



## Community Engagement Document

# Climate Change Strategy 2025-2030



# What is Climate Change?

**Climate change is a growing challenge that will disrupt many parts of our everyday lives.**

**We have limited time to take profound action on a global scale.**

Since the Industrial Revolution in the 1800s, the burning of coal, oil, and natural gas has rapidly modernised the world we live in and improved living standards for millions of people. However, this progress has also resulted in significant amounts of greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere.

These gases – carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and others – come from activities such as transportation, agriculture,



electricity generation, waste, manufacturing, construction, and heavy industry. Deforestation and land use change worsen the problem by reducing our ability to absorb carbon from the atmosphere.

The global response to climate change took a significant step forward in 2015 with the **Paris Agreement**, a legally binding international treaty aimed at limiting global temperature rise. Signed by 196 parties, the goal of the Agreement is to keep global temperatures well-below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit temperature increase to 1.5°C.

In 2023, global temperatures had already risen 1.36°C compared to the Industrial Revolution, making it the hottest year since records began in 1880.

**While climate change can occur naturally, the current rate of change is happening much faster than ever before experienced by humanity.**

# What is our role?

**Local government in New Zealand has a responsibility to address many of the challenges our communities will face as a result of climate change.**

At the national level, the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 sets clear targets:

- To reduce net emissions for all greenhouse gas emissions (except biogenic methane) to zero by 2050
- To cut biogenic methane emissions by 24-47 per cent from 2017 levels by 2050
- To create National Emissions Reduction Plans and National Adaptation Plans, which local councils must have regard to within their territories.

Under the Resource Management Act 1991, local councils must:

- Promote sustainable management
- Have regard to matters of National Importance such as managing Natural Hazards
- Have regard to climate change.

The Local Government Act 2002 also guides our core functions as an organisation and states that the purpose of local government is to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities both in the present and in the future.

The National Policy Statement for Urban Development further emphasises that planning decisions must contribute to well-functioning urban environments, that support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and are resilient to the likely current and future impacts of climate change.

**The purpose of local government is to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities, both in the present and in the future.**



## **Our Legislative Response: The District Plan**

Our proposed Combined District Plan, shared between all three Wairarapa Councils, sets out five Climate Change and Resilience Objectives:

### **1. Climate change mitigation**

The Wairarapa develops and functions in a way that assists the community in the transition to a low-carbon future.

### **2. Adapting to climate change**

The Wairarapa is resilient, adapts to the effects of climate change, and recognises the opportunities and risks associated with those effects.

### **3. Resilience to natural hazards**

The Wairarapa develops and functions in a way that does not increase risk and consequences of natural hazards.

### **4. Water resilience**

Land use activities that support and enhance water availability and efficiency, and adaptive management is encouraged.

### **5. Renewable electricity**

Recognise the role of renewable electricity generation activities in meeting the New Zealand Government's national target for emissions reduction and generation of electricity from renewable resources.

## **Non-Legislative Commitments**

In addition to these national and legal frameworks, in 2017, the Carterton Mayor (along with other mayors across New Zealand) signed the Local Government Leaders Climate Change Declaration.

This commitment outlines several key actions for councils:

- Develop and implement plans to reduce emissions;
- Support resilience in both council operations and our communities;
- Collaborate with communities to understand, prepare for, and respond to climate change impacts
- Work alongside central government to deliver on emissions reduction targets and building resilience in our community.

These legal obligations guide our direction as local government, ensuring we take necessary steps to reduce emissions, build resilience, and adapt to future climate impacts.

They also highlight how our communities play a vital role in these efforts through collaborative planning and decision-making.

Clear understanding of this position helps ensure that we remain focused on our responsibilities.



# How will it impact our district?

**While reducing greenhouse gas emissions is crucial, ensuring our communities are prepared and able to adapt to the impacts of climate change is closely aligned with the core functions of local government.**

By understanding the specific climate challenges facing the Carterton District, we can make more informed decisions, plan effectively for the future, and ensure the safety and well-being of our communities.

The following graphs, developed by NIWA, show the projected impacts for the Wairarapa region. The data compares historic averages (1986-2005) with projected climate change impacts for two future periods: 2031-2050 and 2081-2100.

