



It's time, Canterbury!

The Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan

Kua tae te wā, Waitaha

Te Mahere Huringa Āhuarangi o Waitaha

Local government climate actions for Canterbury 2024-2027

**It's time,
Canterbury**
Our climate change
conversation

CANTERBURY
Mayoral Forum



Tekapo Bridge. Supplied by: Mackenzie District Council

It's time, Canterbury – Let's act now for a liveable prosperous future

***Kua tae te wā, Waitaha - Me whakarite
ināianeī kia ora rawa te apōpō!***

**Foreword from the Chair of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum
– Mayor Nigel Bowen and Chair of the Canterbury Climate
Action Planning Reference Group – Mayor Dan Gordon.**

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time, and it affects us all. To tackle climate change and its impacts effectively, we know we must work together. By joining forces and taking bold, collective climate action here in Waitaha/Canterbury, we unlock a multitude of benefits for our communities and can even transform risks into opportunities.

All 11 councils in Canterbury have worked together to develop this plan – the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan - which sets out how we intend to work together and with others to support our transition to a thriving, climate-resilient, low-emissions region. Every council in Canterbury is already involved with climate action in their city, district, or region. The Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan doesn't detract from that work. Instead, this plan joins the dots, enabling us to align our work programmes, create efficiencies, and provide regional solutions to shared problems.

In drafting this plan, we've sought to get the best 'bang for buck' for Canterbury residents while accelerating the scale and pace of climate action for current and future generations. The ten climate actions in this plan are the key first steps in our journey towards a sustainable future. It's time to work together, Canterbury.



Mayor Nigel Bowen
*Chair, Canterbury
Mayoral Forum*



Mayor Dan Gordon
*Chair, Canterbury Climate
Action Planning Reference Group*





He Whakataukī Ārahi o Ngāi Tahu

*Ko ngā maunga, ko Te
Tiritiri o Te Moana*

Ko Aoraki te Kaihautū

*Ko ngā awa, ngā awa huka
e rere ana ki te moana*

*Ko te whenua, Ngā Pākihi
Whakatekateka o Waitaha
Tihei mauri ora!*

*The mountains are the
Southern Alps,
watched over by Aoraki;*

*The rivers are the snow-fed
rivers whose waters flow out
to the ocean;*

*The land of the Canterbury
Plains is where people walk
proudly.*

*Listen up – our life force
is alive!*

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Canterbury Climate Change Working Group

Canterbury Climate Action Reference Group

Elected members and staff from partnering councils:

Christchurch City Council

Ashburton District Council

Hurunuī District Council

Kaikōura District Council

Mackenzie District Council

Selwyn District Council

Timaru District Council

Waimakariri District Council

Waimate District Council

Waitaki District Council

Environment Canterbury Regional Council

Canterbury Climate Change Working Group and Reference Group Secretariat and Project Lead

Canterbury Mayoral Forum Secretariat

Environment Canterbury Climate Change and Community Resilience Team

Community & Public Health Te Mana Ora

It's time, Canterbury project team and Communications Sub-group

Any key stakeholders or people generous with their time developing and reviewing the document.

Mana whenua

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum acknowledges Ngāi Tahu as the mana whenua of Waitaha; the 10 Papatipu Rūnanga of Waitaha who hold rangatiratanga over their takiwā, and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, the tribal authority.

We also acknowledge the Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment Rūnanga Project Steering Group, Environment Canterbury Regional Council's Tumo Taiao at the time, and the TUIA team, who were instrumental in shaping the base to inform this Plan.

We also wish to acknowledge Benita Wakefield who sadly passed away in 2023, but who was instrumental in shaping the Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment - Moe mai rā e te māreikura.



Executive summary

Whakarāpopotonga

Whakahaere

Councils in Canterbury have joined forces to deliver bold climate actions in Canterbury/Waitaha.

All 11 councils in Canterbury have worked together to develop the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan which sets out how we intend to work together and with others to support our transition to a thriving, climate-resilient, low-emissions region.

The Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan sets out our vision of a thriving, climate resilient, low-emissions Canterbury. There are six key outcomes and objectives we are seeking through delivery of our ten primary actions and supporting sub-actions. We have developed eight principles which underpin the development and implementation of this plan. These are the values by which we will approach collective climate action in Canterbury.

In June 2024, councils agreed to fund regional collective climate actions through their Long-Term Plans 2024-34 and a total of \$1.47 million has been confirmed for the first 3 years. Further funding beyond the initial three years will be sought through future annual and long-term plan reviews, and by identifying and taking advantage of co-funding opportunities with key stakeholders.



Strategic framework

Anga Rautaki

Vision Te Tirohanga

Our collective purpose and guiding star for climate action in Canterbury

A thriving, climate resilient, low-emissions Canterbury

Principles Ngā Mātāpono

The values by which we will approach climate action in Canterbury

Treaty based

Solutions focused

Collaborative

Inclusive

Equitable

Informed

Intergenerational

Bold

Outcomes Ngā Putanga

The desired future state for Canterbury in a changing climate



A healthy environment

Our healthy environment enables our communities to thrive.



An equitable and inclusive transition

Our communities are empowered through an equitable and inclusive transition to a low-emissions and climate resilient future.



Prosperity

Our environmental, cultural, economic, and social wellbeing is improved by identifying and taking early opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change.



Adapted and resilient communities

Our communities are resilient and have the necessary infrastructure, knowledge, and tools they need to adapt to climate change.



Emissions reduction

Greenhouse gas emissions reductions are achieved in line with our national and international commitments at a minimum.



Climate action leadership

Canterbury is a leader in climate change mitigation, adaptation, and inclusive climate action planning promoting the four wellbeings.

Objectives Ngā Whāinga

What we want to achieve through regional joint climate action

Objective one

To work with science, nature and Mātauranga Māori to reduce climate vulnerability and improve resilience.

Objective two

To enable transformational action in an inclusive and equitable way.

Objective three

To maximise co-benefits and identify opportunities for co-funding and financing climate actions.

Objective four

To inform and empower communities to be prepared, improve their resilience and adapt to climate change.

Objective five

To collaborate with communities to use available solutions and encourage behaviour change to achieve a smart, innovative, low-emissions future.

Objective six

To ensure climate change is prioritised in all local government decision making processes in Canterbury.

Regional climate actions

Mahi Āhuarangi a-Rohe

- 1** Understanding climate risks and improving resilience
Understand climate hazards and risks in Canterbury to support evidence-based decision making and improve regional resilience.
- 2** Emissions reduction
Work together across the region to build equitable, inclusive pathways, targets, and key actions to support New Zealand's commitments towards global greenhouse gas emissions reduction.
- 3** Adaptation planning
Support best practice approaches for local adaptation planning with communities taking a Treaty based approach.
- 4** Nature-based solutions
Facilitate the development of a Canterbury blue-green network to increase natural capital, indigenous biodiversity and offer nature-based solutions to climate change effects.
- 5** Climate change education and advocacy to support communities
Support community understanding about the local impacts of climate change and promote individual and collective climate action.
- 6** Supporting Papatipu Rūnanga
Support Papatipu Rūnanga with climate action and provide opportunities for their involvement with Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan projects.
- 7** Integrating climate change considerations into council processes
Work collaboratively to build local government capability and enhance its capacity to adapt in a changing climate.
- 8** Climate funding and financing
Identify and leverage co-funding and financing opportunities for climate adaptation and resilience.
- 9** Monitoring and evaluation
Monitor and report on progress towards achieving the actions and outcomes of the Partnership Plan.
- 10** Implementation
Assemble an implementation team to ensure the successful delivery and implementation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.

Waitaha Canterbury our region, our home

Waitaha, Tō Tātou Rohe,
Tō Tātou Kāinga

Situated on the eastern coast of New Zealand's Te Waipounamu South Island, the Canterbury region is renowned for its stunning landscapes, diverse ecosystems, strong economy, and vibrant communities.

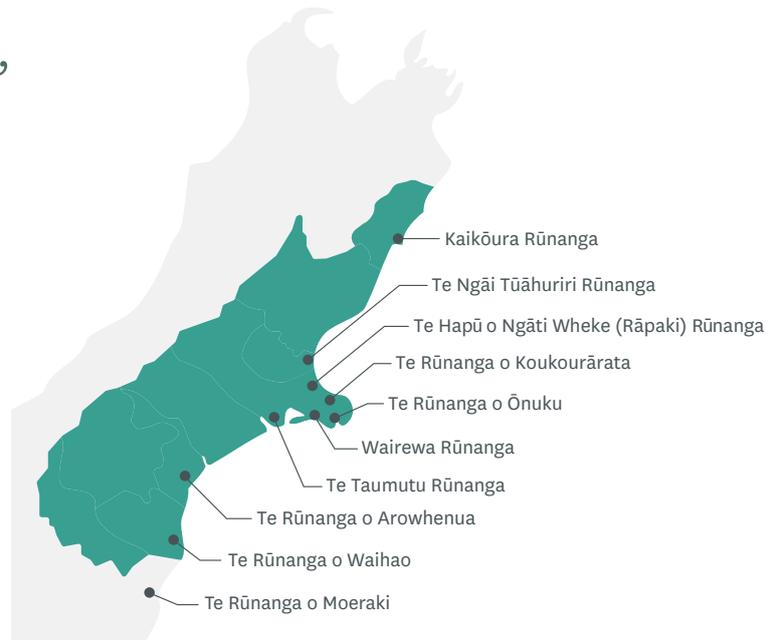
From the snowcapped peaks of Kā Tiritiri o Te Moana, the Southern Alps, to Kā Pakihi Whakatekateka o Waitaha, the Canterbury Plains, the region boasts a rich tapestry of natural history and cultural heritage. Canterbury is unique – it is New Zealand's largest region in area and its coastline is long and diverse, stretching from north of Kaikōura to the Waitaki River, with more than 4,700 lakes and tarns, and over 78,000 km of rivers and streams. Most of Canterbury's 599,694 residents¹ live near or on the coast. The population of Canterbury is projected to grow at the same rate of growth as Aotearoa New Zealand's total population, on average, 0.8% per year between 2018 and 2048.

