



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Taratahi

**CARTERTON**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Carterton District Council

# Climate Change Strategy

2025–2030





# Contents

What is Climate Change?	4
What is our role?	6
Community Emissions Profile	10
How will a changing climate impact our District?	12
How will a changing climate impact our community?	16
What have we done?	17
Evolution of our Strategy	19
Areas for action	23
Objective 1	24
Objective 2	26
Objective 3	28
Into the future	30

*All photographs included in this document are of the Carterton District.  
For further information or to request images please contact [info@cdc.govt.nz](mailto:info@cdc.govt.nz)*





# 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.

## **Guiding National Legislation and Policy Direction**

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.

At the time of writing, local government will likely experience changes to the scope and methods in which we manage the services we offer, particularly with the likes of local water reform. Nevertheless, maintaining and developing infrastructure and services that can meet the demands of a changing climate will always be a priority for local government.

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.







## Greater Wellington Regional Policy Statement

In the Greater Wellington region, there is legislative direction through the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) which integrates national direction in the regional context with a purpose of promoting the sustainable management of natural and physical resources outlined in the Resource Management Act.

The RPS includes objectives, policies and methods which district councils are required to give effect to, including through their district plans. A recent plan change to the RPS has introduced new direction, including policies to help achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions and improve the resilience of the Greater Wellington region to the effects of climate change.



## Our Legislative Response: The Wairarapa Combined 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.







# Community Emissions Profile

Where do our emissions come from?

## Community Emissions

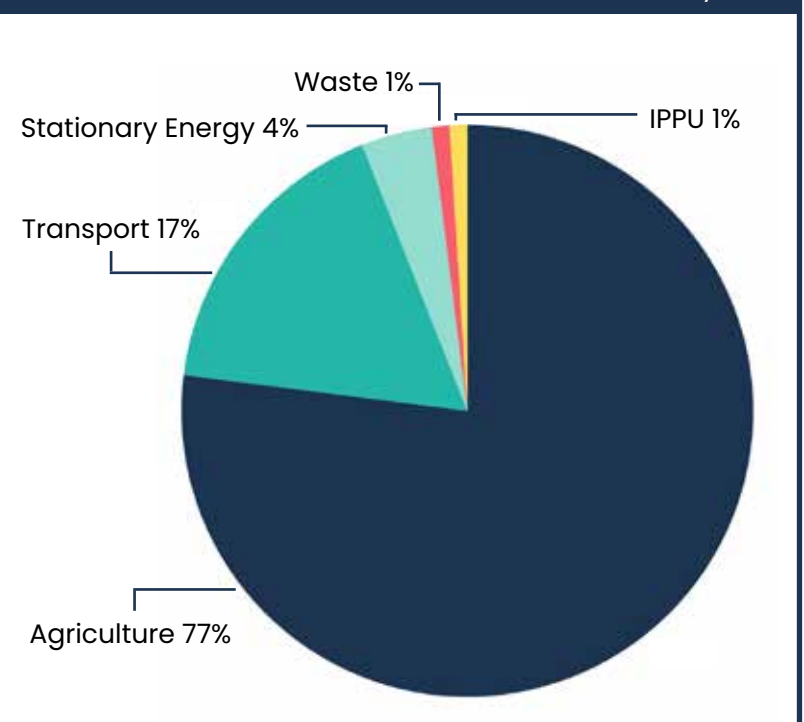
Carterton District Council, along with the rest of councils within the Greater Wellington region, recently completed our latest community greenhouse gas inventory.

This report analysed emissions that come from what we all do in the district, such as when we purchase petrol, send rubbish to the landfill, how many sheep graze our paddocks, and how much power we consume.

Over the 2023/24 financial year, emissions data reveals that agriculture is by far our largest source of emissions as a district – unsurprising for our second largest industry.

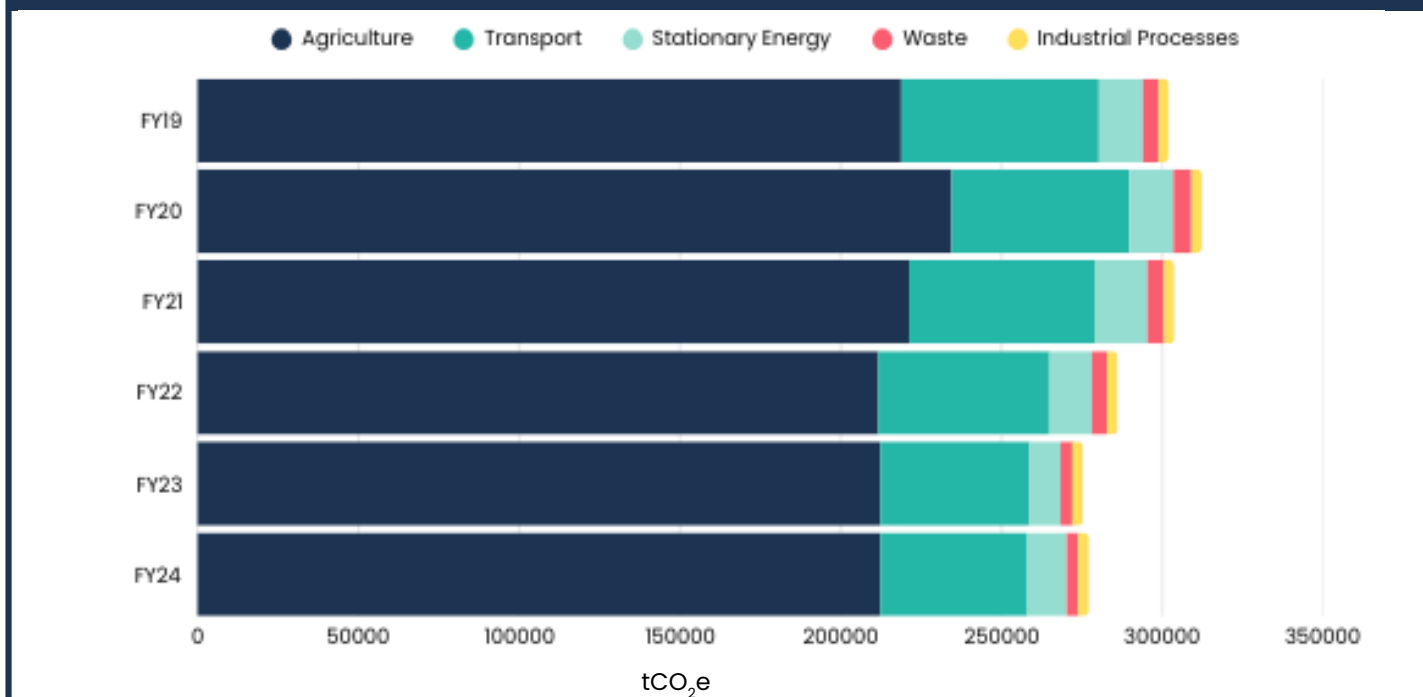
Next are transport emissions which account for 17% of our community emissions.