The data also displays the projected impacts based on three different scenarios for global emissions:

- RCP2.6 - where global temperature is limited to a 2°C increase through strong emissions reductions
- RCP4.5 - with moderate emissions reductions, leading to a 3°C global temperature increase
- RCP8.5 - where global temperature rise exceeds 4°C due to limited action on emissions reduction.

## Temperature Changes

The data displayed in Figures 1 and 2 highlight that the Wairarapa is likely to experience warmer temperatures as global temperatures increase.

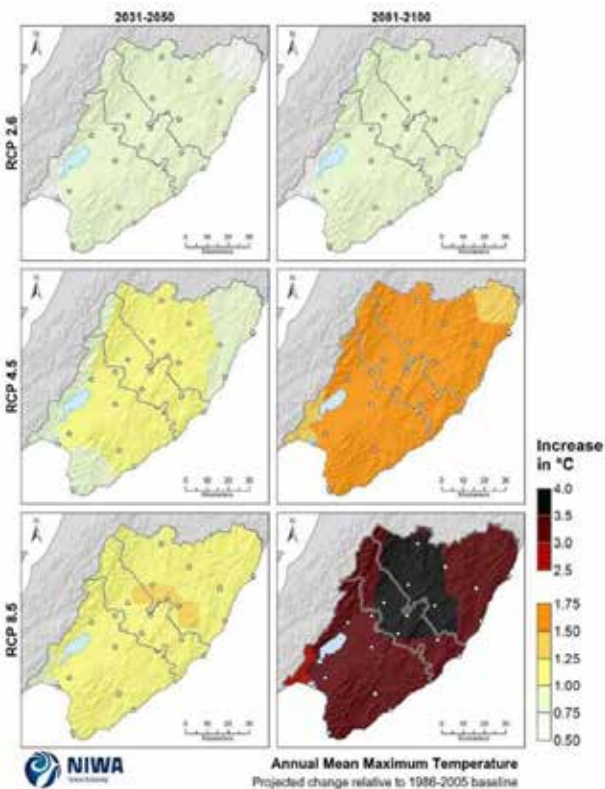


Figure 1: Projected annual mean maximum temperature changes by 2040 and 2090

Figure 1 shows that under the RCP2.6 scenario, local temperatures could rise 0.75-1°C by 2100.

In contrast, under the RCP8.5 scenario, parts of the Carterton District could experience up to 4°C of warming by 2100.

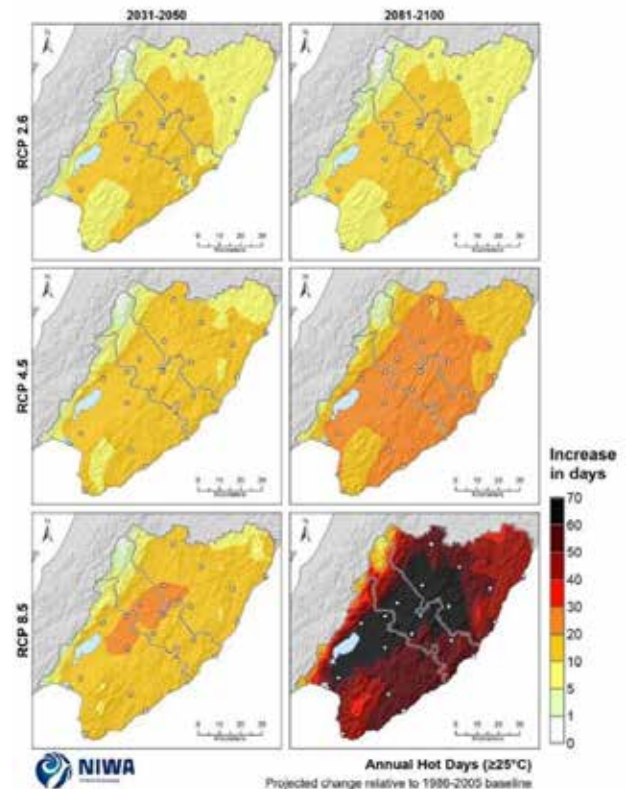


Figure 2: Projected annual hot days (warmer than 25 °C) by 2040 and 2090

Figure 2 looks at the change in the number of annual hot days (25°C or higher).