Ngāi Tahu is the iwi of Waitaha, Canterbury. There are ten papatipu rūnanga in Canterbury who are mana whenua within their takiwā.

Canterbury is already experiencing the effects of climate change. In recent years, we've seen droughts, floods, fires, changing rainfall patterns, extreme weather events and coastal erosion impacting our region. These events are happening with greater frequency and intensity. Our long coastline is also changing with slower onset changes such as sea level rise.

We know that Canterbury's climate will become warmer, wetter, windier and wilder.

These changes will affect us all and the things we value most: our people (he tangata), the environment (taiao) and biodiversity (rerenga rauropi), our infrastructure (ngā waihanga), our economy and prosperity (ōhanga),



our wellbeing (hauora), connection to place and sense of community (whakapapa and hapori). The wellbeing of some communities and individuals is likely to be more affected than others, particularly those who are already vulnerable because of economic, social, health and/or cultural reasons.

Rising temperatures will significantly affect our health (ora), land use, water (wai), energy (hihiri), food (kai) security, natural ecosystems, and recreation.

Canterbury councils see and deal with the impact of a changing climate first hand, including its impact on the environment, infrastructure, businesses, and people's lives. With commitment, collaboration, and planning, local government can lead and support communities in adapting to climate change, building resilience, and reducing their emissions.

Mayoral Forum Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum is the primary mechanism for local government communication, co-ordination and collaboration in Canterbury. Climate change mitigation and adaptation in Canterbury is one of the three priorities under the *Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025*.

¹ 2018 Census data about Canterbury Region retrieved from <https://www.stats.govt.nz/tools/2018-census-place-summaries/canterbury-region>.



Although the Mayoral Forum continues to advocate for governance and decision-making to be devolved to the level of government closest to affected communities, the challenge of taking effective and sustained climate action requires us to work together more than we ever have before.

For the Mayors of Canterbury, the overarching priorities for climate change are reducing our carbon footprint, working together on climate action planning, building community resilience, and making our infrastructure as strong as it can be. The Plan for Canterbury also highlights the importance we place on playing our part to ensure water, food, and energy security for the region.

The Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan

All Canterbury councils acknowledge that climate change is a significant, long-term challenge, and that we all share a role in adapting and driving solutions to this challenge. Canterbury councils are at different stages of strategy development and action planning and have varying resources available to implement action.

The Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan is about councils pulling together to help Canterbury thrive and prosper in a changing climate; it's our collective vision for a better future. This Plan is also a testament to councils' long-term commitment to working together to tackle climate change, serve our communities and safeguard our environment and the things we love for generations to come.

Importantly, the actions included in the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan are intended to complement, not duplicate or detract from, the climate efforts of individual councils. The Partnership Plan actions will enable councils to advance their own climate change knowledge and gain momentum with local action.

The benefits of regional collaboration on climate action

There are many benefits to taking regional climate actions. The challenge of climate change response means that we will only be successful if we strengthen our working relationships and help each other on this journey.

Regional leadership and community focus

Climate change will have significant physical, economic, and socio-cultural impacts on our communities. Partnering on climate action allows for joint leadership to address these issues and collectively improve the four wellbeings for Canterbury communities.

A united voice and enhanced influence

Our united voice carries greater weight in advocating for our region's needs to central government. By presenting a unified front, we can help shape legislation and policy and secure climate action funding and finance that aligns with our shared climate objectives.

Leveraging collective resources, sharing knowledge and expertise

Together, we possess a wealth of expertise, resources, and knowledge. By pooling our strengths, we can learn from each other and achieve far more than any one council could alone. From shared research and funding opportunities to coordinated projects, collaboration amplifies our regional impact.

Maximising efficiency

Reducing duplication of efforts and streamlining processes, collaboration allows us to achieve greater efficiencies in implementing climate initiatives across Canterbury. With coordinated efforts, we can achieve results faster and more effectively, delivering tangible benefits to our communities.

Fostering innovation

Collaboration sparks creativity and innovation. By sharing ideas and best practices, we can inspire new approaches to tackling climate challenges. Through collaborative research and pilot projects, we can experiment with cutting-edge solutions and pioneer new, sustainable ways of doing things.

Building resilience

Climate change does not stop at district or regional borders. By collaborating across councils and looking beyond to our neighbouring regions, we can develop comprehensive resilience strategies that protect all our communities from the impacts of extreme weather events, sea-level rise, and other climate-related risks.

Our changing climate

Tō Tātou Huringa Āhuarangi

Greenhouse gas emissions

For hundreds of years, human activities have released increasing amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. These gases trap heat from the sun, causing warming and resulting in a changing climate. Since the 1950s, greenhouse gas emissions have greatly accelerated and are now driving the significant levels of climate change that we are experiencing today.

There are two types of greenhouse gas emissions to consider - long-lived and short-lived gases.

Long-lived gases stay in the atmosphere over very long timescales after they have been produced. Carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide are examples of long-lived gases.

Short-lived gases remain in the atmosphere for less time than long lived gases but have a greater warming impact in the short term. Biogenic methane is an example of a short-lived gas.

Both long and short-lived greenhouse gases need to be reduced to successfully reach New Zealand’s climate change commitments.

The Canterbury Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (2021) is a key tool in our climate action work that will enable us to track changes to emissions over time, assess different mitigation options, and evaluate the effect of central and local government policies on regional emissions.

The Emissions Inventory (see Figure 1) shows us that agriculture produced around a quarter of the region’s long-lived greenhouse gases and most of the biogenic methane emissions, totalling around 61% of overall gross emissions. Stationary energy and transport each produced around a third of long-lived greenhouse gas emissions in Canterbury. Waste, and industrial processes and product use, each contributed relatively small amounts of greenhouse gases.

The best available scientific advice says that holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels is necessary to limit the most severe climate change effects.

Greenhouse gas emissions in Carbon dioxide equivalents

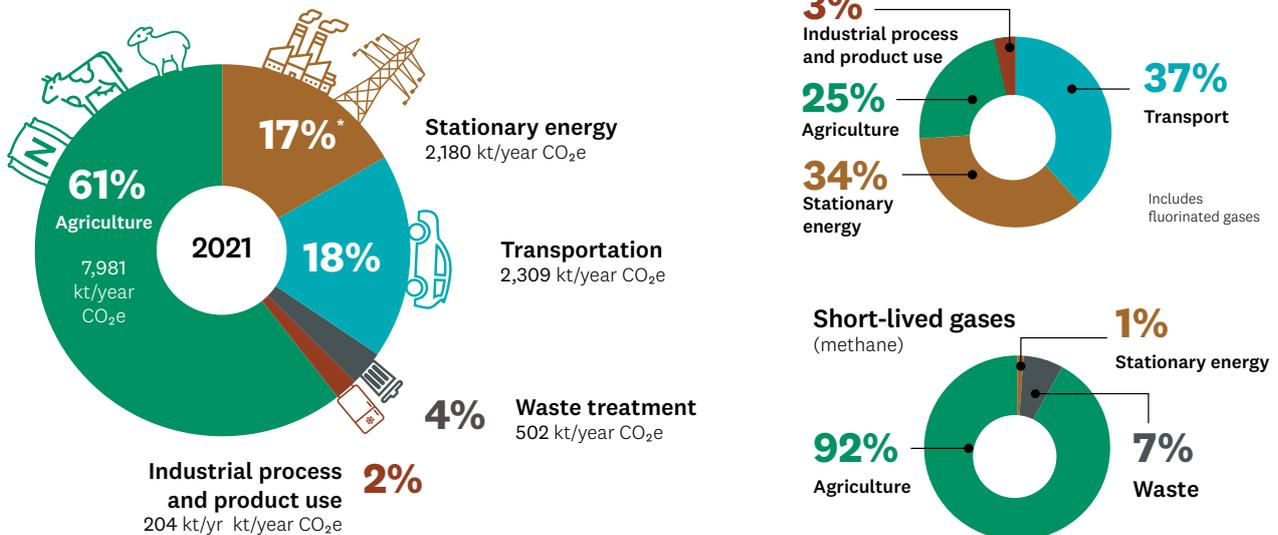


Figure 1: Canterbury’s greenhouse gas emissions, 2021. Note: inventory does not include sequestration. (NB. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number, so charts do not add to exactly 100%)

New Zealand, along with 195 other members of the United Nations, signed the Paris Agreement in 2015 to ensure that global warming is limited to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This agreement commits signatory countries to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change by reducing national greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with Nationally Determined Contributions.

Canterbury has an important role to play in contributing to national and global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere and we're not too small to make a difference. In fact, Canterbury, blessed with sun, water and wind, is well placed for a successful clean energy transition to a low-emissions future. We can also make big gains with emissions reduction by transitioning to more sustainable transport and agricultural practices.

The best action we can take to help mitigate the effects of global warming is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at source. In addition to this, we can also help remove carbon from the atmosphere by sequestering or storing carbon. However, even when we do reduce global emissions, some climate change effects, and their consequences, are already locked in due to the time lag between generating the emissions and the impacts being felt. This is why adaptation – taking action to prepare for and adjust to current and projected impacts of climate change – is also important.

Aotearoa New Zealand's emissions reduction targets and plans

Greenhouse gas emissions targets are limits that scientists and policy makers set in their plans to combat climate change. The aim is to halt the increasing emissions and their impact. Aotearoa New Zealand's first emissions reduction plan *Te hau marohi ki anamata (2022)* contains strategies, policies and actions for achieving our first emissions budget and contributing to global efforts to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Aotearoa New Zealand has made commitments to the following international and domestic emissions targets:

Domestic targets under the Climate Change Response Act (2022)²:

- Net zero³ emissions of all greenhouse gas emissions other than biogenic methane by 2050.
- 24 to 47 per cent reduction below 2017 biogenic methane emissions by 2050, including 10 per cent reduction below 2017 biogenic methane emissions by 2030.

Aotearoa New Zealand's emissions budgets set ambitious and achievable short-term targets that will put us on track to meet these commitments, and national emissions reduction plans lay out strategies, goals and actions to meet these budgets.