Carterton District Emissions in the 2023/24 financial year





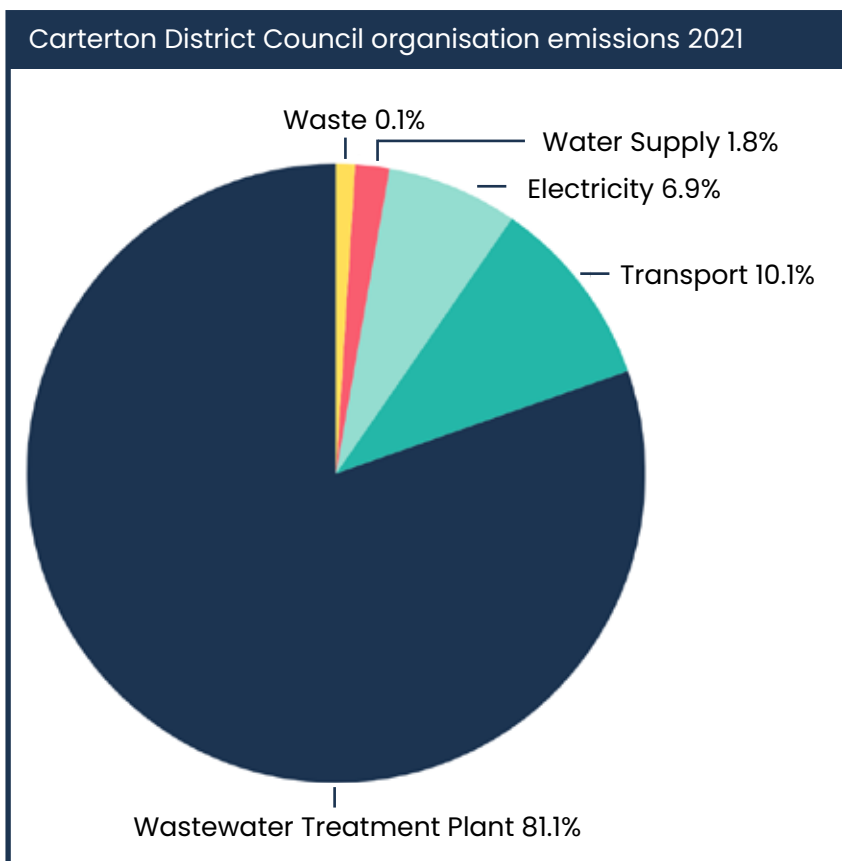
## Carterton district-wide emissions over the past five years



The above data shows that between the 18/19 and the 23/24 financial years, there was an 8% decrease in the total amount of emissions produced in the district.

The most significant of these reductions occurred in the transport and waste sectors, with more than a 25% reduction for both sectors. These results indicate motivation for continued emissions reduction, and suggest an opportunity to offer focused support in these areas.

## Council Emissions



Carterton District Council also measures the emissions we produce as an organisation.

From the adjacent graph, it is clear that our wastewater treatment operations are our largest source of emissions, accounting for more than 80% of our emissions in 2021, primarily in the form of methane and nitrous oxide.

Therefore, any wastewater treatment plant maintenance and upgrades should potential methods and technologies that can reduce the output of these gases if we want the greatest impact on reductions.

Transport and electricity are the other significant areas where organisational emissions can be reduced, and emission reductions are more possible with existing technologies and current budgets.





# How will a changing climate 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, known as Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs).

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.

