

DRAFT EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN 2026-30

Building a more prosperous, healthier and low carbon Kāpiti



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Introduction

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

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

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

New Zealand's economy currently relies on over \$8 billion of imported fossil fuels every year. This is risky and costly. Now is the time to accelerate our shift away from fossil fuels and towards a more prosperous, healthier, low carbon future.

Reducing emissions comes with many benefits

The core theme of the *Emissions Reduction Strategy* is to maximise the economic, social and community benefits of decarbonisation for everyone who lives and works in Kāpiti. This includes:

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

These benefits are expected to be significant – modelling has found that electrifying homes and vehicles across New Zealand could lead to total savings of \$10.7bn per year by 2040.¹

We are building on climate action already underway

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

The Council has been taking climate action for a long time. We started reporting and reducing our operational emissions 15 years ago – one of the first councils in New Zealand to do so. Since then, the Council's emissions have reduced by 69.5% and delivered other benefits, including cost savings. For more information, see *Appendix: How we monitor emissions*.

Net zero? Decarbonisation? Energy security?

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

¹ Rewiring Aotearoa, *Investing in Tomorrow: the electrification opportunity* (2024)

What we're doing

About this plan

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

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

The plan is guided by the pathways, principles, partnership model set out in the [Emissions Reduction Strategy](#). This includes being fiscally responsible, amplifying the work of others, and reducing emissions in ways that maximise the associated opportunities and benefits.

The Council's role

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

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

Emissions Reduction Plans will be published every 3 years

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

This Emissions Reduction Plan is being released in 2026, a year ahead of our next LTP, so that people and businesses in Kāpiti can:

- understand what the Council is currently doing to reduce emissions and enable action
- provide ideas and suggestions to unlock further emission reductions, including proposals that can be considered for inclusion in the LTP 2027-37.

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

More action is needed to reach our aspirational goal

Emissions in the Kāpiti Coast district reduced 6% between 2018/19 and 2023/24. We're making good progress, but achieving our aspirational goal of 'net zero' by 2040 will mean reducing our emissions by **6.3% every year** (relative to 2018/19).

Council modelling indicates that taking action in line with the Climate Change Commission's 'demonstration path', which is based on achievable shifts using currently available technology, will enable the Kāpiti Coast to be net zero by 2045. This would be a significant achievement, but we've set an even higher level of ambition.

To address this 'ambition gap', the Council will look to seize new emission reduction opportunities as they emerge, in line with the *Emissions Reduction Strategy*. This could include opportunities to accelerate behavioural change, or new technologies that enable faster and cheaper decarbonisation, between now and 2040.

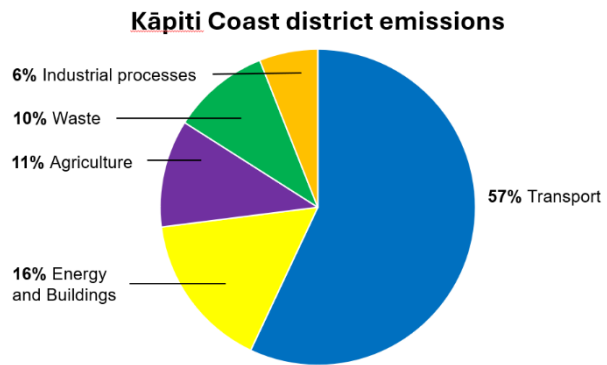
Monitoring and reporting

Monitoring shifts in our emissions, and the benefits associated with reducing emissions, will be critical to success.

This data will help us better understand the effectiveness of the Council's actions, how your efforts are contributing, and where we should focus our future efforts.

Each year, we'll publish a progress report with the latest emissions data, how we're tracking against our goals, and the status of the actions in this plan.

The Council has been publishing progress reports about its broader climate action work since 2022. For these reports, see the Council website: [What Council is doing on climate change](#).



Actions

Areas of focus

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

- Transport
- Energy & Buildings
- Waste
- Sequestration

Overarching actions

District planning

Some of the Council's work relates to all four of these focus areas. The most notable example is district planning, which can influence emissions by informing where and how development occurs, what access people have to public transport, walkways and cycleways, and enabling people to live a low emissions lifestyle.

The Council's *Growth Strategy | Te Tupu Pai* includes "encouraging low-carbon living" as one of its six specific growth principles.

