing climate and the challenge it presents for our community, New Zealand Inc, and others.

Its purpose is to accelerate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by bringing the Council, residents and businesses across Kāpiti together to take focused and purposeful action. The Council has set an aspirational district-wide goal of being a 'net zero' emissions district by 2040.

You can see the summarised strategy-on-a-page on page 5 of this document.

## Reducing emissions comes with many benefits

This is much more than a strategy about emissions cuts and targets. Its core theme is maximising the economic, social and community benefits of decarbonisation for everyone who lives and works in Kāpiti.

Through public consultation on the draft version of this strategy, and other engagement including Vision Kāpiti, we have heard that the community wants to accelerate the amazing efforts to date and maximise the benefits of decarbonisation for households, businesses, and the Council.

These benefits include:

- Saving money on power and fuel bills through greater adoption of energy efficiency and zero emission technologies
- Greater energy security and resilience through increased use of local renewable energy and storage systems
- Improved community health from better insulated, warmer and drier homes, 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.



A family at Queen Elizabeth Park.

In short, this strategy is about delivering on community aspirations from Vision Kāpiti 2060 to create a more prosperous, healthier, low carbon Kāpiti through ambitious, practical, and affordable emissions reduction.

Reducing our emissions also means we'll be doing our part to lessen the impacts of a changing climate. In practical terms for Kāpiti, these impacts will be seen through more extreme storms, floods and droughts, so it's in our interests to do our bit.

## An enduring strategy for everyone in Kāpiti

This strategy is intended to support everyone in Kāpiti. It has been informed and shaped by community input, including what we heard through public consultation, and the long-term aspirations for our district that residents shared through Vision Kāpiti.

It recognises that we can all play a role, that success depends on working together as a community, and notes the Council's role in supporting action to happen.

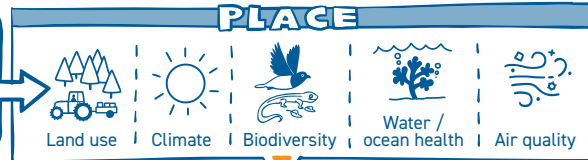
The success of the strategy will ultimately be dependent on the actions of everyone in the district. In practice, it will be the emissions reductions, tree-planting efforts, and offsetting decisions of individual households, businesses, marae, landowners, schools, and other organisations that will deliver a net zero Kāpiti.

To ensure this strategy continues to reflect the needs of the community and takes account of new opportunities and challenges, progress will be reviewed every 5 years and updates made as needed. Practical implementation will be through the actions of different parties. The Council will outline its activity and returns in a separate action plan that focuses on detailed, near-term action (3–5 years).

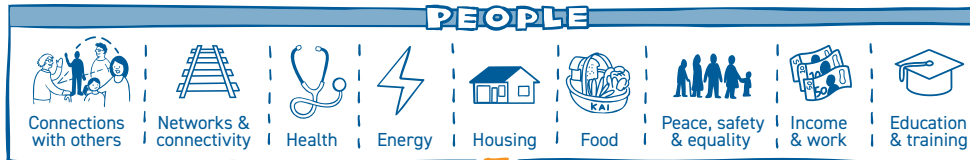


# KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT EMISSIONS REDUCTION STRATEGY

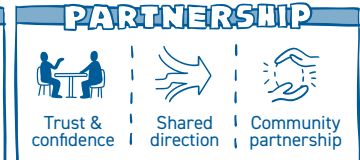
This strategy is informed by community feedback on our Vision Kāpiti Place, People, Partnership outcomes relating to climate change.



"Protect the unique Kāpiti environment that we value."



"Use the key levers we have effectively and efficiently, to improve how we live in our place."



"Be transparent and take everyone with you on the journey."

## YOU TOLD US:

You want to see a low carbon Kāpiti delivered in a way that protects what we value and maximises benefit for all.

2025

## WHERE ARE WE NOW?

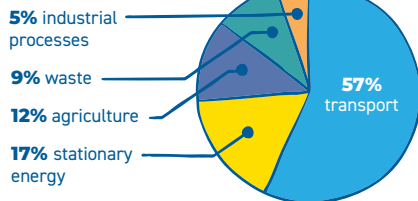
### What we've done:

- Cut the Council's emissions 72% since 2010
- Created Climate Emergency Action Plan, 2022
- In 2023 set aspirational goal for the district of 'net zero' emissions by 2040.

### What we know:

- 75% of residents concerned about climate change
- 63% support a district emissions target
- Action is already underway: district's emissions down 6% since 2018/19.