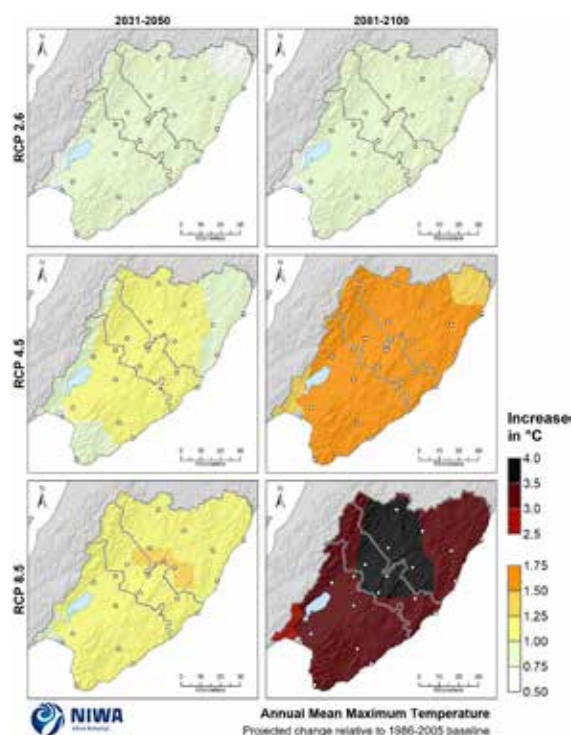


Figure 1: Projected annual mean maximum temperature changes by 2040 and 2090

**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.

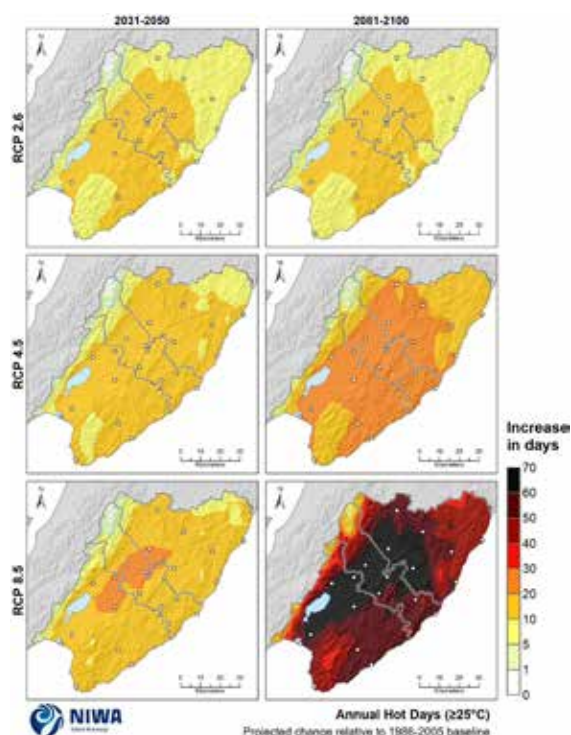


Figure 2: Projected annual hot days (warmer than 25 °C) by 2040 and 2090

**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

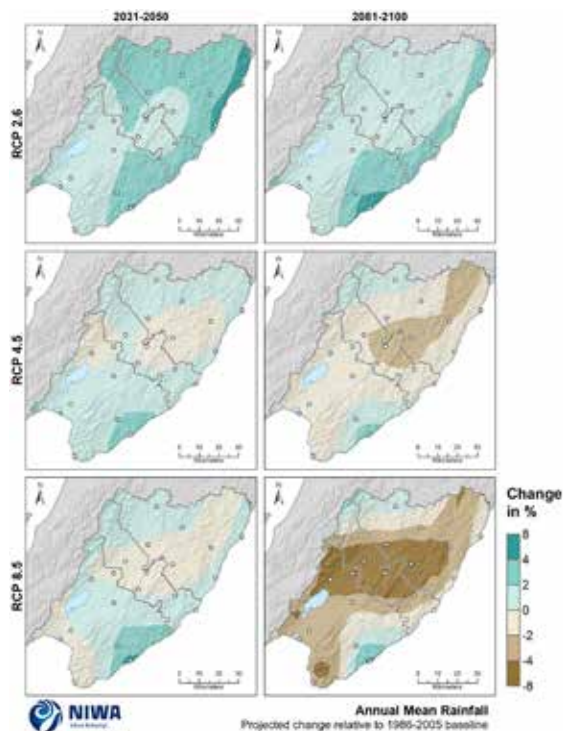


Figure 3: Projected annual rainfall changes (%) by 2040 and 2090

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.

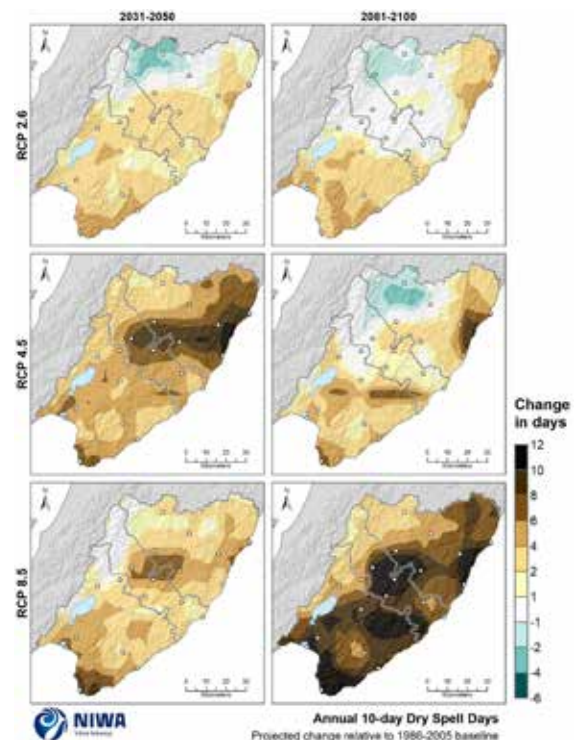


Figure 4: Projected annual dry spell days (more than 10 consecutive days) by 2040 and 2090