Even under a low emissions scenario on both time scales, we are likely to see an increase of 10-20 more hot days per year.

Under the RCP8.5 scenario, parts of Carterton District could see 30-40 more hot days per year by 2050, and 60-70 more by 2100.

# Rainfall and Dry Spells

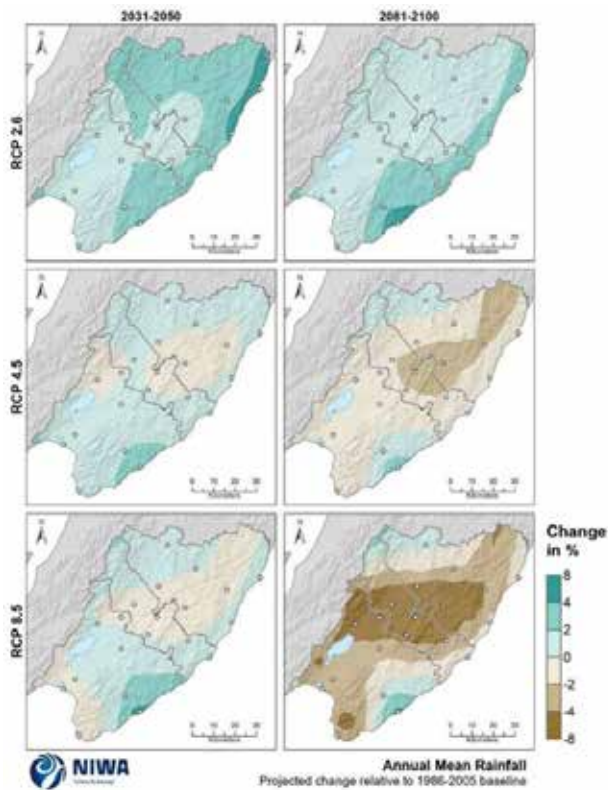


Figure 3: Projected annual rainfall changes (%) by 2040 and 2090

In terms of rainfall, **Figure 3** shows that under the low emissions RCP2.6 scenario, annual rainfall would remain largely unchanged.

However, in the high emissions RCP8.5 scenario, we could see a reduction in annual rainfall by up to 8 per cent by 2100.

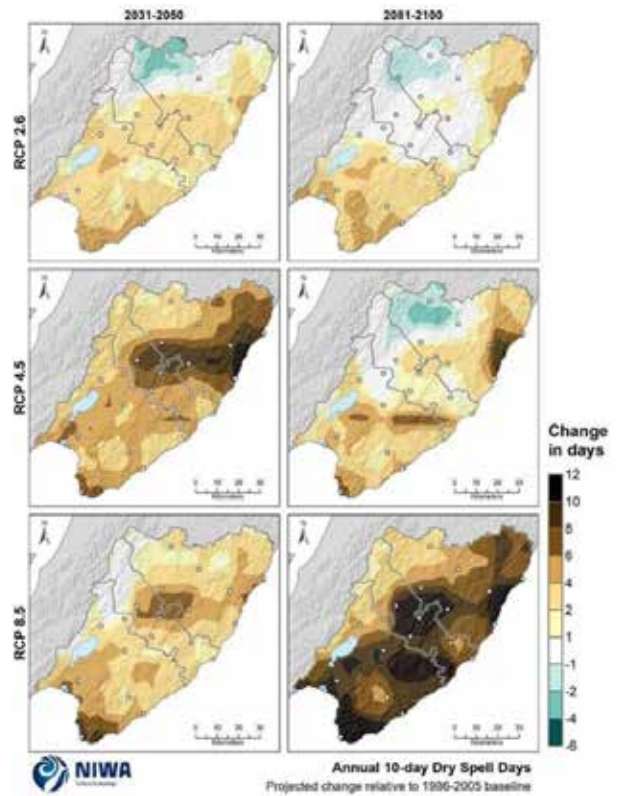


Figure 4: Projected annual dry spell days (more than 10 consecutive days) by 2040 and 2090

**Figure 4** illustrates the projected increase in dry spells, defined as days where daily rainfall has been less than 1 mm for ten or more consecutive days.

By 2100, the Carterton District could experience four dry spell days under the RCP4.5 scenario, and up to 12 dry spell days under RCP8.5.