### Our district's emissions



### Opportunities and challenges

- Our community is engaged and motivated
- We have the tools and technologies to do the job
- We are reliant on regional and central government to drive big changes
- To ensure the transition is fair, some people will need more support.

## PURPOSE:

To create a more prosperous, healthier, low carbon Kāpiti

2025-2040

## WHERE NEXT FOR KĀPITI?

## KEY PATHWAYS FOR CHANGE

### Where we plan to focus

#### Transport

Transport emissions are our biggest challenge and opportunity. Regional and central government support is essential to cut emissions at scale.

### Key shifts required

Increase and electrify public transport; enable more cycling and walking; accelerate low/zero emission vehicle adoption.

#### Buildings and Energy

Emission reductions from buildings and energy are an opportunity to improve efficiencies and save money. The Council has various levers to enable and support change.

Improve building performance; electrify machinery; scale up residential/community solar and batteries.

#### Waste

Cutting waste emissions means less landfill pollution and smarter resource use. Community and business support for waste minimisation is key to success.

Divert organic waste from landfill; promote a waste-minimisation culture.

#### Sequestration

Growing more trees helps us achieve our net zero goal by offsetting some of the district's emissions. Any significant increase will need to be in line with community values.

Increase forestry in a way that enhances the environment; investigate the role of peatlands and wetlands in contributing to sequestration.

2040

## WHERE WE WANT TO BE

### What will success look like?

#### Low carbon transport is the new normal

- Public transport is frequent, affordable and electrified
- Many still travel by car, but most vehicles are electric or low emission
- Walking and cycling options are accessible, safe and plentiful, cutting road congestion.

#### Homes are healthier and bills are lower

- Buildings across Kāpiti are warm and dry in winter, cool in summer, and energy efficient
- Rooftop solar & battery systems are commonplace. Bills are lower and household energy security & resilience has grown.

#### Smarter resource use has cut emissions and costs

- We produce less waste by reducing, reusing, repairing and recycling
- A more 'circular' economy has increased efficiencies and reduced costs.

#### Forest cover has increased

- Existing forests are well managed and new forests help to improve environmental outcomes as well as sequester carbon.

## PRINCIPLES

Be fiscally responsible

Focus on greatest gross emission reductions opportunities

Lead where the Council can

Advocate wherever needed

Set ambitious 'SMART' objectives

Ensure a just transition

Incorporate mātauranga Māori

Take 'systems' approach

Engage, consult, enable partners

Amplify, not replicate

## PARTNERSHIPS

Iwi partners

Households

Businesses

Community groups/NGOs

Investors & developers

Regional Council

Other local councils

Central Government



Train station at Paekākāriki.

## Alignment with strategies, plans and funding

At a district level, this strategy aligns with other Council and community strategies including:

- Growth Strategy | Te Tupu Pai
- Sustainable Transport Strategy
- Open Space Strategy
- Housing Strategy
- Economic Development Strategy.

The Council will ensure that future strategies, notably those related to the environment, take account of this strategy.

To be effective, the pathways and actions will also need to align with related strategies, plans and funds at the national and regional level. These include:

- **Funding opportunities**, such as through private investment and partnership, and accessing national funds such as those administered by the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority (EECA) to reduce transport and energy emissions.
- **Emission Reduction Plans** released every five years by the Government. The latest ERP 2026–30 highlights the Government’s commitment to meeting New Zealand’s emission reduction targets, the importance of cost-effective action, and the Government’s plans to enable climate finance, innovation and technology.

- **National or regional strategies and plans**, such as the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee’s Regional Emissions Reduction Plan 2024–30, and the Wellington Regional Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2023–29, which includes targets to reduce kerbside waste by 30% and organic waste to landfill by 50%. These do not supersede local level plans but are informed by local priorities.

## Connected climate strategies

This strategy will be complemented in due course by connected strategies on:

- **Resilience/recovery**: how we respond to extreme climate and/or natural disaster events in the district
- **Adaptation**: how we respond to and plan for the long-term, permanent impacts of climate change.

### Net zero? Gross emissions? Low carbon? What’s the difference?

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

# Where we are now

## This strategy builds 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. These efforts are helping to create a more prosperous, healthier, low carbon Kāpiti.



For more information and case studies, visit the **'Reducing emissions for home and business'** page on the Kāpiti Coast District Council website.

## The Council's commitment to climate action

The Council started measuring and tackling its organisational emissions 15 years ago – one of the first councils in New Zealand to do so. Between 2009/10 and 2023/24, the Council's organisational emissions have been cut by 72%.