**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

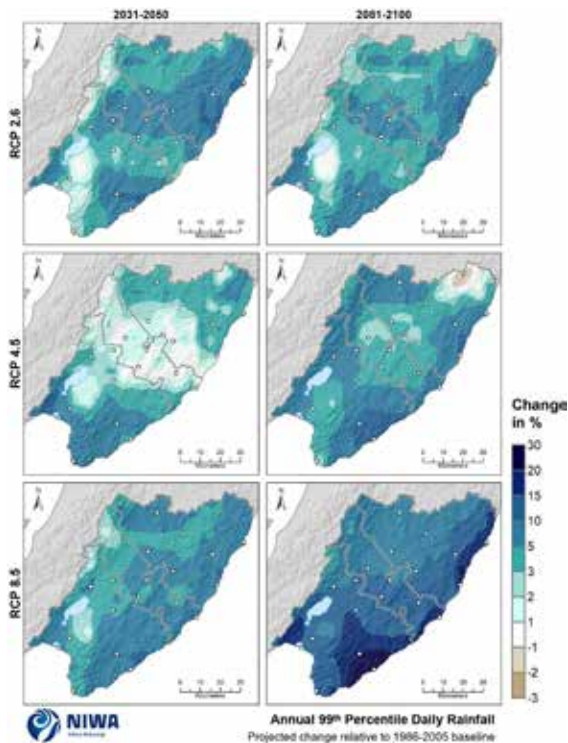


Figure 5: Projected annual 99th percentile daily rainfall changes by 2040 and 2090

**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.

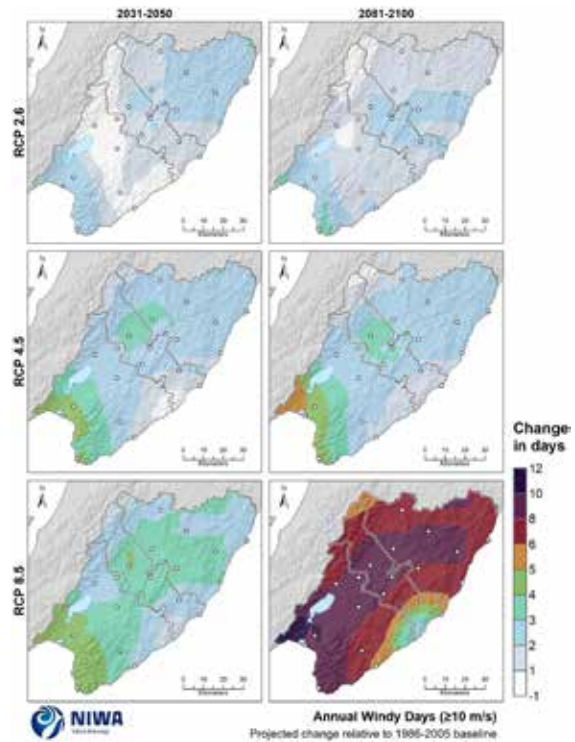


Figure 6: Projected change in annual number of windy days (more than 10 m/s) by 2040 and 2090

**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 a changing climate impact our community?

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?

We have already made significant progress in improving our operations as a business and finding ways we can support our communities.

## **Solar panel installation:**

In 2020, Carterton District Council received \$1.7 million in Better Off funding during the then Labour Government's Three Waters Review. Part of that fund was earmarked for climate management and mitigation for existing projects. Through that funding, we have been able to install a 216 KWp solar system our Dalefield wastewater treatment site.

The system has been operational since December 2024, and is expected to generate over \$50,000 in annual cost savings for Council operations and a reduction of 38 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. This has all been implemented at no cost to the rate payer, meaning we are able to generate an immediate return on investment.



## **Installation of Meridian EV chargers:**

In early 2023, Carterton District Council partnered with Meridian Energy to install two electric vehicle charges in our Holloway Street Carpark.

Each charger has two charging ports meaning that four cars can be charging at once.

The cost of charger installation was primarily covered by Meridian, with Council just needing to complete upgrades to the nearby transformer and changing the markings on the carpark.



## 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 Waste-Ed Kate
- Promoted healthy homes education with Healthy Home measurement kits available in all Wairarapa libraries.

## Less carbon-intensive modes of staff transport

- 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.



## 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.



# Evolution of our Strategy

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

In early 2020, we published our first climate change strategy. Since then, the environment we operate in now is significantly different, following a global pandemic, extreme weather events, and an ongoing shift in national government direction and priorities.

Considering these changes and evolving legislative position of councils, we worked with council staff and our elected members in late 2024 to develop a strategic framework which outlined our proposed vision and objectives, as well as to identify any barriers faced with implementation.