## Extreme Weather Events

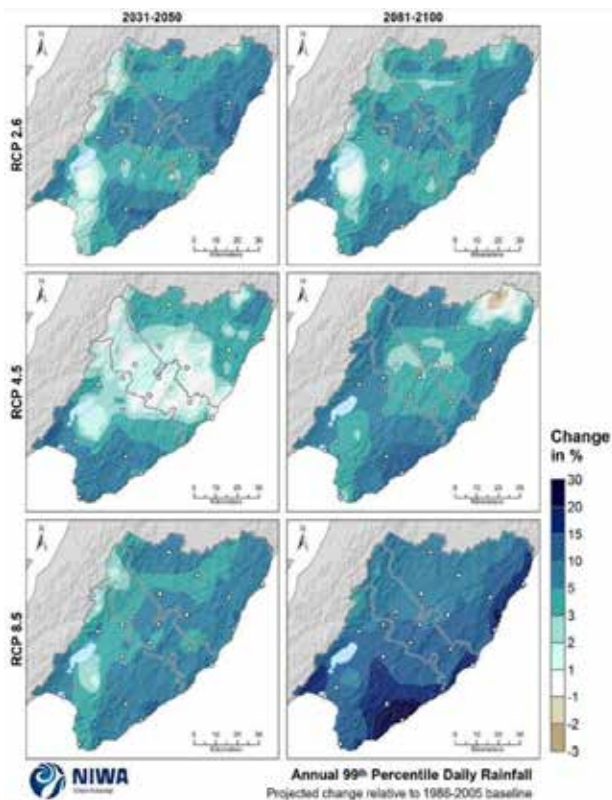


Figure 5: Projected annual 99th percentile daily rainfall changes by 2040 and 2090

Figure 5 depicts projected changes in extreme rainfall events, represented by the 99th percentile daily rainfall (the heaviest rainfall events that occur 1 per cent of the time).

While the projections vary, all scenarios predict up to 10 per cent increase in extreme rainfall around Carterton township, and up to a 20 per cent increase near Flat Point.

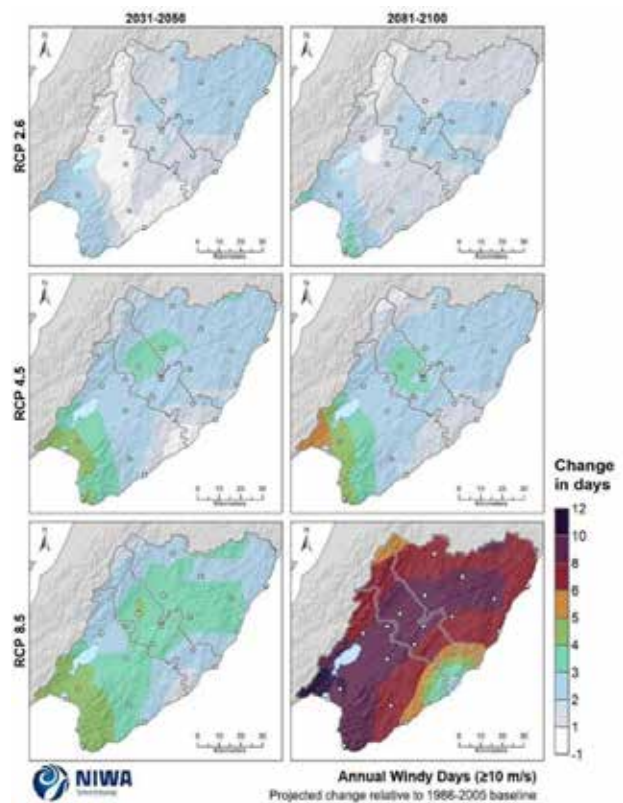


Figure 6: Projected change in annual number of windy days (more than 10 m/s) by 2040 and 2090

Figure 6 shows the number of windy days, with wind speeds greater than 10 metres per second (m/s).

Under the low emission RCP2.6 scenario, most of the Carterton District is likely to experience up to 3 more windy days per year by 2100.

Whereas under the high emission RCP8.5 scenario, Carterton township area and the lower valley areas could experience up to 10 more windy days per year.