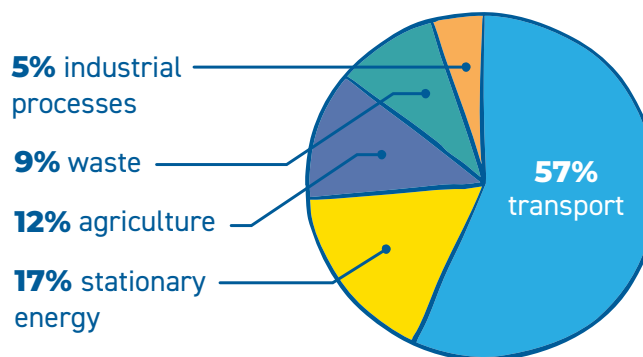
### With support from the community, the Council's other key climate actions include:

- 2019** Declaring a climate emergency.
- 2021** Adopting a Climate Emergency Action Framework.
- 2022** Publishing a Climate Emergency Action Plan and annual progress reports.
- 2023** Setting an aspirational goal to reduce emissions across the Kāpiti Coast district to net zero by 2040. Notably, this is not about the Council, but about community emissions as a whole.

## Kāpiti Coast District: Our carbon footprint

In 2023/24, the Kāpiti District's total 'gross' greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were around 315,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. Transport, stationary energy, and waste comprised 83% of the district's emissions footprint.

### Kāpiti Coast District sources of GHG emissions



Kāpiti district emissions have reduced 6% since the first regional emissions inventory was undertaken in 2018/19. This reduction has occurred even as the population has increased.

Forestry also plays an important part in reducing emissions because trees absorb and store (or 'sequester') carbon from the atmosphere. In 2021/22, district forests (mostly exotic pine, but also natives) sequestered around 78,000 tCO<sub>2</sub> net emissions,<sup>1</sup> equivalent to 27% of the district's total gross emissions for the year.

<sup>1</sup> 'Net' forestry emissions equal carbon stored by growing trees minus carbon removed in trees harvested during the year.

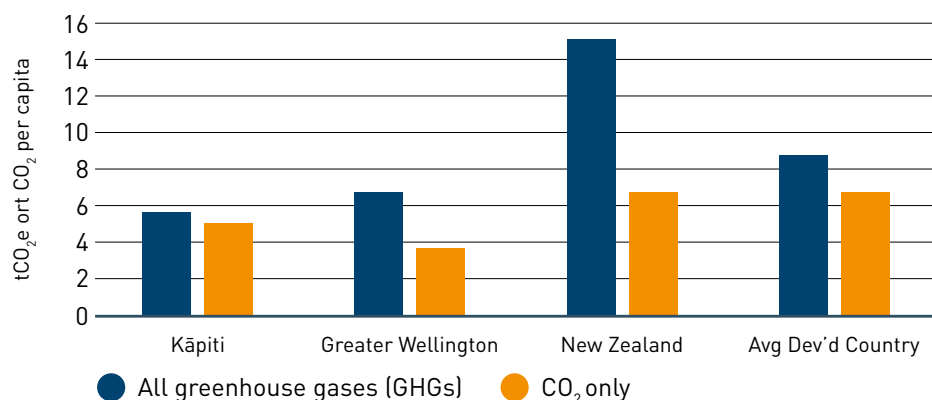


## How we compare with others

Kāpiti Coast's per capita emissions of all the greenhouse gases are around **5.6 tCO<sub>2</sub>e each year**. This is lower than the per capita average for the Greater Wellington Region and New Zealand (6.8t and 15t respectively).

The difference reflects the relatively low agricultural emissions in Kāpiti (12% of total), compared with 53% of New Zealand's emissions coming from agriculture. Accounting for carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) only, Kāpiti per capita emissions (5.0t) are above Greater Wellington (3.6t) but still below the New Zealand average (6.7t) as illustrated below.

### Per capita emissions comparison



For more detailed information about emissions in Kāpiti, see the **'Greenhouse gas emissions'** page on the Kāpiti Coast District Council website.

## Kāpiti is well-placed to seize the benefits of decarbonisation

Key reasons include:

- **Our emissions profile.** While transport is our biggest challenge, it's also our biggest opportunity to reap the benefits of decarbonisation.
- **Our engaged and motivated community.** People and businesses across Kāpiti are already taking action to reduce their emissions. In a 2022 Council survey, 58% of residents said they were prepared to take action to reduce their own emissions, and a further 27% were prepared to act depending on the costs and benefits.<sup>2</sup>
- **We have the tools we need.** Key emission reduction technologies, such as heat pumps, solar panels, and electric cars, bicycles, and buses, are declining in cost and are already cheaper to run than the fossil fuel technologies they replace. Many banks now offer zero or low interest 'green' loans to households and businesses to purchase these technologies.