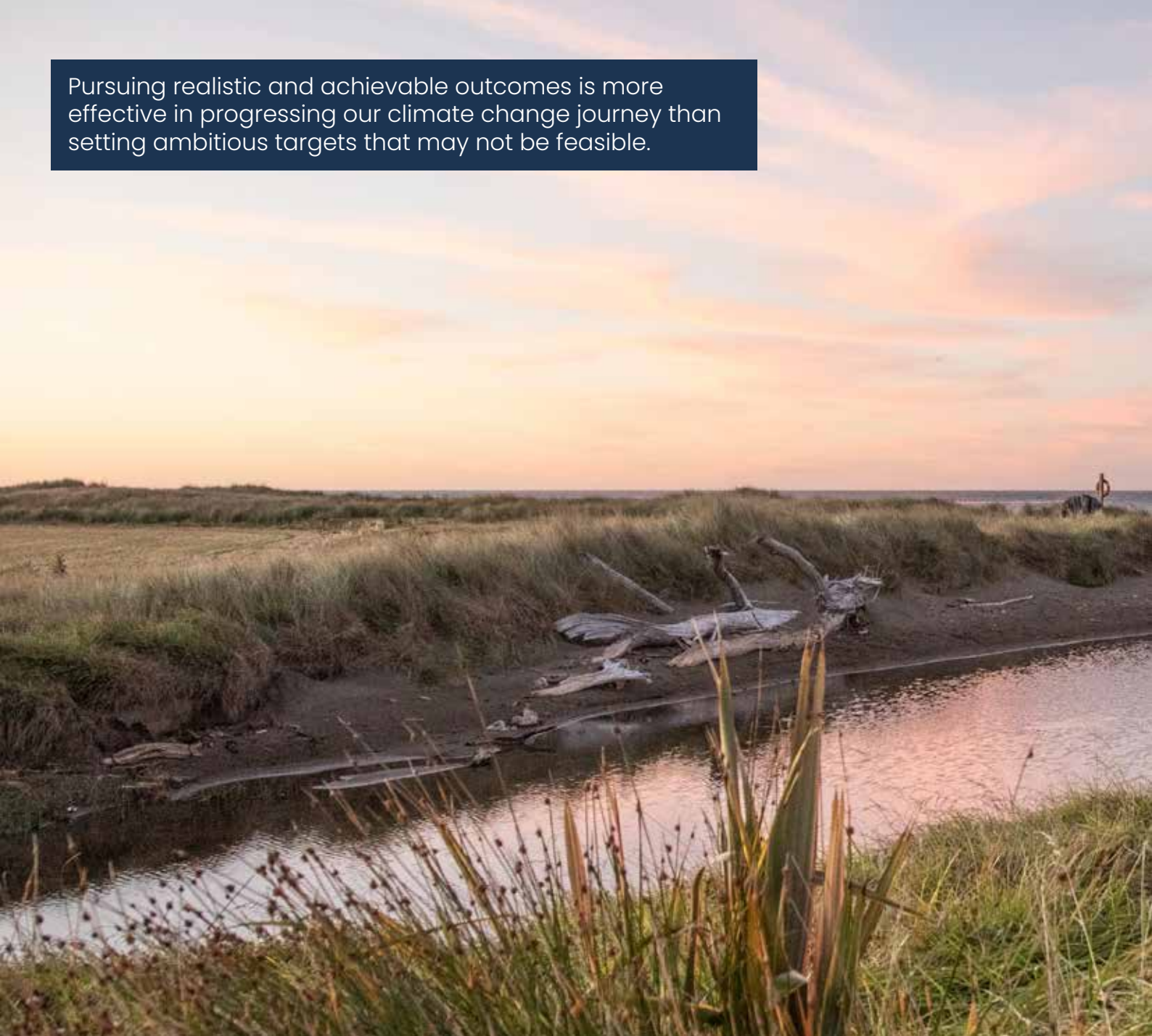
We also developed five broad actions under each of our objectives to help guide us toward our vision. These actions will remain a fixed part of the Strategy for the entirety of its implementation, however, the ways we work to achieve these actions will evolve over time. This approach allow us to remain agile and responsive to opportunities and challenges, while maintaining a clear sense of direction as we move forward.

We then tested our draft Strategy with our community through a period of public engagement in early 2025. We were open to feedback on all aspects of the strategy, but in particular, we asked people to rank the current actions based on what was considered to be most important. Likewise, we also asked for ways you would like to see climate action be implemented in the Carterton District.

Whether you talked to us at an event, submitted a written response, filled out our online survey, or wrote your ideas on our display in the Events Centre, all of your feedback has been themed and considered into this final document.



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



## 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 a core consideration in all council decisions and integrated into council operations
2. Council is an enabler of positive change in our community
3. As an organisation, Council leads by example



## From Barriers to Shifts

To realise our vision and objectives, we need to minimise the barriers we face across the organisation. These proactive shifts are what is required to drive change across all three objectives and also reflected themes in feedback we received from our community.

### 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

From the feedback you gave us during our public engagement, we know affordability is a key issue for many households in our district and ensuring no one is left behind during the movement to a climate resilient and low-carbon future is a crucial and equitable transition.

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 and as one participant said “to be frank: balls” 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.









# Areas for action

We have identified five broad actions for each of our three objectives to help guide us toward Council's vision to be an innovative and carbon neutral organisation.



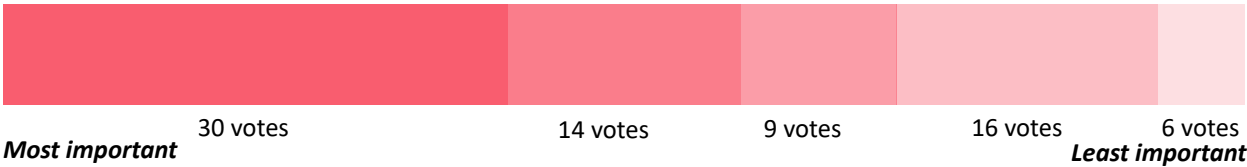
# Objective One: Climate change is a core consideration in all council decisions and integrated into Council operations

The data from the public engagements show that water resources and ensuring long term water security is the greatest priority when we are facing a changing climate, with 30 out of 75 people ranking it as their first priority.

In the feedback on how the action should be implemented, many people called for mandatory water tanks in new builds. This precise requirement is part of the proposed Wairarapa Combined District Plan and therefore water tanks will be required on new builds once the plan becomes operative

Using council land to enhance climate resilience was also important for many people, with feedback focused on use of trees in parks and streetscapes, nature-based stormwater retention and solar power initiatives. Action around encouraging walking, cycling, and public transport use was mixed, where it was both the top priority for some people and the least important for others. This highlights that we need to ensure that transport decisions are a good balance between the needs of all people in our district.