² www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2002/0040/latest/whole.html#DLM158590

³ Net zero emissions are achieved when anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere are balanced by anthropogenic removals over a specified period. (IPCC, www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/glossary/)



Climate risks in Canterbury

Canterbury is a large region, with varied geography and environments. This means that risks and impacts of climate change will occur in different ways across Canterbury, and direct and indirect risks⁴ will increase over time. Some risks will be experienced more often and more intensely in some districts and not in others. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum published the Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment in early 2022, which was designed to build a shared understanding of climate change risks across the region and to help us prepare and respond effectively. Figure 2 to the right illustrates some of the key risks which will be felt around the region. In the coming decades, many climate change risks to our region are anticipated to become high or extreme. Detailed information on climate risks and impacts in Canterbury can be found on the [Canterbury Mayoral Forum website](#).

⁴ Direct risks are those where there is a direct link between a hazard and an element at risk that is exposed and vulnerable e.g. droughts leading to crop failure. Indirect risks are risks that are not directly impacted by physical changes in climate e.g. impacts on mental health, disruptions to supply chains, social wellbeing, and cohesion. (MfE, 2021)

Urban Centres

For all communities, risks from climate hazards generally include damage to infrastructure from flooding, and disruption to transport routes and supply chains. Changing climate conditions also pose a risk to supporting utilities such as landfills and power supply.

Ōtautahi/Christchurch is our biggest city. It is a major social and economic hub for the Canterbury Region. The low lying, coastal position of much of the city makes it very exposed to flooding and sea level rise. This poses widespread risk to Christchurch's communities and infrastructure. There is a risk that community cohesion will reduce as a result of increasing climate related damages. People's physical and mental health may also be impacted by changing markets and job availability.

Canterbury Plains

The fertile lowlands of Canterbury are highly important to agriculture. An increasing temperature poses risk of increased heat stress in stock, as well as increases in the occurrence of pests and invasive species. Increased drought potential may introduce a range of stresses, including impacting on water availability. Increased storms, wind, and flooding may increase erosion, and damage crops, pasture, stock, and infrastructure.

Figure 2: Climate risks in the Canterbury (source Tonkin & Taylor (2022) Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment)

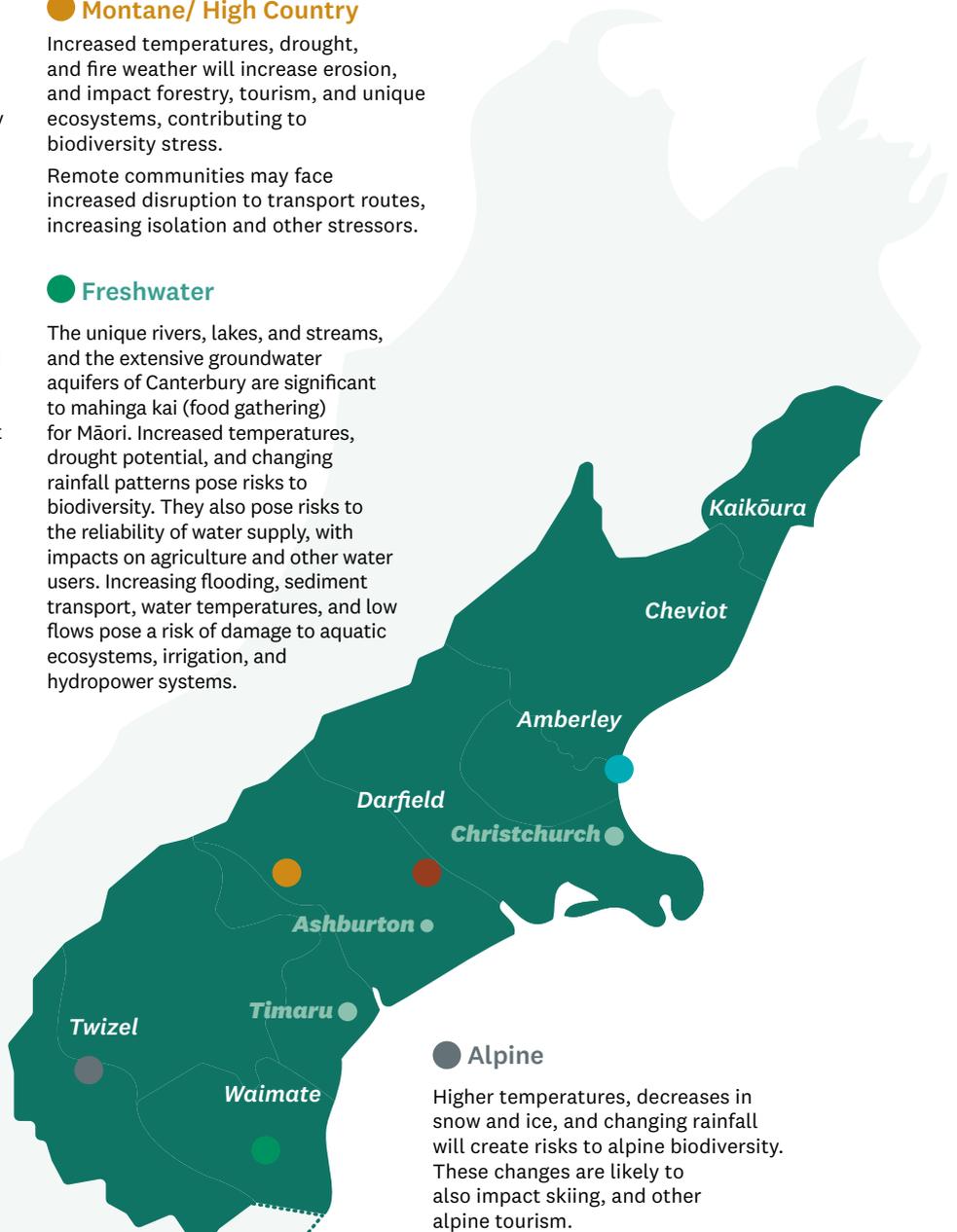
Montane/ High Country

Increased temperatures, drought, and fire weather will increase erosion, and impact forestry, tourism, and unique ecosystems, contributing to biodiversity stress.

Remote communities may face increased disruption to transport routes, increasing isolation and other stressors.

Freshwater

The unique rivers, lakes, and streams, and the extensive groundwater aquifers of Canterbury are significant to mahinga kai (food gathering) for Māori. Increased temperatures, drought potential, and changing rainfall patterns pose risks to biodiversity. They also pose risks to the reliability of water supply, with impacts on agriculture and other water users. Increasing flooding, sediment transport, water temperatures, and low flows pose a risk of damage to aquatic ecosystems, irrigation, and hydropower systems.



Alpine

Higher temperatures, decreases in snow and ice, and changing rainfall will create risks to alpine biodiversity. These changes are likely to also impact skiing, and other alpine tourism.

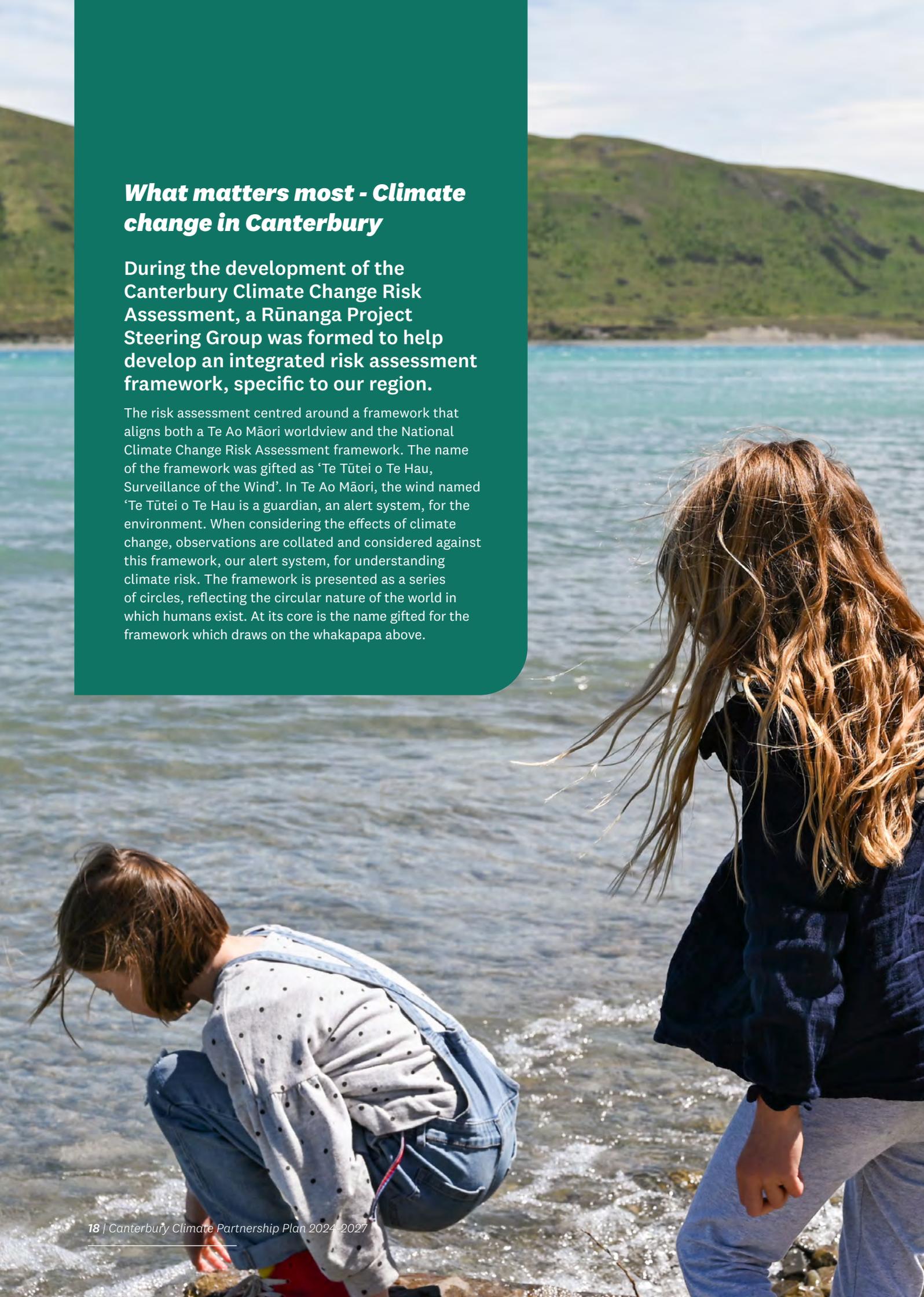
Coastal

As a result of sea level rise, ports, transport connections, coastal ecosystems, unique wetlands, and communities at the coastal fringe will be exposed to increasing risk of coastal flooding, salinity stress, and erosion. Changes in temperature and ocean chemistry will impact fisheries and marine ecosystems. This will result in increased mortality and changing populations of some species, and changes in behaviour patterns such as migration routes.