Solar panels at the Ōtaki Wastewater Treatment Plant.

<sup>2</sup> Shifting to a low-carbon Kāpiti (2022) survey response report: [kapiticoast.govt.nz/media/acjlm4j1/shifting-to-a-low-carbon-kapiti.pdf](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz/media/acjlm4j1/shifting-to-a-low-carbon-kapiti.pdf)





Minimising food waste at Movies in the Park, Waikanae.

## But we have some challenges to navigate

Key constraints include:

- **Transition challenges.** It's tough out there, particularly in recessionary conditions. People have more limited resources, and others may still be in high emission jobs, meaning that it will be harder for some of us to shift to low carbon living. This strategy recognises the importance of a transition that is fair and equitable.
- **Levers to reduce emissions require collective commitment.** This strategy sets out the Council's role in accelerating decarbonisation but recognises that our community has a part to play if we're going to meet our ambitious goals.
- **Policy fluctuations at a national and regional level.** This strategy is about where we want to be in 2040, while recognising that specific government policies and funding priorities may change along the way. Effective relationships with the Government, regional councils, and other local councils are essential for successful strategy delivery.

**Overall, we think Kāpiti is well-placed to reduce emissions in ways that bring significant benefits for people, our local economy, and the environment. This strategy sets out where and how we can maximise these benefits.**



A community gathering at the Māoriland Hub, Ōtaki.

# Where we want to be

## Our aspirational goal is a net zero Kāpiti by 2040

Through surveys, Vision Kāpiti, and engagement on the draft version of this strategy, you have told us that you want to work with the Council to create a more prosperous, healthier, low carbon place to live.

The Council has already taken a key step towards this by setting an aspirational 2040 'net zero' emissions goal for the district. Under this strategy, net zero means cutting the Kāpiti Coast's emissions as close to zero as possible and 'offsetting' any remaining through increased carbon sequestration, primarily through increased forest cover. Reducing emissions to net zero will:

- bring a range of benefits and opportunities for Kāpiti
- mean we are playing our part to minimise the impacts of climate change.

Progress to achieve this aspiration will be influenced by everyone's efforts.

## Benefits and opportunities: It is in our interests to decarbonise

In 2024, the Climate Change Commission (the Commission) advised the Government that it was possible to rapidly reduce emissions while still growing New Zealand's economy and creating a range of co-benefits in the process, including:<sup>3</sup>

- better health outcomes
- direct cost-savings over time
- improved energy security through reduced reliance on imported fossil fuels
- increased efficiencies, productivity, and innovation
- avoiding the risk of a harsher, more costly transition in future.

These benefits are expected to be significant. Improving air quality by decarbonising transport, for example, could lead to health benefits worth \$2.1 billion per year nationally by 2040. Further health benefits can be realised by making homes warmer and drier, and by increasing the uptake of active transport. Rapidly electrifying homes, vehicles and businesses, meanwhile, could lead to total savings of \$10.7 billion a year nationally by 2040, according to separate analysis.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Climate Change Commission, *Advice on Aotearoa New Zealand's fourth emissions budget* (Nov 2024); Climate Change Commission, *Review of the 2050 emissions target including whether emissions from international shipping and aviation should be included* (Nov 2024).

<sup>4</sup> Rewiring Aotearoa, *Investing in Tomorrow: the electrification opportunity* (Aug 2024).



## What might a prosperous, healthier, low carbon Kāpiti look like?

If we follow the Commission's advice and apply it to Kāpiti, we can begin to imagine what our district might look and feel like in 2040 across key sectors:



**Transport:** We have more options to get around, which means more mobility and community connection. Public transport by bus and train is reliable, affordable, and frequently used. Those who want to can safely walk and cycle around the district, meaning less congestion for other road users. Many still travel by car but the majority are electric, and the remaining are far more fuel-efficient. Freight increasingly uses clean technology and alternative fuels to reduce costs.



**Buildings and energy:** Buildings across Kāpiti are warm, dry and energy efficient. Uptake of affordable rooftop solar and community solar is helping to reduce energy bills and increase energy security and resilience.



**Industry:** A shift towards sustainable consumption leads to more innovation and support for local business. Energy efficiency improvements not only reduce emissions but help to improve businesses' bottom line.