New Zealand's planning legislation is currently undergoing a once-in-a-generation change. The Government is in the process of replacing the Resource Management Act 1991 with the Planning Bill and the Natural Environment Bill. During this period of change, the Council is:

- Continuing to implement the Operative District Plan, which already requires or permits a range of emissions reduction activity. For example, Plan Change 1C (operative in 2024) specifies requirements for new developments to provide for cycle parking.
- Working with developers through the development application process to identify emission reduction opportunities, such as improving building performance, enhancing connectivity, and building active transport infrastructure.

- Undertaking town centre planning for Ōtaki, Waikanae, Paraparaumu, Paraparaumu Beach, Raumati and Paekākāriki. These plans will be informed by community input, aspirations identified through Vision Kāpiti, and will incorporate environmental, low emission and climate resilient outcomes.
- Monitoring the legislative reforms and exploring how the Council can align future district planning with our community priorities and strategic objectives.

Reducing emissions through Council's supply chain

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

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

From 2027 onwards, the Council will measure, report and set a target for its supply chain emissions. This work aligns with the Council's obligations under our Climate Action Loan.

Climate Action Loans reward councils for reducing emissions

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

From 2027 onwards, councils with a Climate Action Loan are required to also report and set a target for their supply chain emissions.

Transport

Progress so far

- Transport emissions in Kāpiti have fallen 10% between 2018/19 and 2023/24
- Coast35 trail connects Paekākāriki to Ōtaki with a 35km off-road trail for walking, cycling and horse riding
- 1,217 fully electric vehicles registered in Kāpiti and 7 public EV fast chargers across Kāpiti

Opportunities

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

Fuel situation

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

The majority of transport emissions in Kāpiti come from petrol and diesel-powered cars, utes, vans and trucks. 80-85% of all trips in Kāpiti involve a light vehicle.² There are two main ways to reduce these emissions:

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

All of these solutions have a part to play. For example, around 30% of car trips in the Wellington region are journeys of 2km or less.³ By providing safe and accessible walking and cycling infrastructure, and creating more connected communities through smart district planning, we can give people more options for shorter trips. Increasing the uptake of active transport can also have health benefits and help reduce congestion for other road users.

For longer journeys, affordable and reliable public transport is key. Kāpiti residents are also increasingly interested in the benefits of electric/hybrid vehicles. Across the Kāpiti fleet, the proportion of fully electric EVs remains modest (2.6%) but is tracking ahead of the New Zealand average (2%).

² Greater Wellington Regional Council, *RLTP 2027 – State of Transport Network* (2025), p 37

³ Greater Wellington Regional Council, *RLTP 2027 – State of Transport Network* (2025), p 28

Did you know? The Kāpiti Coast has the highest proportion of young people that cycle to school in the Greater Wellington region.⁴ This reflects efforts by the Council, schools and community groups to enable safer cycling through infrastructure upgrades, speed management near schools, and safe cycling programmes.

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

Flexible working is not possible for everyone, but it is an effective way to reduce emissions and can have benefits for both businesses and workers.

WFH preferences have, in part, contributed to the recent reduction in train patronage. The Kāpiti train line into Wellington now has noticeably lower patronage on Mondays and Fridays, which are popular days to WFH.

We work closely with regional and central government

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

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

We know that good public transport is a critical part of an accessible, connected and sustainable transport network. We're working closely with GWRC to inform the development of the Wellington RLTP 2027 and advocate strongly to GWRC for better public transport outcomes in Kāpiti, such as the 2030 rollout of new Tūhono battery-electric trains that will connect Kāpiti (including Ōtaki) with Wellington and Manawātū. This project is 92% funded by central government, with the remainder from Greater Wellington and Horizons regional councils.

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

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

<i>Travel mode</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Change since 2018</i>
Drive	59.4%	 from 64.2%
Work from home	23.5%	 from 12.5%
Train	7.8%	 from 12.7%
Car passenger	2.9%	 from 3.5%
Walk	3.1%	 from 3.4%
Cycle	1.5%	 from 1.6%
Bus	0.9%	 from 0.9%
Other	0.9%	 from 1.1%

⁴ Greater Wellington Regional Council, *RLTP 2027 – State of Transport Network* (2025), p 47-48