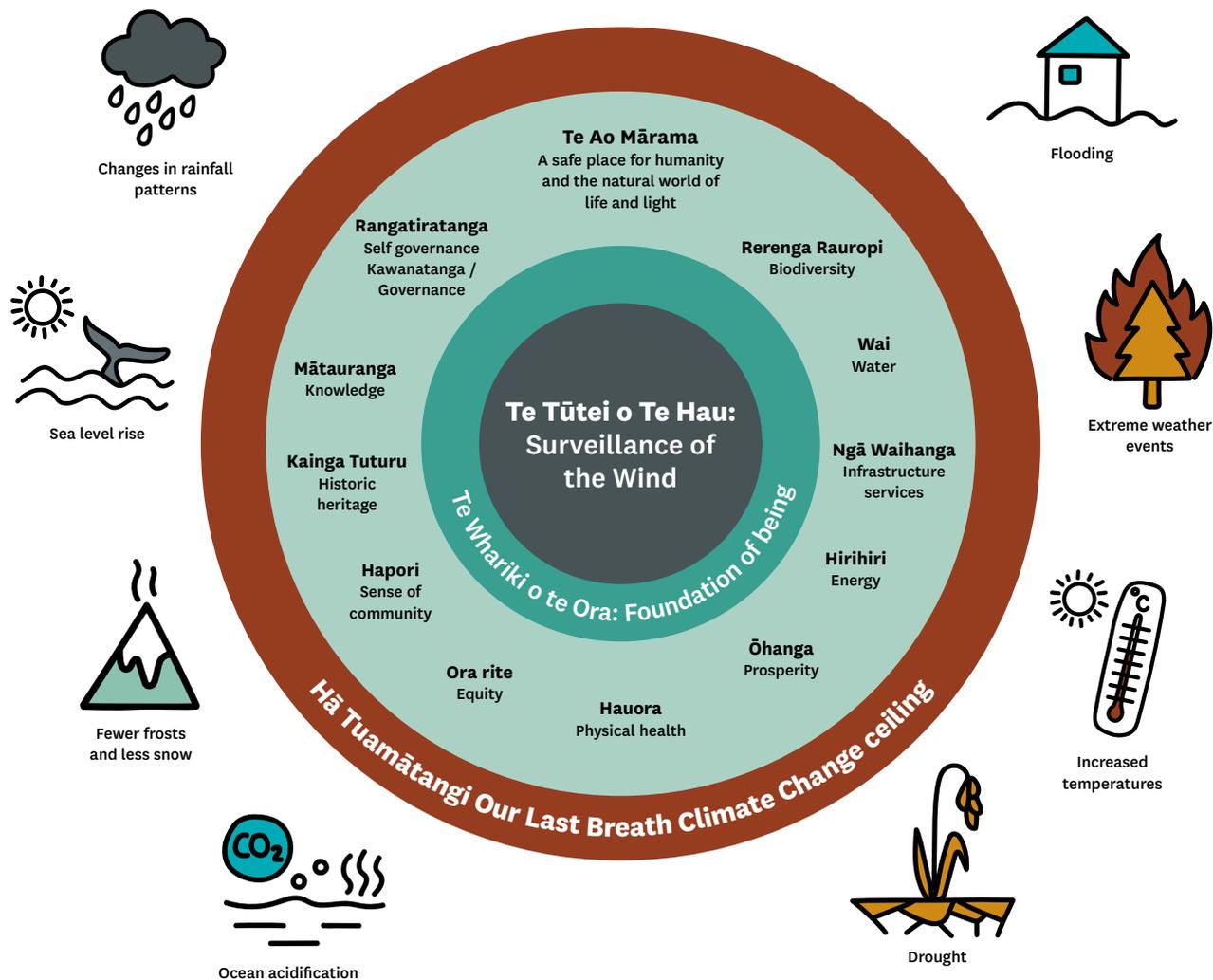
What matters most - Climate change in Canterbury

During the development of the Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment, a Rūnanga Project Steering Group was formed to help develop an integrated risk assessment framework, specific to our region.

The risk assessment centred around a framework that aligns both a Te Ao Māori worldview and the National Climate Change Risk Assessment framework. The name of the framework was gifted as 'Te Tūtei o Te Hau, Surveillance of the Wind'. In Te Ao Māori, the wind named 'Te Tūtei o Te Hau' is a guardian, an alert system, for the environment. When considering the effects of climate change, observations are collated and considered against this framework, our alert system, for understanding climate risk. The framework is presented as a series of circles, reflecting the circular nature of the world in which humans exist. At its core is the name gifted for the framework which draws on the whakapapa above.



Shown outside the rings are the key climate impacts that we face



Te Whāriki o te Ora

The dark green ring represents whakapapa, or genealogical connection, that extends from the spiritual realm to that of the human domain. It recognises that humans cannot exist without basic needs and a social foundation.

Te Ao Mārama

The light green ring represents the area in which humans can exist when we are functioning within the capacity of our ecosystems. Ngā pono (the values) identified within this circle are critical for us to understand and respond to when considering climate risk.

Hā Tuamātangi

The red ring represents the upper limit in which humans, environments and ecosystems can continue to exist. Beyond this boundary, it is no longer possible to respond to risks proactively.

This framework guided our thinking when developing collaborative climate actions in the region.

Working together for climate action in Canterbury

Mahi Tahī Hei Mahi Āhuarangi Ki Waitaha

Councils and Papatipu Rūnanga around Canterbury have been ramping up climate action efforts in their districts. Here is a snapshot of progress across the region.



Papatipu Rūnanga and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

Ngā Rūnanga and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu are undertaking climate action planning work in the region. The following initiatives outline some of the climate action works. However, the Mayoral Forum recognises that this is not an exhaustive list, as there are numerous ongoing efforts across the region.

- **Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu** has developed its Climate Change Strategy Te Tāhū o te Whāriki (Anchoring the Foundations) and Action Plan (Te Kounga Paparangi). Te Kounga Paparangi is grounded across eight pou. Emit no Greenhouse Gasses, Marae & Whānau Resilience, Careful Wai (Water) Use, Operations Do Not Harm Environment, Operations Do Not Harm Ecosystems, Eliminate Waste, Grow Renewable Energy and Education & Communication.
- **Ōnuku Rūnanga** has recently published Te Kori a Te Kō, a whānau-focused plan to integrate mahinga kai management with a climate change adaptation and mitigation plan in Akaroa harbour. Ōnuku Rūnanga have signalled their intent to collaborate widely on the implementation of this plan.
- **Te Taumutu Rūnanga** published their climate strategy in 2024 to empower Taumutu whānau to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The strategy centres around four pou (rangatiratanga, kaitiakitanga, ruahikihikitanga and oranga), and aims to build on the mahi whānau are already doing, like the possible relocation of the marae and restoration of the surrounding whenua.
- **Te Rūnanga o Koukourarata** is currently working with their whānau to develop their own marae-centred climate action plan, and alongside this, are also working in collaboration with Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury on climate adaptation planning in the wider Koukourarata and Whakaraupō area.
- Innovative Waste Kaikōura Ltd received a Ministry for the Environment Green Ribbon Award in 2002.
- The Council has taken part in a number of initiatives such as Green Globe 21 & Trees for Travellers.
- The council undertook a review of natural hazards within the district (excluding coastal hazards) in partnership with Environment Canterbury. Flood modelling considered the effects of climate change.
- In 2009, Council developed the 'A to B Carbon Free' – Kaikōura Walking and Cycling Strategy (up for renewal).
- The council developed a waste management and minimisation plan in 2021 which recognises the need for modification of residents purchasing practices by influencing through community education and advocacy to central government. This is up for review in 2024/25.
- The council has developed a draft climate change policy, which will be reviewed to ensure alignment with this Plan.



- Hurunui District Council tracked its emissions through greenhouse gas emissions inventories from 2018 to 2023.
- The council commissioned a Coastline Hazard and Risk Assessment report in 2020. This was followed by the Coastal Conversations project in 2020 to identify coastal hazards affecting communities in the district and to understand how these hazards will change over the next 100 years.
- Three out of five communities in the Coastal Conversations project have developed Coastal Adaptation Plans (CAPs) outlining approaches for managing risk to the settlement.
- The Council's Waste Management & Minimisation Plan 2023 outlines the goals to improve efficiency in the waste network, influence and encourage waste reduction in the community, and reduce harmful health impacts.
- Work is underway on an asset and infrastructure resilience project plan and risk assessment.
- Work is currently progressing on a climate change strategy and action plan to reduce council emissions, improve resilience in the council assets and infrastructure, and to lead by example within the community.
- The council's coastal adaptation project at Amberley Beach has won the New Zealand Planning Institute's supreme practice award for Climate Change in March 2024.
- Waimakariri District Council adopted a Climate Change Policy in 2020.
- The council developed the 'Waimakariri District Natural Hazards Interactive Viewer' to show results of the '2020 Jacobs Coastal Inundation Modelling' and other natural hazards. The modelling informs the proposed District Plan natural hazard rules such as avoidance of development in high hazard areas or mitigating flood impacts through establishing minimum floor levels.
- In 2020, the council adopted the Organisational Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan.
- To inform climate change planning, the council adopted the NIWA Waimakariri District Climate Change Scenario Report in 2022.
- The council's '3 Waters Infrastructure Climate Change Impact Assessment' and prioritisation of adaptation actions was completed in 2023.
- Climate change considerations are integrated with the 'Moving Forward: Waimakariri Integrated Transport Strategy 2035+', 'Waimakariri Economic Development Strategy 2024-34' and 'Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy: Our Environment Our Future 2024-2054'.
- In 2024, council began the development of the 'Waimakariri Resilience Explorer' risk assessment spatial platform.
- Moving forward, the council's 2024-27 agreed climate resilience programme of works includes completing organisational and district risk assessments, developing a District Climate Resilience Strategy, developing organisational and district sustainability and emissions reduction plans, and working with at risk communities to co-develop area-based climate adaptation plans.