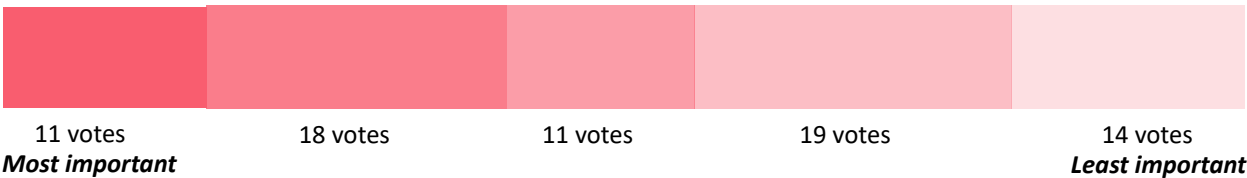
## Action: We treasure our limited water resources and provide tools for our community to do the same



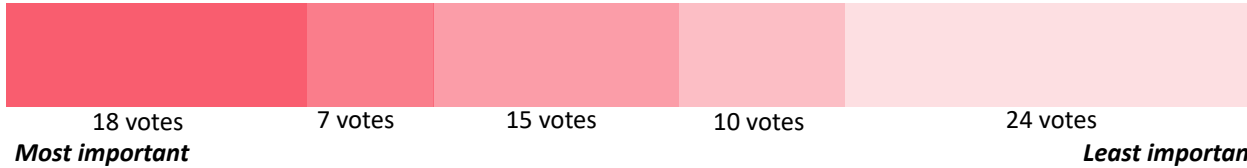
## Action: We use the land we manage to minimise emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change



## Action: We collaborate with land owners and construction companies to develop properties in climate-resilient and sustainable ways



## Action: We create conditions needed to encourage more walking, cycling and public transport use in our district



## Action: We advocate to central government and other agencies on the behalf of the unique needs of our community



## Feedback received from community

### We treasure our limited water resources, and provide tools for our community to do the same

- **Make rainwater tanks mandatory for new builds** - Reduce pressure on the water supply.
- **Investigate greywater reuse programmes** - Encourage sustainable water use in homes and businesses.
- **Strengthen enforcement of water restrictions** - Address excessive use and leaks proactively.
- **Launch a subsidy programme for water tanks** - Provide financial support for retrofitting existing homes.
- **Invest in long-term water storage solutions** - Revisit proposals for additional reservoirs.

### We collaborate with landowners and construction companies to develop properties in climate resilient and sustainable ways

- **Ensure new housing is not built in flood-prone areas** - Enforce stricter development rules.
- **Support cleaner heating alternatives** - Promote heat pumps over wood and coal fires.
- **Require green spaces in all new developments** - Integrate trees and native plants into town planning.
- **Mandate water and energy efficiency standards** - Encourage passive house construction.
- **Reduce construction waste** - Establish recycling and repurposing systems for building materials.
- **Introduce financial incentives for solar and rainwater systems** - Offer rates discounts for sustainable homes.

### We advocate to central government and other agencies on behalf of the unique needs of our community

- **Lobby central and regional government for improved public transport** - Focus on rail reliability and electrification of bus routes.
- **Advocate for climate adaptation funding** - Secure support for flood protection and infrastructure resilience.
- **Push for solar power subsidies** - Make renewable energy more affordable for residents.
- **Strengthen rural road funding** - Reduce the burden of flood-damaged road repairs on small communities.
- **Advocate for renewable energy incentives** - Support policies that reduce costs for residents and businesses.

### We use the land we manage to minimise emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change

- **Expand tree planting in urban area** - Increase shade trees on streets, in parks, and in new developments.
- **Restore wetlands and riparian areas** - Enhance natural flood mitigation and carbon sequestration.
- **Develop solar farms on unused council land** - Use renewable energy to power council operations and sell surplus power.
- **Improve stormwater management** - Upgrade infrastructure to handle extreme weather events.
- **Develop local community solar projects** - Reduce energy costs for residents.

### We create conditions needed to encourage more walking, cycling and public transport use in our district

- **Encourage walking and scootering to school** - Develop safer pedestrian crossings and lower speed limits near schools, with proper enforcement.
- **Reduce car dependency in town planning** - Adjust zoning laws to allow for more compact, walkable town centres.
- **Expand and connect cycle networks** - Create safe cycleways between Carterton, Greytown, and Masterton, and introduce "Bike Streets" where bicycles have priority, following the Dutch model
- **Prioritise footpath renewals** - Improve accessibility and safety for all users.

*"Create safe cycle pathways between us and our neighbours Greytown and Masterton"*  
- Engagement feedback

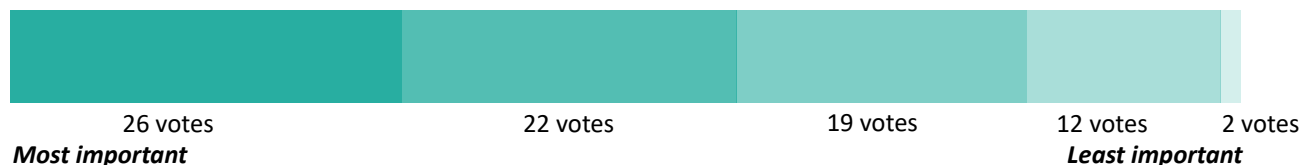


## Objective 2: Council is an enabler of positive change in our community

From public feedback, the most important climate change measure from the community was to partner with organisations that are already leading and working in sustainability – including mana whenua, community organisation, businesses, and schools.