# How will it impact me?

**We know that climate change will have significant impacts on lives within the Carterton District – not just those who reside here, but also those who work in and visit our district.**

Rising temperatures, more hot days, and changing rainfall patterns could impact primary production, water supply, and local businesses – affecting both food and fibre production, and community well-being.

Increased dry spells and extreme weather events may also put pressure on infrastructure, health services, and emergency management systems – leading to higher costs and potential disruptions to daily life.

These challenges underscore the need for resilience to be embedded into the decisions we make as council to protect the district's unique character and support community adaptation.

# What have we done?

**Since developing our first Climate Action Plan, we have already made significant progress in improving our operations as a business and finding ways we can support our communities.**



## **Promoting less carbon-intensive modes of transport for staff:**

- Purchased two hybrid vehicles for our Building Team
- Purchased two e-bikes and two e-scooters using external funding for short journeys
- Upgraded to an electric van in 2023 for our Events Centre after previous van was decommissioned
- Encourage train travel and carpooling for regional travel.

## **Enabling education opportunities within our communities:**

- Hosted a Conservation Week photography exhibition with students from Carterton schools in collaboration with EnviroSchools
- Partnered with St Marks Church to run a climate change speaker event featuring local climate change champions
- Supported community-led events like the Electrify Wairarapa Conference
- Organised community education events, such as waste education with Wast-Ed Kate
- Promoted healthy homes education with Healthy Home measurement kits available in all Wairarapa libraries.



## **Absorbing carbon through conservation and restoration:**

- Rehabilitated an old roading reserve at Ngā Tāwhai by planting trees
- Trailing the effectiveness of mānuka at minimising wastewater contaminants with ESR by planting trees at the wastewater treatment facility.

## **Policy integration and planning:**

- Added a requirement to include climate change considerations in council reports
- Incorporated climate change into larger strategic documents, such as the Infrastructure Strategy, Long Term Plan, and Annual Plans
- Involvement in Wellington Regional Leadership Committee climate change projects to bring a Wairarapa lens.



# We're up to the challenge

**Our existing Climate Change Strategy was published in 2020 and set 2024 as its year for review.**

The environment we operate in today is significantly different following a global pandemic, extreme weather events, and a shift in national government direction and priorities.

Considering these changes, evolving legislative position of councils, and feedback from elected members, we have developed a vision and objectives for Carterton District Council.

# Our Vision

***Carterton District Council is an innovative and carbon neutral organisation, and we empower our community to adapt to a changing climate.***

## Our Objectives

- 1. Climate change is considered and integrated into council operations**
- 2. Council is an enabler of positive change in our community**
- 3. As an organisation, Council leads by example**

We tested our vision and objectives with staff and elected members to identify barriers, and more importantly, explore proactive shifts needed to drive change. The shifts outlined below are relevant to all of our objectives.

### Shift 1: Enhancing knowledge and understanding

In a world of misinformation and competing priorities, it is vital to ensure access to relevant and reliable information. By enhancing knowledge and understanding, we can:

- Ensure staff can identify changes and propose climate-related ideas within their roles and teams
- Equip elected members with up-to-date information to prioritise climate-resilient projects and assess the climate impacts of decisions
- Provide our community with the right advice to make informed, sustainable choices in their homes, businesses, and daily lives.

### Shift 2: Maximising resources and investing wisely

With limited funding options, councils must make the most of available resources. By utilising our resources and investing wisely, we can:

- Explore external funding opportunities to reduce climate-related costs for ratepayers
- Leverage the benefits of a small workforce by encouraging internal collaboration and flexibility to cover the breadth of our operations
- Balance resources for immediate needs with long-term needs around asset management and community well-being.

### Shift 3: Organisational direction and building a culture of change

Addressing climate change will require shifts in how we operate. A clear direction and culture of change are essential for long-term impact. We can:

- Establish a clear climate change strategy to guide us through internal and external changes
- Integrate climate action into our organisational culture and provide necessary support to embed climate goals into everyday work.