- Christchurch was one of the first cities in New Zealand to declare a climate and ecological emergency in 2019, reflecting the importance of these issues for communities.
- In 2019, the council established the Coastal Hazards Adaptation Planning Programme to undertake planning with communities about the long-term future of coastal areas.
- The council is driving actions to reduce emissions and enhance resilience through the Climate Resilience Strategy (2021), Strengthening Communities Strategy (2022), Resilient Greater Christchurch Plan (2015) and through its urban development, transport, and waste management plans.
- In 2022, a district climate risk assessment was completed and the detailed coastal hazards assessment updated.
- Climate resilience considerations are embedded throughout key corporate processes including decision reports, Long-Term Plans, procurement, and project management.
- The council is working towards its target of being carbon neutral for its operations by 2030.
- Ashburton District's climate change policy was adopted in 2019 and reviewed and updated in 2022.
- Climate change considerations are integrated into Ashburton district strategies including the Open Spaces Strategy 2016-26, Surface Water Strategy 2018-28, Our Natural Place- Biodiversity Strategy 2023-43 & Economic Development Strategy - Rautaki Whanake Ohaoha 2023-33.
- In 2022, the council adopted the Ashburton Climate Resilience Plan.
- A baseline greenhouse gas inventory for the council was completed in 2023.
- Climate change considerations have been integrated into decision reports and business planning processes since 2021. This work is ongoing.
- Environmental and climate change elements are proposed to be improved in Council's community engagement policy.

- Selwyn District Council adopted a Climate Change Policy in 2020.
- Since 2018, the council has been preparing annual organisational carbon emission reports. In 2024, Council completed a three-year work programme and an Emissions Reduction Plan.
- The council commissioned an independent climate impact assessment for council assets. The latest assessment in 2023 incorporates findings from the Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment.
- Through strategic partnership funding, the council supports community-based climate action projects (in particular through the Selwyn Community Fund and Selwyn Natural Environment Fund).
- Climate data was incorporated into hazard modelling to inform a review of the Selwyn District Plan, including an interactive viewer for the public to show susceptibility to flooding and/or coastal hazards.
- Climate change considerations are integrated within the overarching district strategy and associated spatial planning and economic development plans.
- Timaru District Council began preparatory work on a Climate Change Strategy in 2022, with independently facilitated community engagement.
- A Climate Change Response Policy was adopted by council in 2024.
- In the same year, the council added climate change dimensions to procurement and significance policies to incorporate climate change into policy and decision making.
- On-site work with residents of Milford Huts coastal settlement commenced in 2023.
- In 2023, council completed a carbon inventory of council's operational activity, with technical assistance & verification from Toitū.
- Communication material for the public on Household Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation is currently in development.



- Mackenzie District Council completed a review of climate change data and impacts for the district in 2023, followed by a greenhouse gas emissions inventory for the district and council in early 2024.
- Engagement on climate change vulnerability in the district is underway, including workshops with community and various sectors (tourism, agriculture, infrastructure and hydro).
- With the above evidence base pieces, the council has now begun work to develop a climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy and plan for the Mackenzie District.
- Mackenzie District Council adopted its Waste Minimisation and Mangement strategy and plan in 2024 which aims to implement measures to protect the environment from the harmful effects of waste, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preventing pollution.
- Mackenzie District Council is undertaking a review of the Natural hazards in stage 4 of the District Plan Review. Part of this will be to evaluate how climate change may exacerbate the existing natural hazards.



- Waimate District Council completed a greenhouse gas emissions inventory for 2018/19.
- To oversee the development of a climate change strategy, the council appointed a part-time climate change officer in 2023.
- An online, district wide-survey was conducted to gain community interest and input into the strategy development.
- The council hosted multiple climate change information evenings in early 2024 focusing on climate science, youth, cultural, and economic perspectives.
- In 2024, seven climate action planning workshops were held to engage the community.
- The creation of a climate change engagement platform on the council's website is underway, including educational material.
- The council is closely working and collaborating with neighbouring councils, particularly Waitaki, Mackenzie, and Timaru, as well as schools.
- The council is currently finalising its second council carbon footprint assessment for 2022/23.



- The council endorsed a climate change declaration in 2022, which includes several commitments, such as developing and implementing appropriate action plans that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support climate resilience in the district.
- Waitaki District Council prepared its first organisational greenhouse gas inventory for 2018/19, with an update commencing in 2024.
- To protect Oamaru Harbour, Waitaki District Council has invested in erosion prevention measures along Oamaru Harbour's breakwater. This has seen many tonnes of rock and concrete pods being placed to prevent erosion.
- In 2023, the council adopted the Waitaki Climate Change Risk Framework.
- The council's Project Reclaim looks to remediate contaminated land sites which are at risk of coastal erosion.
- The council's Waste Management and Minimisation Plan includes community communication and education to foster knowledge about a sustainable and low-emissions future in the district.
- In 2024, work is commencing on coastal erosion adaptation planning, including the development of a climate change strategy.



- Canterbury Regional Council established a climate change integration programme in its 2018-28 Long-Term Plan, followed by the integration of climate change into the council's decision making.
- A climate emergency was declared in 2019, followed by regular climate emergency updates to the council.
- Environment Canterbury has convened and provided secretariat support for the Canterbury Climate Change Working Group since the establishment of the Working Group in 2017. This has included leading the Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment, the It's time, Canterbury community awareness raising campaign, and the development of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.
- An organisational carbon footprint assessment and decarbonisation plan were completed in 2022, followed by an organisational climate change risk assessment in 2023.
- Environment Canterbury is currently developing a Climate Action Plan and reviewing the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement.

How we produced this plan

Me Pēhea Tā Mātou Hanga I Tēnei Mahere

The Climate Change Working Group, consisting of staff members from each of the 11 councils in Waitaha / Canterbury, developed our ten key climate actions and supporting sub-actions through a robust series of workshops over 2022-2024, with input from all Canterbury councils.

The Climate Action Planning Reference Group, made up of elected representatives from each of the Canterbury councils, acted as a steering group on the plan.

The Working Group focused on identifying tangible actions for the short term, addressing key gaps in knowledge, priority risks and opportunities.

These actions are intended to gain momentum on collective climate action and to sit alongside and support existing and future climate efforts of individual councils.

Regional climate action planning was based on the international best practice C40 Climate Action Planning Framework. This framework draws on the experiences of 96 cities' climate action planning journeys and guided our approach. Although designed for cities, the framework sets out essential components of climate action planning, which we successfully adapted to suit the needs of our regional process.



Figure 2: C40 Climate Action Planning Framework

What we've heard from engagement with communities and key stakeholders

As part of Environment Canterbury's 'Our Future, Canterbury' themed engagement programme in 2023, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum asked stakeholders and communities for feedback on their climate action priorities, barriers, and perspectives on 'fair' climate action.

Via an online survey, in-person workshops in each district, and community events around the region, participants gave us a range of perspectives on climate action in their local district and in the region. There was broad agreement that councils should take climate action that would:

- regenerate ecosystems through native planting, pest control, and river restoration
- increase renewable energy
- support communities to become more resilient and adaptable
- increase public education and awareness of climate change impacts and solutions
- ensure opportunities for community engagement and empowerment
- streamline regulations and simplify consenting processes
- foster partnerships between government, businesses, non-governmental organisations, and communities
- offer financial support for individuals and businesses to take climate action.

There was broad agreement that the core values of 'fair' climate action include equity, shared responsibility, long-term planning, and science-based solutions.

We have taken stakeholder and community feedback into account during the drafting of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.

Download the *Climate Change Community Reflections and District Summits report*.

Urgency assessment

The Mayoral Forum has historically used three sets of criteria to prioritise joint projects and actions: importance, democratic mandate, and impact.

For the purposes of this plan, we also considered the following questions when assessing urgency and prioritising actions:

- Does the action contribute to current gaps in research and monitoring?
- Does the action have a long lead time to get started?
- Is there is a risk of path dependency, i.e. if we don't act now, are we locked into a future we don't want?
- Are there action dependencies and sequencing considerations?

This process helped us develop a short list of actions, and our implementation approach (Appendix 1).

Health Impact Assessment

Climate change is already impacting the health and wellbeing of our population and these impacts will amplify over time.

Extreme weather events and rising temperatures can impact physical, mental health, and wellbeing and result in changes to the natural environment, damage to housing and infrastructure and disruption to livelihoods. Some population groups and geographic locations are more vulnerable to climate change because of their exposure, sensitivity, and capacity to prepare and adapt to climate hazards. In many cases, the people most vulnerable to climate change will be those who already experience inequitable outcomes, including Māori, people with physical and mental health needs and low-income earners.⁵

Te Mana Ora, Community and Public Health Canterbury, conducted a Health Impact Assessment of the collective actions in the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan. The assessment identified that the actions have the potential to contribute to the health and wellbeing outcomes of the region depending on how the actions are planned and implemented. The assessment emphasised that climate action should be based on evidence, including information about health and equity, and involve a collaborative approach.

In delivering these actions councils will continue to work on cross-sectorial collaboration with key stakeholders, including in the health sector, to ensure that health, wellbeing and equity are considered in the detailed implementation planning for the actions.

⁵ See the *Climate Change and Health in Waitaha Canterbury for further information about health and wellbeing impacts of climate change*.

Strategic framework for regional climate action planning

Anga Mahere Hei Whakarite Mahi Āhuarangi a-Rohe

Vision of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan

Tirohanga o Te Mahere Āhuarangi o Waitaha

He taurikura, he āhuarangi aumangea, he hau mārohi a Waitaha

A thriving, climate resilient, low-emissions Canterbury

Principles

Eight principles underpin the development and implementation of this Plan. These are the values by which we will approach collective climate action in Canterbury.