We know these groups are already well connected to the needs and aspirations of our communities, so we will continue to uplift and support their work programmes and initiatives. Of almost equal importance was providing opportunities for education and upskilling in sustainability topics.

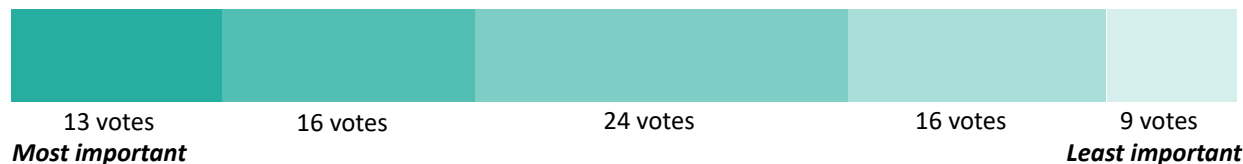
**Action: We work alongside and partner with organisations who are sustainability leaders and making a difference**



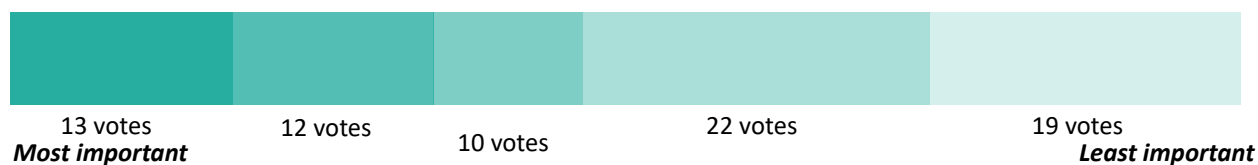
**Action: We provide opportunities for community to build knowledge and learn skills around climate change and sustainability**



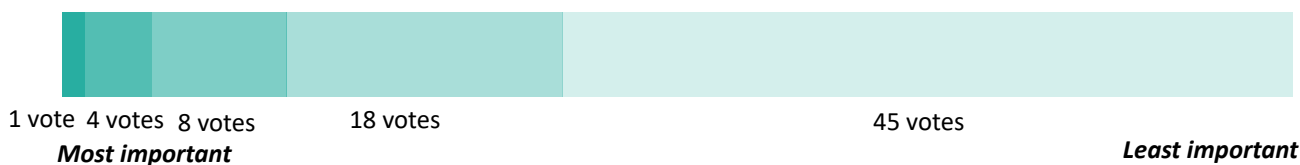
**Action: We invest in tools and information that support our communities to protect their assets and interests**



**Action: We minimise our methane impact at landfill through reducing food waste**



**Action: We celebrate the incredible work of climate change champions in our community**



## Feedback received from community

### We collaborate and partner with organisations who are sustainability leaders and making a difference

- **Partner with iwi and hapū to promote climate resilience** - Support Māori-led environmental projects.
- **Support local environmental groups** - Provide grants or resources for their projects.
- **Support businesses adopting sustainable practices** - Provide recognition and incentives.
- **Collaborate regionally on climate initiatives** - Share resources and knowledge across Wairarapa councils.
- **Develop a community solar programme** - Work with suppliers to make renewable energy more accessible. Support policies that reduce costs for residents and businesses.

### We provide opportunities for community to build knowledge and learn skills around climate change and sustainability

- **Host sustainability workshops** - Educate on composting, rainwater harvesting, and solar power.
- **Support a repair café programme** - Reduce waste by promoting repair skills.
- **Develop a climate change book collection in libraries** - Provide free access to knowledge.
- **Hold an annual Sustainability Expo** - Showcase local initiatives and businesses.
- **Incorporate climate education in schools** - Partner with schools to integrate sustainability topics.
- **Encourage sustainable landscaping** - Promote low-maintenance, drought-resistant gardens.
- **Encourage regenerative farming practices** - Partner with primary industries to reduce emissions.

### We minimise our methane impact at landfill through reducing food waste

- **Implement kerbside food waste collection** - Divert organic waste from landfills.
- **Support community composting programmes** - Establish drop-off points for food waste.
- **Encourage local food rescue programmes** - Reduce food waste and support vulnerable communities.
- **Investigate a biogas initiative** - Convert food waste into energy.
- **Offer composting workshops and rebates** - Make home composting accessible and easy.

### We celebrate the incredible work of climate change champions within our community

- **Introduce a sustainability awards programme** - Recognise individuals and businesses making a difference.
- **Publish success stories in the town newsletter** - Showcase local climate action efforts.
- **Create an annual climate action report** - Highlight measurable progress.
- **Host community events with sustainability themes** - Engage the public through positive reinforcement.

### We invest in tools and information that support our communities to protect their assets and interests

- **Develop a natural hazards information hub** - Ensure residents can easily access flood risk and adaptation data.
- **Offer subsidies for home energy efficiency upgrades** - Help residents reduce emissions and power costs.
- **Work with regional council to support climate resilience planning for rural areas** - Educate landowners on soil, water, and biodiversity protection.
- **Improve emergency preparedness for climate events** - Increase awareness and resources for flood-prone areas.
- **Encourage data-driven decision-making** - Routinely measure and track carbon emissions.

*"I think it's especially important for the rural community to understand how they could develop an individually suited plan to make their properties more resilient"*  
- Engagement feedback

*"Council works in partnership with iwi/māori to achieve climate and environmental goals"*  
- Engagement feedback



### Objective 3: As an organisation, Council leads by example

It is clear from the feedback received that transitioning to non-fossil fuelled powered vehicles and equipment is the most important action council could take from over 50% of respondents.