**Waste:** Households and businesses produce significantly less waste, and are smarter about reusing, repairing, and recycling what we already have. This includes recovering resources such as construction material, food scraps and green waste.



**Land use:** Urban areas are denser, creating vibrant, compact and better-connected communities. Total green space and forestry coverage is increasing, in line with community values.



**Mātauranga Māori** has helped shape our actions to ensure a holistic, integrated approach reflecting te ao Māori principles.



**People and businesses in Kāpiti are already seizing the benefits of decarbonisation.** For more information and case studies, see the '**Reducing emissions for home and business**' page on the Kāpiti Coast District Council website.



Te Ara Whetū, the new library hub for Waikanae, is being developed as an exemplar of sustainable building practices. Te Ara Whetū ki Uta, ki Tai means the passage of stars from the mountains to sea and was gifted by Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai to recognise the heritage, significance and uniqueness of the building's location.



# How we get there

Let's get down to business – to maximise the benefits from decarbonisation and achieve our aspirational 2040 net zero goal we need to focus our collective efforts and raise our ambition.

That's going to require an approach based on common:

- **Principles:** guiding our actions and decisions
- **Pathways:** prioritising where we focus collective effort to maximise reducing emissions at source (primarily transport, energy and waste)
- **Partnerships:** working together with mana whenua, communities and businesses, as well as the Government and other councils.

## Principles

Principles are intended to act as 'guardrails' for working together to drive change. They provide guidance without being prescriptive, allowing those delivering practical activities, whether in transport, energy, or waste, to choose how best to achieve outcomes.

Some of the principles are specific to reducing emissions, while others are more generally applicable.

Principles	What it means...
Be <b>fiscally responsible</b>	... using funding for climate action wisely, in an affordable way. For the Council, this means in ways that maintain or improve service delivery and help cut operating and debt service costs.
Focus on <b>greatest gross emissions reduction</b> opportunities	...this has more co-benefits, including economic innovation, transformation and more sustainable growth, maximises the impact of limited resources (time, people, funding), and reduces risk of relying on emissions offsetting to achieve net zero.
<b>Lead</b> where the Council can	...the Council 'walks the talk' and leads, directly or indirectly, to unlock climate action by others.
<b>Advocate</b> where needed	... the needs of our district are shared with national and regional government decision-makers.
Be <b>ambitious and 'SMART'</b> when setting objectives	...the urgency of climate change demands we move quickly, with purpose and aligned with the latest science, so objectives must be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timebound ('SMART').
Incorporate <b>mātauranga Māori</b>	...the knowledge of mana whenua brings a unique and holistic approach to climate action.
Apply a <b>just transition</b> lens to all our actions	... taking a pragmatic approach allows people to engage on their terms ensuring that change is sustainable, fair and considers the impact for current and future generations (ie helps to address, not embed, existing inequalities).
Take a <b>'systems' approach</b>	...climate change is complex, interconnected, and dynamic. Actions must be well designed to deliver integrated, adaptive solutions that capture multiple benefits and avoid unintended consequences.
<b>Engage, consult, &amp; enable</b> partners	... to succeed, the Council and others must work with, learn from, and enable each other, including our most vulnerable, to help leverage greater change through education and grant funding initiatives.
<b>Amplify not replicate</b> the work of others	... champion and promote the good work of others to accelerate positive change. For clarity, the Council can't and doesn't need to do everything.

## Pathways

### To make the most impact, we want to target gross emissions

Our strategy, based on Climate Change Commission analysis, is to maximise the benefits of decarbonisation by prioritising reducing emissions at source.

Getting slightly technical for a moment – this ‘gross’ emission reduction approach can be contrasted with a ‘net’ approach that focuses on carbon sequestration, such as planting trees and restoring wetlands. Both will be required to achieve net zero. However, our priority is to reduce gross emissions as much as possible and then use sequestration to offset any difficult remaining emissions.

### Our primary focus will be on transport, energy and waste

We have identified that we can make the most impact in reducing emissions by targeting transport, energy and waste as priority sectors because:

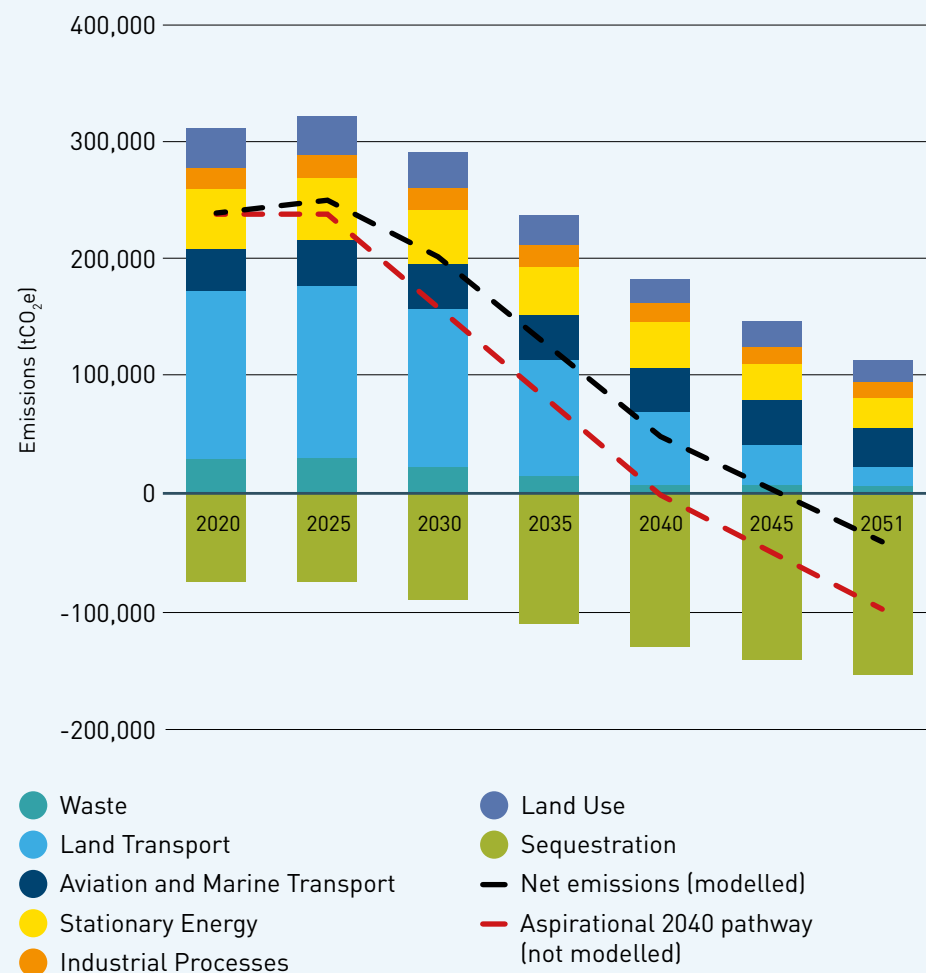
- They represent 83% of the Kāpiti Coast district’s emissions; and
- Decarbonising these sectors will bring significant co-benefits.

### Modelling has informed our ambition

The Council’s modelling indicates that taking action in line with the Climate Change Commission’s ‘demonstration pathway’ (dark blue dotted line in figure on the right) would enable the Kāpiti Coast to achieve net zero by 2045 – a significant achievement.

This strategy, however, sets a higher level of ambition with our aspirational net zero 2040 goal. How we bridge this difference in ambition is currently uncertain but will most likely occur through a combination of behavioural change, emerging solutions and new technologies that could enable faster and cheaper decarbonisation between now and 2040.

### Emissions by sector





A mother and daughter using the Kāpiti cycle network, which stretches from Ōtaki to Paekākāriki.

## Pathways to a more prosperous, healthier, low carbon Kāpiti

The world around us is changing all the time and we need to be able to respond as new opportunities emerge. Getting to net zero will be a journey, with several phases, rather than a short-term sprint to an end destination. Given this dynamic environment, and to avoid locking us into a particular course of action, the following pathways provide a clear direction of travel, while being sufficiently flexible and high-level that we can consider a range of options to achieve our goals.

Getting from where we are now, to where we want to be in 2040, is going to require commitment from our communities. The reality is that if we work together, our collective efforts will make a difference.

If we all do what we can every day, we can shift the 'emissions dial' and reap the benefits.



For more information about actions already underway, see the Council's website including Climate Emergency Action progress updates at **What we're doing – Kāpiti Coast District Council**. There's heaps of chances to get involved!

## Pathway: Transport

### Key shifts for our district

#### How we move around:

- Increase uptake of walking, cycling and public transport
- Reduce travel demand through smart town planning
- Enable more people to work locally or from home.

#### Low emission vehicles:

- Improve fuel efficiency
- Increase the uptake of electric / low emission cars, trucks, buses and trains, and alternative means for getting around.

### Council-specific focus

- District planning
- Infrastructure provision
- Enable community action, eg information, education and funding
- Advocate to central and regional government
- Reduce the Council's emissions, incl supplier emissions.