We strive to be Treaty based, Collaborative, Bold, Intergenerational, Solutions Focused, Equitable, Informed, and Inclusive.

Treaty based/Whakamana i Te Tiriti means:

- Improving our understanding of what is important to our Treaty partners, how this could be impacted by climate change and climate change policy and how we can best support papatipu rūnanga with their own climate actions.

Solutions focused/Whai putanga means:

- Focusing on tangible short-medium term actions that will move us forward and enable councils to progress with transformative local actions with their communities.

Collaborative/Mahi Tahi means:

- Committing to work together, demonstrating respect, trust and open-mindedness for the long haul of the climate action journey, even when times are tough.
- Identifying and working with communities and key stakeholders who are the most impacted by, and/or have the most impact on, climate change risk to find pragmatic and local solutions.
- Working with central government agencies to advocate for solutions appropriate to Canterbury's needs.

Inclusive/Kauawhi means:

- Actively involving and considering the perspectives, needs and contributions of all partners and stakeholders in Canterbury, including marginalised and vulnerable communities in decision making processes and policy development related to climate change.

Equitable/Matatika means:

- The opportunities from climate initiatives and the burdens of climate risks are distributed justly across the region. This means taking action to identify and address both the effects of climate change and social inequity, and the systems that allow for these disparities to exist.

Informed/Whaimōhio means:

- Identifying and filling knowledge gaps and using the best available evidence, including Mātauranga Māori, to make good decisions across councils' climate action planning.
- Being clear with each other and communities on what we don't know, and where there are any limitations or uncertainties with our information.
- Balancing the desire for robust evidence and increased certainty to inform decision making with the need to deliver timely impactful action, especially if high-quality evidence isn't available.

Intergenerational/Whakatipuranga means:

- Being good ancestors; working with younger generations to consider the longer-term impacts and consequences of current actions and policies to promote equity, sustainability and opportunity for future generations.

Bold/Pākaha means:

- Matching ambition with action and investment; presenting options for collaborative action that address the size of the challenge, including where this requires tough decisions from communities and our elected members.

Outcomes

We have identified six long-term outcomes we are seeking to achieve through our collective climate action.



A healthy environment

Our healthy environment enables our communities to thrive.



An equitable and inclusive transition

Our communities are empowered through an equitable and inclusive transition to a low-emissions and climate resilient future.



Prosperity

Our environmental, cultural, economic, and social wellbeing is improved by identifying and taking early opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change.



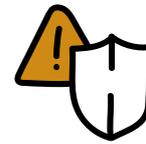
Adapted and resilient communities

Our communities are resilient and have the necessary infrastructure, knowledge, and tools they need to adapt to climate change.



Emissions reduction

Greenhouse gas emissions reductions are achieved in line with our national and international commitments at a minimum.



Climate action leadership

Canterbury is a leader in climate change mitigation, adaptation, and inclusive climate action planning promoting the four wellbeings.

Objectives

Objective one

To work with science, nature and Mātauranga Māori to reduce climate vulnerability and improve resilience.

Objective four

To inform and empower communities to be prepared, improve their resilience and adapt to climate change.

Objective two

To enable transformational action in an inclusive and equitable way.

Objective five

To collaborate with communities to use available solutions and encourage behaviour change to achieve a smart innovative, low-emissions future.

Objective three

To maximise co-benefits and identify opportunities for co-funding and financing climate actions.

Objective six

To ensure climate change is prioritised in all local government decision making processes in Canterbury.

Regional climate actions

Mahi Āhuarangi a-Rohe

There are ten key actions we will take on our collaborative climate action journey in Canterbury.

1

Understanding climate risks and improving resilience

Understand climate hazards and risks in Canterbury to support evidence-based decision making and improve regional resilience.

2

Emissions reduction

Work together across the region to build equitable, inclusive pathways, targets, and key actions to support New Zealand's commitments towards global greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

3

Adaptation planning

Support best practice approaches for local adaptation planning with communities taking a Treaty based approach.

4

Nature-based solutions

Facilitate the development of a Canterbury blue-green network to increase natural capital, indigenous biodiversity and offer nature-based solutions to climate change effects.

5

Climate change education and advocacy to support communities

Support community understanding about the local impacts of climate change and promote individual and collective climate action.

6

**Supporting
Papatipu Rūnanga**

Support Papatipu Rūnanga with climate action and provide opportunities for their involvement with Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan projects.

7

**Integrating climate
change considerations
into council processes**

Work collaboratively to build local government capability and enhance its capacity to adapt in a changing climate.

8

**Climate funding
and financing**

Identify and leverage co-funding and financing opportunities for climate adaptation and resilience.

9

**Monitoring and
evaluation**

Monitor and report on progress towards achieving the actions and outcomes of the Partnership Plan.

10

Implementation

Assemble an implementation team to ensure the successful delivery and implementation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.

Action 1: Understanding climate risks and improving resilience

Mahi 1: Kia Mārama Ki Ngā Mōrearea Me Te Whakakaha Aumangea

Understand climate hazards and risks in Canterbury to support evidence-based decision making and improve regional resilience.

Action 1.1

Scope and develop a Canterbury-wide visualisation tool for use by councils to support climate adaptation and resilience planning.

Action 1.2

Update the Canterbury climate change risk and urgency assessment to ensure a comprehensive and up-to-date understanding of key risks and opportunities under different climate change scenarios at a regional and district level.



Why we're taking this action

Councils have statutory responsibilities to avoid or mitigate natural hazards and to have regard to the effects of climate change when making decisions. We are also responsible for civil defence and emergency management, as well as improving community resilience.

This action is about furthering our understanding of climate risks in the region so that we can improve resilience. We need to know who and what is at risk, and where, for us to prioritise resources to do something about it.

The first Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment gave us a foundational understanding of current and future risks. These will change over time as climate effects intensify, but so too will our sensitivity to hazards and capacity to adapt. Therefore, we need reliable and robust tools to manage data and continually improve our understanding of risks and impacts as climate change unfolds. A tool will help us use consistent and up-to-date information to assess the vulnerabilities of different communities, ecosystems and assets as well as the interdependencies between these. This will enable us to target councils' approaches to addressing potential vulnerabilities, ensuring resources are allocated efficiently.

By increasing our knowledge and understanding of climate hazards and risks we can better support communities to prepare for and adapt to climate change. We want to make this information available to our communities in a consistent, transparent, and easy to understand way.



An equitable and inclusive transition



Adapted and resilient communities



Climate action leadership

Action 2: Emissions reduction

Mahi 2: Whakahekenga Tukunga

Work together across the region to build equitable, inclusive pathways, targets, and key actions to support New Zealand’s commitments towards global greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

Action 2.1

Collate data and develop models to prepare greenhouse gas emissions inventories and identify emissions reduction pathways for Canterbury to support Aotearoa New Zealand’s national greenhouse gas commitments.

Action 2.2

Based on the emissions reduction pathways identified for Canterbury, undertake a regional transition risk and opportunities assessment, considering social, cultural, environmental, and economic impacts, to inform an equitable and inclusive transition to a low-emissions region.

Action 2.3

Work with partners, communities, and key stakeholders to build a regional low-emissions transition strategy that supports equitable, inclusive local pathways to a thriving, climate-resilient region meeting emissions reduction targets.



Why we’re taking this action

At a global scale, the more we reduce our emissions, the better our ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Put simply, if we do not cut our greenhouse gas emissions, we will be left with fewer choices on how to adapt and react to future challenges.

Canterbury has an important role to play in supporting international and national commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to a low-emissions future. We have a unique emissions profile in our region. Our approach is not to blame and shame particular high-emitting sectors; instead we aim to work with partners and key stakeholders to make robust, evidence-informed decisions about how all sectors can reduce their greenhouse gas emissions in a sustainable and timely way. Our aim is to make it possible for everyone to play their part in our collective climate action endeavour.

By working with others, understanding the risks and opportunities that transition to a low-emissions future presents, we can be strategic about mitigating those risks and leveraging opportunities early to provide for a planned and equitable approach to regional greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

A comprehensive transition strategy will lay out a road map individual councils can use to work with residents to most effectively reduce emissions at a local level.



An equitable and inclusive transition



Prosperity



Emissions reduction



Climate action leadership

Action 3: Adaptation planning

Mahi 3: Whakamahere Urutaunga

Support best practice approaches for local adaptation planning with communities taking a Treaty based approach.

Action 3.1

Develop and implement a best practice approach for councils in Canterbury to work effectively and efficiently together with communities on adaptation planning and implementation.



Why we're taking this action

No matter how quickly we reduce emissions around the globe or in Aotearoa New Zealand, some level of climate change is already inevitable and we are already seeing those effects around the country. Adaptation means strengthening our ability to cope with risks from natural events like floods, storms and drought.

The Government is developing an adaptation framework to strengthen how Aotearoa New Zealand prepares for the effects of climate change, focusing on where people live and work. The framework is expected to provide greater clarity on adaptation roles and responsibilities, including that of local government and other key players like central government and insurers.

We will continue to play a pivotal role in working with communities to understand what is happening, what matters most, what we can do about it, and how we can implement and monitor adaptation actions. It is both an absolute necessity and opportunity that we use the knowledge and tools created by some of the other partnership plan actions and all work together to figure out the most appropriate adaptation options for communities at risk across each district taking a Treaty based approach.

Some districts are already advancing with coastal adaptation planning, for example in Amberley Beach and Whakaraupō/Lyttelton Harbour. But there are other risks, and many other vulnerable communities who we will also need to work with. We won't need to adapt everywhere all at once, nor will we be able to, but we can start working together now to lay the foundation for long-term adaptation planning in Canterbury to ensure a consistent, coordinated and community-centric approach on the ground, avoiding duplication of effort and sharing learnings.



Adapted and resilient communities



Climate action leadership

Action 4: Nature-based solutions

Mahi 4: Ngā Otinga Taiao

Facilitate the development of a Canterbury blue-green network to increase natural capital, indigenous biodiversity and offer nature-based solutions to climate change effects.

Action 4.1

Develop a Canterbury-wide natural ecosystem climate change risk and vulnerability assessment.