# What do we propose?

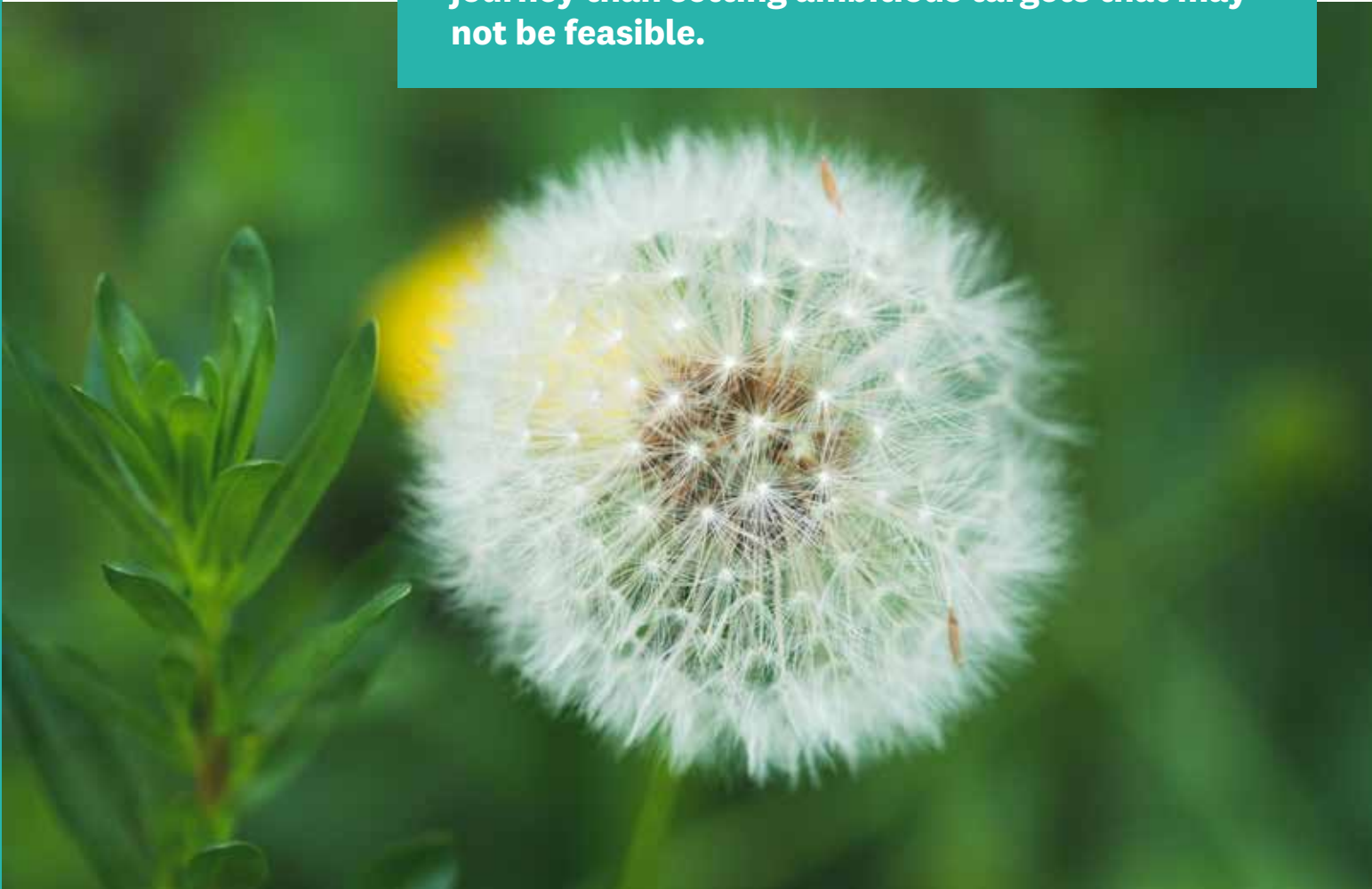
**As a small district with limited resources, we must be pragmatic and innovative in addressing barriers to climate action.**

We have identified five broad actions under each of our objectives to help guide us toward our vision. These actions will remain a fixed part of this Strategy for the entirety of its implementation, however the ways we work to achieve these actions will evolve over time.

Alongside each action, we have included a range of potential initiatives. These are examples of what an action might look like in practice.

This two-tiered approach allows us to remain agile and responsive to opportunities and challenges, while maintaining a clear sense of direction as we move forward.