### Examples of current areas of collective focus

- Developing town centre design plans that include a low carbon focus (the Council, community, planners, developers)
- Enabling active transport through safe and connected footpaths, shared paths and cycle lanes (the Council, NZTA)
- Advocate to provide for low emission transport improvements (the Council, NZTA, MoT, Kiwirail, GWRC).



### Pathway: Energy and buildings

#### Key shifts for our district

##### Building performance:

- Design and upgrade buildings to be warm, dry and more energy efficient.

##### Local renewable energy:

- Increase uptake of residential/community alternative energy solutions, particularly solar panels and batteries.

##### Move on from fossil fuels:

- Substitute coal, oil and gas with efficient electric or low emission options.

#### Council-specific focus

- Partner with business and the energy sector to support and encourage development and innovation of renewable energy
- Administer building regulations
- Infrastructure provision
- Enable community action, eg information, education and funding
- Advocate to central and regional government
- Reduce Council emissions, incl supplier emissions.

#### Examples of current areas of collective focus

- Working to reducing local businesses' emissions (Local business, Pakihi Toitū o Kāpiti – the Council's sustainable business network)
- Building new and maintaining existing healthy homes and buildings (the Council, MHUD, developers, builders, landlords)
- Committing to solar upgrades (the Council, developers, homeowners).

### Pathway: Waste

#### Key shifts for our district

##### Minimise waste:

- Refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle, recover.

##### Landfill:

- Divert organic waste from landfill and improve gas capture.

#### Council-specific focus

- Administer waste bylaws
- Enable community action, eg information, education and funding
- Advocate to central and regional government and work with neighbouring councils that help to manage waste from Kāpiti
- Reduce the Council's waste and include waste targets in the Council's procurement contracts.

#### Examples of current areas of collective focus

- Educate/understand, support community initiatives (the Council, GWRC, community groups and organisations (eg, Otaihangā Zero Waste, Love Your Compost, Zero Waste Education, Enviroschools), community, local businesses, builders, developers).

## Sequestration will play a role in getting us to net zero

Even with ambitious efforts to reduce gross emissions, our aspirational net zero target assumes we will not be able to eliminate all district emissions by 2040. This is because in some areas, such as air travel, zero emission solutions are unlikely to be available or cost-effective. Any remaining emissions will need to be offset.

In practice, offsetting decisions sit with individuals, businesses and organisations (including the Council) that hold responsibility for their own emissions. There are two main ways that people and entities can offset remaining emissions:

- Purchasing offset credits from New Zealand or overseas carbon markets
- Sequestering carbon themselves, such as by planting trees and restoring wetlands.

Of these two options, this strategy focuses on increasing carbon sequestration within the district, through forestry or other options such as wetland restoration, to offset the district's residual emissions. For example, the Council's role is to help create the local conditions for increased sequestration, and to support interested parties to invest and work together. Households and businesses can also support this step through tree planting or contributing funding to support others to do so.

Increased sequestration within the district could bring environmental, social and economic benefits. When planting new trees, there are many factors to consider, including choosing the right type of tree and managing the risk of fire, pests and storm damage.

The Council is committed to undertaking further analysis to identify cost-effective and beneficial sequestration opportunities on the Kāpiti Coast. This includes preserving existing forests and wetlands where appropriate, and monitoring research at a national level to better understand and measure the carbon sequestered by a range of sources, such as peat soils.

### Pathway: Sequestration

<b>Key shifts for our district</b>	<b>Increase carbon sequestration across the district:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alongside our mana whenua partners, and in line with community values.</li></ul>
<b>Council-specific focus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• District planning (ensuring mitigation of risk and opportunity of forestry and wetland restoration remains balanced)</li><li>• Land use decisions about Council-owned land</li><li>• Support private landowners with their land use decisions</li><li>• Enable community action, eg information, education and funding</li><li>• Advocate to central and regional government.</li></ul>
<b>Examples of current areas of collective focus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Restoration (the Council, community groups, GWRC)</li><li>• Protecting existing natural areas (the Council, community groups, GWRC, MfE, DoC)</li><li>• Regenerative agriculture (the Council, local business, mana whenua).</li></ul>

## How we will measure and report on progress

To track progress towards our district-wide aspirational net zero 2040 goal, we will regularly measure and report on the shifts in emissions, and the co-benefits associated with reducing emissions, across the Kāpiti Coast district. This data will be used to review the efficacy of not only the Council's existing or new actions, but to also how your efforts are contributing too.