Action 4.2

Develop a blue-green network plan for Canterbury and accompanying guidance to support locally-led implementation.

Action 4.2a

Maximise opportunities to collaborate with key stakeholders to provide guidance on blue-green infrastructure placement and hazard resilience investment⁶.

Action 4.2b

Collaborate and align with Greater Christchurch Partnership and key stakeholders to deliver a blue-green network.

Action 4.2c

Investigate the feasibility of establishing blue-green infrastructure on council-owned land, including identifying priority locations for implementation across Canterbury.



Why we're taking this action

We already have many of the solutions we need to tackle climate change. One of the key things we can do is work with nature to address the climate and biodiversity challenges we face. Nature-based solutions are inspired by, supported by or copied from nature and we can harness these to deliver a multitude of benefits across the four wellbeings⁷.

Nature-based solutions offer a cost-effective and practical approach to both building resilience and capturing and storing carbon. A blue-green network or infrastructure - a series of spaces and corridors that follow and connect blue (e.g. water bodies) and green spaces (e.g. parks, green areas) - provides a nature-based approach to addressing climate change impacts such as flooding and urban heat islands; and reducing emissions through carbon sequestration.

In addition to reducing the effects of climate change, blue-green infrastructure offers various co-benefits. They enhance the liveability of urban and rural areas through better integration of natural and built environments and offer opportunities for place-making and enhanced identity, urban cooling, water management, recreation, landscaping, indigenous ecosystem protection and restoration and habitat creation for indigenous fauna.

⁶ For example, supporting the Nature Code MBIE Endeavour Research Proposal: Nature-based solutions to mitigate climate change-intensified natural hazards

⁷ European Commission, 2015

-  A healthy environment
-  An equitable and inclusive transition
-  Prosperity
-  Emissions reduction
-  Adapted and resilient communities
-  Climate action leadership

Action 5: Climate change education and advocacy

Mahi 5: Mātauranga Mahi Whakahau Huringa Āhuarangi

Support community understanding about the local impacts of climate change and promote individual and collective climate action.

Action 5.1

Continue to develop the It's Time, Canterbury initiative into a comprehensive resource hub for climate education and collective action across Canterbury.

Action 5.2

Collaborate with Civil Defence Emergency Management in Canterbury to produce communications materials that integrate climate action and resilience to natural hazards.

Why we're taking this action

Everyone has a part to play in tackling climate change. We've already mentioned the key role councils play in helping communities prepare for and adapt to climate change, and we're acutely aware of how important it is that we communicate with communities in a way that's appropriate to them.

These actions build on the work done to date on 'It's time, Canterbury' where councils have pooled resources, knowledge and expertise for a regional approach to climate advocacy and awareness raising. We aim to educate, empower, and engage by building the 'It's time, Canterbury' content and expanding its reach. We will support communities with accurate and up-to-date information about the urgency of climate change, empower them with the knowledge and confidence to act as agents of change, and engage them throughout the journey to a resilient low-emissions future.

Civil Defence Emergency Management has a critical role in ensuring our communities are prepared, and able to respond, to natural hazards, and in the case of climate change, where these natural hazards are exacerbated over time.



An equitable and inclusive transition



Emissions reduction



Adapted and resilient communities



Climate action leadership

Action 6: Supporting Papatipu Rūnanga

Mahi 6: Te Tautoko i Ngā Papatipu Rūnanga

Support Papatipu Rūnanga with climate action and provide opportunities for their involvement with Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan projects.

Action 6.1

Understand the climate action requirements of Papatipu Rūnanga across Canterbury.

Action 6.2

Support councils to work in partnership with Papatipu Rūnanga to integrate their requirements into local climate action planning.



Why we're taking this action

Climate change is affecting Ngāi Tahu in unique and important ways, directly threatening wellbeing of mana whenua, their historic heritage (kainga tuturu), infrastructure (ngā waihanga), ability to undertake cultural practices, and disproportionately impacting future generations. The Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment showed there are potential risks to Ngāi Tahu interests across all pono (values) contained within Te Tūtei o Te Hau. It also indicated a risk of marginalisation of Ngāi Tahu perspectives in climate action planning.

The Ministry for the Environment has highlighted that empowering Māori is one of the five key principles in Aotearoa's Emissions Reduction Plan and the National Adaptation Plan recognises the importance of embedding Te Tiriti o Waitangi across the climate response.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu has developed its Climate Change Strategy Te Tāhū o te Whāriki (Anchoring the Foundations) and Action Plan (Te Kounga Paparangi). These provide direction across a wide spectrum. Canterbury councils have identified these actions so that they can seek to better understand both the requirements of mana whenua and how councils are best placed to support their climate action planning in their takiwā. The actions also provide an open door to future involvement by Papatipu Rūnanga in the governance and implementation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.



A healthy environment



An equitable and inclusive transition



Prosperity



Emissions reduction



Adapted and resilient communities



Climate action leadership

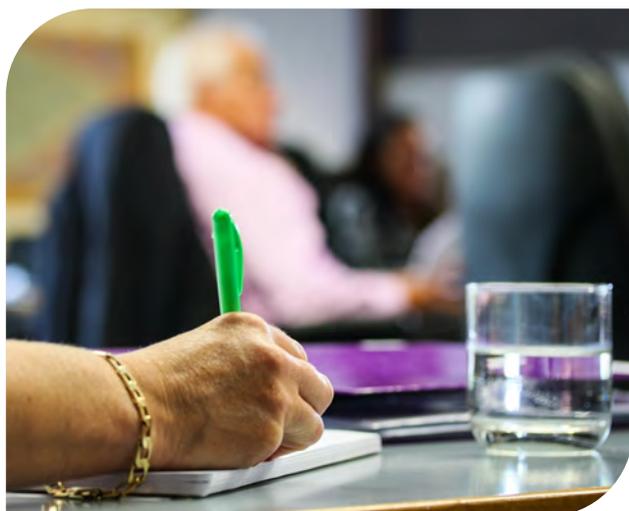
Action 7: Integrating climate change considerations into council processes

Mahi 7: Te Whakauru Whakaaro Huringa Āhuarangi Ki Ngā Tukanga Kaunihera

Work collaboratively to build local government capability and enhance its capacity to adapt in a changing climate.

Action 7.1

Integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation considerations across all council business including decisions, policies, projects, procurement, and infrastructure development.



Why we're taking this action

Not only must communities adapt but councils must too so we are as effective as we can be in a changing climate.

Climate change will impact everything we do and our ability to do things well. To be effective in a changing climate and avoid maladaptation, we must embed climate resilience at our core. This will ensure that climate considerations are not treated as separate or optional but are instead integrated across all aspects of local government operations. This approach helps councils address climate-related challenges effectively by displaying climate leadership, minimising risks, seizing opportunities and helping local communities to adapt appropriately thereby promoting the four wellbeings of current and future generations.



An equitable and inclusive transition



Climate action leadership

Action 8: Climate funding and financing

Mahi 8: Pūtea Āhuarangi

Identify and leverage co-funding and financing opportunities for climate adaptation and resilience.

Action 8.1

Advocate to central government for funding to be made available to address the gap between current local government funding and what is needed for the comprehensive local government climate action that is required in the future.

Action 8.2

Explore the feasibility of a Canterbury climate commitment that inspires and unites businesses and communities to accelerate climate action.



Why we're taking this action

Climate action comes at a cost and realising the many benefits of climate action also requires some up-front investment. The wide range and scale of climate actions required by councils in the coming years will require funding and financing beyond existing methods.

The recently published He piki tūranga, he piki kotuku, Future for Local Government Report (2023) highlights the gap between current local government funding and what is needed for comprehensive climate action. It suggests there should be a large national fund available for the climate-related actions that need to be taken by local government.

This could represent a significant opportunity for local government around Aotearoa New Zealand, however, it is likely that rates will remain the main funding mechanism for councils for the foreseeable future. By working together to identify and leverage alternative funding and financing opportunities, Canterbury councils can implement climate actions and initiatives without putting further pressure on ratepayers.

It is critical that we develop effective funding and financing structures that enable local government in Canterbury to respond to the evolving challenges and opportunities posed by climate change. We need to use our united voice and work together to ensure councils have access to the right amount of capital at the right time.



A healthy environment



An equitable and inclusive transition



Prosperity



Emissions reduction



Adapted and resilient communities



Climate action leadership

Action 9: Monitoring and evaluation

Mahi 9: Te Aroturuki Me Te Aro Mātai

Monitor and report on progress towards achieving the actions and outcomes of the Partnership Plan.

Action 9.1

Develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation plan which includes the co-development of climate-related indicators appropriate to Canterbury.



Why we're taking this action

We need to regularly monitor and evaluate the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan to ensure that actions are impactful, and our desired outcomes are being met.

The development of baseline data and climate-related indicators offers valuable data for decision-making, helping assess the region's vulnerability to various climate-related risks, and enabling policymakers to assess the effectiveness of policies and interventions.

It also assists in raising public awareness about the importance of climate action and its impacts, and enables efficient allocation of resources by governments, businesses, and communities.

The use of climate-related indicators can inform the development of effective climate policies, regulations, and incentives, and there is an opportunity to learn from the Climate Change Commission's experience in developing indicators and metrics for climate adaptation when implementing this action.



A healthy environment



An equitable and inclusive transition



Prosperity



Emissions reduction



Adapted and resilient communities



Climate action leadership

Action 10: Implementation

Mahi 10: Te Whakatinanatanga

Assemble an implementation team to ensure the successful delivery and implementation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.



Why we're taking this action

To ensure the successful implementation of this plan, we need to coordinate a dedicated group of people from councils who have a key role to play in the delivery of these actions. This will allow for the continuation of a collaborative approach and reduce pressure and demands on individual councils who do not have staff capacity to manage project delivery of individual actions.

An implementation overview is included in Appendix 1.

-  A healthy environment
-  An equitable and inclusive transition
-  Prosperity
-  Emissions reduction
-  Adapted and resilient communities
-  Climate action leadership

Future funding and financing of regional climate actions

Ngā Pūtea Wāheke Mō Ngā Mahi Āhuarangi a-Rohe

Climate action will cost us. However, the cost of inaction is likely to be far greater. Studies by Deloitte and others highlight an impending ‘turning point’ where the increased costs of taking decisive action sooner rather than later begin to outweigh the short-term gains from deferring our response.