Likewise, while Council currently sources electricity from a renewable electricity generator-retailer (“gentailer”), feedback shows support for expanding council owned renewable electricity investment.

**Action: We invest in alternatively powered options over fossil fuel powered options where possible**



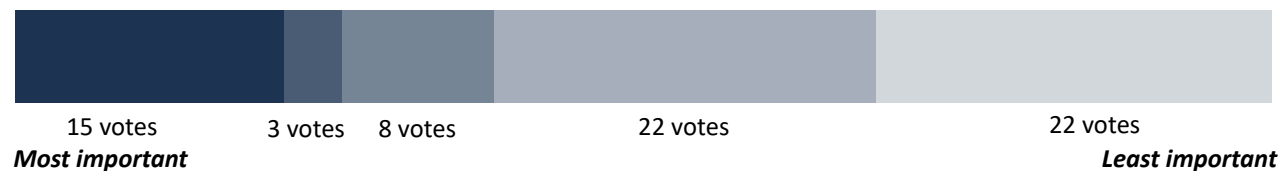
**Action: We employ renewable electricity to ensure our operations are powered sustainably**



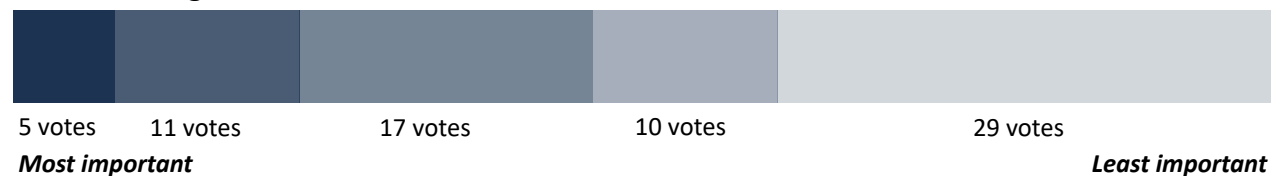
**Action: Our staff are empowered to take climate action in their roles**



**Action: We innovate and do the simple stuff well at all our work sites and assets**



**Action: We source goods and services from suppliers that are also committed to addressing climate change**



## Feedback received from community

### We invest in alternatively powered options over fossil fuel powered options where possible

- **Install solar panels on all council buildings** – Reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
- **Electrify the council vehicle fleet** – Transition to low-emission transport.

### We employ renewable electricity to ensure our operations are powered sustainably

- **Power council buildings with 100% renewable energy** - Set a strong example for sustainability.
- **Expand solar power use** - Install more panels at wastewater plants and other facilities.
- **Perform an energy audit of council operations** - Identify and eliminate inefficiencies.
- **Showcase successful renewable energy projects** - Promote adoption through visibility.

### We source goods and services from suppliers that are also committed to addressing climate change

- **Prioritise vendors with strong sustainability practices** - Use purchasing power to drive change.
- **Require emissions reporting for large contracts** - Increase accountability.
- **Support local businesses adopting green technologies** - Encourage sustainable economic growth.
- **Develop a procurement policy favouring low-carbon products** - Reduce the council's environmental footprint.
- **Showcase sustainable suppliers in community outreach** - Promote businesses taking climate action.

### Our staff are empowered to take climate action in their roles

- **Provide sustainability training for staff** - Ensure all employees understand their role in climate action.
- **Offer incentives for low-carbon commuting** - Reward sustainable travel choices.
- **Reduce digital waste** - Implement cloud data management best practices.
- **Include climate considerations in all council decisions** - Ensure sustainability is a core part of governance.
- **Encourage staff-led green initiatives** - Reward innovative sustainability efforts.

### We innovate and do the simple stuff well at all our work sites and assets

- **Reduce single-use plastics in council offices** - Switch to reusable alternatives.
- **Digitise paperwork to reduce waste** - Implement paperless policies where feasible.
- **Improve waste separation in council facilities** - Make recycling easier and more effective.
- **Collaborate with other councils to share best practices** - Learn from successful initiatives elsewhere.

*"Ensuring energy resilience in the district, solar panels on council buildings"*  
– Engagement feedback

*"The idea of having staff workshops around climate change sounds great, people need to understand what's going on, how it impacts them, and what they can do to make change."*  
– Engagement feedback

*"Innovation is something that comes from the culture within the council. It must be enabled, supported and rewarded to become an everyday way of thinking and working."*  
– Engagement feedback

*"Get rid of the single use cups at the water cooler!"*  
– Engagement feedback





# Into the future

This Climate Change Strategy will be supported with annual implementation plans, aligning with council's financial year. These will be built from feedback received through our recent engagement process.

By completing these plans annually, we remain flexible and responsive to any legislative changes, resourcing and funding opportunities, and emerging community needs and interests.

Progress will be reported via a comprehensive annual report provided at the end of the financial year. Transparent and publicly accessible reporting ensures that Councillors and the public are kept informed, while also holding us accountable for delivering the Strategy.

The Strategy will undergo a further review in five years, commencing July 2030 - a significant year for global emissions reductions needed to limit ocean warming to 2°C. This review period aligns well with other significant national and local processes, following the 2029 National Elections and the 2030-2040 Long Term Plan process for local governments. It also occurs just prior to the 2031 Local Government Elections.

For more information on this Strategy, please contact Carterton District Council by emailing [info@cdc.govt.nz](mailto:info@cdc.govt.nz) or calling 06 379 4030.