We will also continue to provide regular progress updates on all Council's actions to contribute towards meeting our collective climate-related goals.

## Partnerships and collaboration

Growing strong and effective partnerships is important for successful implementation of this Strategy. The best environmental outcomes happen when we work together. This means building strong, respectful relationships between government, business and the community – not just focusing on individual projects or goals.

### **The Council will lead where it can ...**

The Council leads in areas that it has mandate for (eg in legislation) including through its planning powers, working alongside business and investors to support innovation, advocacy to regional and central government, by continuing to cut its own emissions, education and awareness-raising, and creating the right local conditions for low carbon action.

### **... but we need to work together because everyone has a role to play**

We're committed to supporting and amplifying the valuable work already being done by community groups, iwi, and other organizations, rather than duplicating efforts or imposing top-down solutions.

Households, local iwi, businesses, community groups, NGOs, other local councils and partners in regional and central government all have important roles to play towards creating a prosperous, healthier, low carbon Kāpiti.

### **Key enablers**

These shifts in transport, energy, waste and sequestration will require different entities pulling the levers available to them. Key enablers include:

- Working together to access funding and financing opportunities
- Supporting innovation and uptake of low emission technology
- People and businesses being supported to acquire the new knowledge and skills to operate in a low carbon future.



The Rau Kūmara solar farm at the Ōtaki Wastewater Treatment Plant was setup in 2020 with Wellington Community Trust funding. The solar farm is operated by Energise Ōtaki and revenue goes to the Whakahiko Ōtaki-Energise Ōtaki Fund to support 'energising' community projects.





Forests, wetlands and soils can sequester significant amounts of carbon.

## Key partnerships

- **Iwi partners** – Te Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai, Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, and Ngāti Toa Rangatira are the most important partners in environmental stewardship. Their traditional knowledge and guardianship role (kaitiakitanga) are essential for good environmental management. They also help with driving emissions reduction across iwi and hapū, households, properties, and businesses.
- **Community groups and NGOs** – Community groups help drive practical grass roots ideas in local communities. They advocate to the Council on local climate concerns and help amplify and communicate climate information in local communities.
- **Government partners** – Regional councils, the Department of Conservation, and central government agencies coordinate efforts and advocate for better policies. This includes collaborating on cross-boundary climate issues and sharing ideas and best practices.
- **Residents and businesses** – Every person and business in Kāpiti has a role to play in reducing emissions. Small actions at home and at work by many people add up to big results. More than 70 local businesses have joined the Pakihi Toitū o Kāpiti network, showing their commitment to improving sustainable business practices, in terms of lower ecological and emissions footprints.

## How we'll strengthen partnerships together

- **Regular communication** – maintaining regular contact with all partners through meetings, workshops, and informal check-ins.
- **Shared decision-making** – involving partners in planning and decision-making processes, especially iwi partners, including through Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti.
- **Resource sharing** – sharing information, expertise, and sometimes funding to help partners contribute to collective goals.
- **Celebrating success** – recognise and celebrate the great work being done by partners and share each other's success stories to inspire future action.

# Glossary

- **Active travel:** Any form of travel that is 'person-powered' e.g. walking, cycling, scootering.
- **Adaptation:** Actions that can help people or natural systems adjust to the actual or expected impacts of current and future climate change. Actions can be incremental, temporary, or transformational depending on the scale and pace of impacts.
- **Carbon:** Generic climate term often used as a shorthand for carbon dioxide.
- **Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>):** A long-lived greenhouse gas, produced by burning fossil fuels, which stays in the atmosphere for hundreds to thousands of years.
- **CO<sub>2</sub>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 service across the many activities and/or infrastructure that uses 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<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) and gases referred to as refrigerants (hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>)).
- **'Gross' emissions:** Total greenhouse gas emissions from human activity, such as burning fossil fuels.
- **Just transition:** Making sure that no one is left behind and that the benefits are shared widely as we transition to a low carbon Kāpiti. Often used interchangeably with 'fair' or 'equitable' transition.
- **Low carbon:** Term used to describe low levels of (but not necessarily zero) gross greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Mātauranga Māori:** Translates to Māori knowledge, wisdom, understanding, and skill, encompassing the traditions, concepts, and worldviews of Māori.
- **Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>):** 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<sub>2</sub> over 100 years.
- **Mitigation:** Human actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at source, or by doing things that absorb and store carbon (also known as sequestration).
- **'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.
- **Te Ao Māori:** Translates to the Māori world view and encompasses a deep respect for nature and a holistic understanding of the interconnectedness between humans and the environment.