Focusing solely on an economic analysis of climate change by 2050 (not the broader impacts across different dimensions of wellbeing), in net present value terms (estimated in 2023):

- Decisive action could add \$64billion to Aotearoa New Zealand’s GDP⁸.
- Inadequate action could take \$4.4billion off Aotearoa New Zealand’s GDP and get exponentially worse beyond 2050.

Opportunities and costs will differ across the range of business sectors specific to each region and to realise benefits arising from new opportunities will require commitment from us all. Nevertheless, it redefines the debate around climate action to one of opportunities for growth and avoided costs and losses rather than a financial burden with limited upsides.

In addition, in recent years the delivery of capital projects (including those associated with increasing resilience through certain climate adaptation measures) has experienced rapid cost escalation pressures with civil infrastructure works showing the biggest changes⁹. Decisions to forestall projects with demonstrable benefits could therefore impact their future affordability and viability.

This plan sets out a pragmatic and achievable programme of collaborative climate action for Waitaha Canterbury over the next three years, focused around collecting consistent evidence for both mitigation and adaptation, embedding climate change considerations in local government decision-making and processes, improving capability and capacity to respond effectively and monitoring results. We will, however, need to increase and accelerate our investment in on-the-ground mitigation and adaptation actions thereafter if we are to meet our climate commitments and avoid the magnitude of future costs we would otherwise bear. Investing now will help us minimise the impacts of future climate-related weather events¹⁰.

Climate Partnership Plan budget

The impacts of COVID-19, high inflation, the cost-of-living crisis, and the threat of economic recession means that local government and ratepayers are faced with an increasing cost burden. These current financial pressures have been top of mind while developing the plan. Ultimately, the financial constraints and competing demands local government faces means funding climate action at a local or regional level in the short term is challenging.

However, this plan offers a pragmatic financial advantage, particularly for the less resourced councils, by working together and leveraging collective funding to deliver on key projects.

In June 2024, councils agreed to fund regional collective climate actions through their Long-Term Plans 2024-34 and \$1.47 million has been confirmed for the first three years. Further funding will be necessary through future annual and long-term plan reviews for continued collaborative climate action, and by identifying and taking advantage of co-funding opportunities with key stakeholders.

⁸ Deloitte, 2023.

⁹ <https://www.infometrics.co.nz/article/2023-08-rapid-cost-escalation-makes-for-difficult-choices>

¹⁰ The Auckland Anniversary floods insurance losses provisionally exceed \$1b, over three times the total insurance losses for Auckland in 2022. The 2021 Canterbury floods had provisional insurance losses estimated at \$43.8m (Source: Insurance Council of New Zealand). The total cost of works to the end of December 2023 for flood recovery (including response) is \$20 million, with an estimated total costs expected to be \$22.2 million. \$12.5 of these costs, above the Environment Canterbury threshold of \$4.1 million, are estimated to be eligible for application to the National Emergency Management Agency for a 60% central government contribution for like-for-like asset replacement. Not all damage arising from these events will be included in these figures, for example, local government typically self-insures network infrastructure.

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Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Implementation Overview

Mahere Āhuarangi Mahi Rangapū
Tirohanga Whakatinanatanga

Action ID		Primary action	Sub-actions
1	Understanding climate risks and improving resilience	Understand climate hazards and risks in Canterbury to support evidence-based decision making and improve regional resilience.	1.1 Scope and develop a Canterbury-wide visualisation tool for use by councils to support climate adaptation and resilience planning.
			1.2 Update the Canterbury climate change risk and urgency assessment to ensure a comprehensive and up-to-date understanding of key risks and opportunities under different climate change at a regional and district level.
2	Emissions reduction	Work together across the region to build equitable, inclusive pathways, targets, and key actions to support New Zealand's commitments towards global greenhouse gas emissions reduction.	2.1 Collate data and develop models to prepare greenhouse gas emissions inventories and identify emissions reduction pathways for Canterbury to support New Zealand's national greenhouse gas commitments.
			2.2 Based on the emissions reduction pathways identified for Canterbury, undertake a regional transition risk and opportunities assessment, considering social, cultural, environmental, and economic impacts, to inform an equitable and inclusive transition to a low-emissions region.
			2.3 Work with partners, communities, and key stakeholders to build a regional low-emissions transition strategy that supports equitable, inclusive local pathways to a thriving, climate-resilient region meeting emissions reduction targets.
3	Adaptation planning	Support best practice approaches for local adaptation planning with communities taking a Treaty based approach.	3.1 Develop and implement a best practice approach for councils in Canterbury to work effectively and efficiently together with communities on adaptation planning and implementation.
4	Nature-Based Solutions	Facilitate the development of a Canterbury blue-green network to increase natural capital, indigenous biodiversity and offer nature-based solutions to climate change effects.	4.1 Develop a Canterbury wide natural ecosystem climate change risk and vulnerability assessment.
			4.2 Develop a blue-green network plan for Canterbury and accompanying guidance to support locally-led implementation.
			4.2a Maximise opportunities to collaborate with key stakeholders to provide guidance on blue-green infrastructure placement and hazard resilience investment.
			4.2b Collaborate and align with Greater Christchurch Partnership and key stakeholders to deliver a blue-green network.
			4.2c Investigate the feasibility of establishing blue-green infrastructure on council-owned land, including identifying priority locations for implementation across Canterbury.
5	Climate change education and advocacy	Support community understanding about the local impacts of climate change and promote individual and collective climate action.	5.1 Continue to develop the It's time, Canterbury initiative into a comprehensive resource hub for climate education and collective action across Canterbury.
			5.2 Collaborate with Civil Defence and Emergency Management in Canterbury to produce communications materials that integrate climate action and resilience to natural hazards.

The Implementation overview outlines the sequence of actions for the first three years of Long-Term Plans, prioritising urgent actions (based on an urgency assessment), action interdependencies, and available yearly budget.

 Very high urgency
  High urgency
  Medium urgency
  Low urgency

Y1 2024/2025	Y2 2025/2026	Y3 2026/2027		Y4 onwards	Lead Organisation	Resourcing	
initiate	execute and complete	maintenance and licensing	Review CCPP		Waimakariri District Council	\$ for procurement and consultant costs, staff time	
				initiate, execute, complete	Environment Canterbury	\$ for procurement and consultant costs, staff time	
initiate	execute and complete				Environment Canterbury	\$ for procurement and consultant costs, staff time	
	initiate and execute	complete			Environment Canterbury	\$ for procurement and consultant costs, staff time	
	initiate	execute and complete			Environment Canterbury	\$ for procurement and consultant costs, staff time	
initiate	execute	ongoing			ongoing	Hurunui District Council	staff time
initiate and execute	complete					Environment Canterbury	\$ for procurement and consultant costs, staff time
	initiate	execute			complete	Waimakariri & Selwyn District Councils	\$ for procurement and consultant costs, staff time
initiate	execute	execute			complete	Waimakariri & Selwyn District Councils	\$ for procurement and consultant costs, staff time
initiate	execute	ongoing			ongoing	Waimakariri & Selwyn District Councils	staff time
	initiate	execute			ongoing	Waimakariri & Selwyn District Councils	\$ for procurement and consultant costs, staff time
initiate	execute	ongoing			ongoing	Environment Canterbury	staff time
	initiate, execute, complete					Environment Canterbury	staff time

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Implementation Overview

Mahere Āhuarangi Mahi Rangapū
Tirohanga Whakatinanatanga

Action ID		Primary action	Sub-actions
6	Supporting Papatipu Rūnanga	Support Papatipu Rūnanga with climate action and provide continuing opportunities for their involvement with Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan projects.	6.1 Understand the climate action requirements of Papatipu Rūnanga across Canterbury.
			6.2 Support councils to work in partnership with Papatipu Rūnanga to integrate their requirements into local climate action planning.
7	Integrating climate change considerations in council processes	Work collaboratively to build local government capability and enhance its capacity to adapt in a changing climate.	7.1 Integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation considerations across all council business including decisions, policies, projects, procurement, and infrastructure development.
8	Climate funding and financing	Identify and leverage co-funding and financing opportunities for climate adaptation and resilience.	8.1 Advocate to central government for funding to be made available to address the gap between current local government funding and what is needed for the comprehensive local government climate action that is required in the future.
			8.2 Explore the feasibility of a Canterbury Climate Commitment that inspires and unites businesses and communities to accelerate climate action.
9	Monitoring and evaluation	Monitor and report on progress towards achieving the actions and outcomes of the Partnership Plan.	9.1 Develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation plan which includes the co-development of climate related indicators appropriate to Canterbury.
10	Implementation	Assemble and coordinate an implementation team to ensure the successful delivery and implementation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.	
			Total budget (rounded down)



Very high urgency



High urgency



Medium urgency



Low urgency

Y1 2024/2025	Y2 2025/2026	Y3 2026/2027		Y4 onwards	Action Lead	Resourcing
initiate	ongoing	ongoing	Review CCPP	ongoing	All councils	\$ for Papatipu Rūnanga participation, staff time
					Canterbury Mayoral Forum	\$ for Papatipu Rūnanga participation, staff time
initiate	execute	ongoing		ongoing	Ashburton District Council	staff time
initiate	execute	execute		ongoing	Christchurch City Council	staff time
initiate, execute, complete					Canterbury Mayoral Forum	staff time
initiate, execute, complete					Environment Canterbury	\$ for procurement and consultant costs, staff time
initiate, execute	ongoing	ongoing		ongoing	Environment Canterbury (with action lead organisations)	staff time
\$190,000	\$741,000	\$540,000				
<p>Total \$ 1,471,000 NZD Through collective contributions from Canterbury councils for Year 1 - Year 3 of 2024-2034 Long Term Plans and 2024-2025 Annual Plans (\$100,432 NZD to be confirmed through Waimate and Waitaki District Councils 2025-2034 Long Term Plans)</p>						



***Mā whero mā pango ka oti ai te mahi.
With red and black the work will be complete.***

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**It's time,
Canterbury**
Our climate change
conversation