**Pursuing realistic and achievable outcomes is more effective in progressing our climate change journey than setting ambitious targets that may not be feasible.**





**Objective 1:  
Climate change is considered and integrated into Council operations**

Actions	Potential initiatives
We create conditions needed to allow mode shift opportunities within our district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speed reductions near schools</li> <li>• More parking near the train station</li> <li>• Improving accessibility on footpaths</li> </ul>
We use the land we manage to adapt to the impacts of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving stormwater management in high risk areas</li> <li>• Increasing shade cover with berm planting</li> </ul>
We advocate to central government and other agencies on behalf of the unique needs of our community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide tools and services to support primary industry</li> <li>• Improving rail transport efficiency and reliability</li> </ul>
We treasure our limited water resources and provide tools for our community to do the same	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging water tanks on all buildings</li> <li>• Enhancing water metering</li> </ul>
we collaborate with landowners and construction companies to develop properties in climate-resilient and sustainable ways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum requirements for greenspace in new developments</li> <li>• Trialing solutions to minimise construction and demolition waste.</li> </ul>

## Objective 2: Council is an enabler of positive change in our community

Actions	Potential initiatives
We provide opportunities for community to build knowledge and learn skills around climate change and sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational workshops on sustainability topics such as zero waste and composting</li> <li>• Enabling creation of a repair cafe</li> </ul>
We work alongside and partner with organisations who are sustainability leaders and making a difference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting delivery of environmental education in schools</li> <li>• Partnering with government agencies to deliver local programmes</li> </ul>
We invest in tools and information that support our communities to protect their assets and interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making natural hazard mapping information more easily accessible</li> <li>• Providing risk information on LIM reports for potential home buyers</li> </ul>
We minimise our methane impact at landfill through reducing food waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitating kerside collection of organic waste</li> <li>• Encouraging compost bins at suitable properties</li> </ul>
We celebrate the incredible work of climate change champions in our community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being visible and supporting community-led initiatives</li> <li>• Recognition through awards at civic ceremonies.</li> </ul>





### Objective 3:

## As an organisation, Council leads by example

Actions	Potential initiatives
We invest in alternatively powered options over fossil fuel powered options when necessary and appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Considering electric or hybrid vehicles when existing vehicles are decommissioned</li><li>• Trialing electric equipment and machinery in our Parks and Reserves operations</li></ul>
We employ renewable electricity to ensure our operations are powered sustainably	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tendering for solar investment to reduce cost of council operations</li><li>• Purchasing renewable electricity</li></ul>
Our staff are empowered to take climate action in their roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delivering in-house staff education programmes</li><li>• Increasing oversight of climate change considerations in council reports</li></ul>
We innovate and do the simple stuff well at all our work sites and assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Investigate ways to make our operations and processes paperless</li><li>• Install effective waste management in all our facilities</li></ul>
We source goods and services from suppliers that are also committed to addressing climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work with regular suppliers to minimise emissions and waste production</li><li>• Amending requirements in our Procurement Policy for large contracts.</li></ul>





# What's next for the strategy?

**After our engagement period, we will review and consider responses before finalising the strategy document.**

This will allow us to refine the vision, objectives, and actions as needed, and help us to generate other potential initiatives to consider.

By doing so, we ensure that this Strategy reflects the interests of our community, focusing on areas where there is demand for information, support, or change.

The final Strategy will be presented to Council for formal adoption in April 2025.

# We want to hear from you!

## We want your feedback.

From Friday 31 January to Friday 7 March, we are inviting you to share your thoughts on our draft Climate Change Strategy.

As this is engagement (not a formal consultation), we want to hear from you however works best – whether that is by submitting your feedback in writing, taking part in an activity, chatting over a seed packet, completing our online form, or even by sending us a letter by carrier pigeon (well, maybe not that one!).

## Ready to help shape the future of climate action in Carterton?

### Come and see us at:

- Martinborough Fair, Cnr Oxford Street, Saturday 1 February
- Carterton Farmer's Market, Memorial Square, Sunday 23 February
- What's the Buzz, Carrington Park, Sunday 2 March
- Carterton School Gala, Carterton School, Friday 7 March

**To take our survey online now, simply visit [www.cdc.govt.nz/climate](http://www.cdc.govt.nz/climate)**

**Don't leave us high and dry – we can't wait to hear from you!**