Actions to reduce transport emissions

Actions					Benefits	
Action		Key partners	Timeframe	Status	Potential emissions reduced per year	Broader benefits
Reducing emissions from Council operations						
Council vehicles	Continue converting the Council fleet to EVs and hybrids as part of ongoing asset renewal. We currently have 9 EVs and 9 hybrids in our fleet of 94 vehicles.		Ongoing	Underway	68 tCO ₂	Fuel savings, energy security
	Purchase an electric rubbish truck for public rubbish bin collection		2026 – 2034	Subject to future funding decisions	16 tCO ₂	Fuel savings, energy security
Staff commuting	Continue initiatives to reduce staff commuting emissions, including our flexible working policy and promoting cycling to work		Ongoing	Underway	53 tCO ₂	Fuel savings, health benefits
Council's supply chain	Work with suppliers to measure and reduce transport emissions from capital works and services provided to Council	Council suppliers	Ongoing	Subject to future funding decisions	Pathways in-development	Cost efficiencies
Enabling emissions reduction across Kāpiti						
Walking and cycling network	Enable active transport by delivering the Pathways Network Plan 2027-36, a programme of 24 improvement projects to expand and enhance the safety of the Kāpiti walking and cycling network	NZTA	2027 – 2036	Subject to future funding decisions	Enabling action	Safety, access, connectivity, health benefits
Transport safety	Continue to deliver our active transport safety education programme so that users feel confident and safe	Schools, marae, community groups, Police, NZTA, GWRC	Ongoing	Underway	Enabling action	Safety, access, connectivity, health benefits
Speed management	Deliver our Speed Management Plan to slow traffic near schools and civic areas to promote safer walking and cycling	Schools, marae, community groups, Police, NZTA, GWRC	Ongoing	Underway	Enabling action	Safety, access, connectivity, health benefits
Development opportunities	When assessing development applications, look for opportunities to provide improved connections and infrastructure to facilitate mode shift	Developers	Ongoing	Underway	Enabling action	Safety, access, connectivity

EV charging network	Work with private sector suppliers to increase the number of public EV chargers across Kāpiti	Suppliers of EV chargers	Ongoing	Underway	Enabling action	Fuel savings, energy security connectivity
Advocacy	Continue advocating to central and regional government for better public transport and sustainable transport outcomes in Kāpiti	Central government, regional council	Ongoing	Underway	Enabling action	Fuel savings, safety, access, connected communities

Energy and Buildings

Progress so far

- Emissions from energy and buildings in Kāpiti fell 6% between 2018/19 and 2023/24
- 1,421 Kāpiti homes and buildings have solar panels
- Council has replaced 5,274 (out of 5,543) streetlights with LEDs, reducing their emissions by 74%, and Council's electricity costs by over \$0.5 million a year

Opportunities

Energy and Buildings account for 16% of emissions in the Kāpiti Coast district. Around half these emissions are from using gas, LPG, coal, petrol and diesel to power heaters, cookers, boilers and generators.

The other half of these emissions are associated with electricity use. New Zealand's national grid currently generates around 85-88% of electricity from renewable sources, with the remainder generated by burning coal and gas.⁵ By 2030, the national electricity grid is forecast to be more than 95% renewable.⁶ This will significantly reduce our emissions from electricity use.

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

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

⁵ MBIE, *Energy in New Zealand* (2025)

⁶ Boston Consulting Group, *Energy to Grow: Securing New Zealand's Future* (2025)

Did you know? The Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority (EECA) has found that fully ‘electric homes’, which include electric appliances and electric vehicles powered by solar panels, can save homeowners thousands of dollars a year in reduced energy costs.⁷ Electric homes are also healthier and produce significantly fewer emissions than fossil fuel powered homes.

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

A more accessible, emerging finance option is the proposed ‘Ratepayers Assistance Scheme’ which could include low interest loans to spread the cost of sustainable home upgrades over time (eg 20+ years) while letting people reap the benefits immediately. The proposed scheme will be available to ratepayers through participating councils, and the debt will sit off councils’ balance sheets. The scheme requires Government approval and we are monitoring its progress. For more information, see the Local Government NZ website: [Ratepayer Assistance Scheme](#).

Actions to reduce emissions from energy and buildings

Actions					Benefits	
Action		Key partners	Timeframe	Status	Potential emissions reduced per year	Broader benefits
Reducing emissions from Council operations						
Ōtaki Pool upgrade	Convert from gas boiler to heat pump as part of broader pool facility upgrades	Iwi partners, pool users, Ōtaki community, Electra	2026 – 2031	Underway	224 tCO ₂	Energy savings, energy security, improved user experience
Waikanae Pool upgrade	Explore options to convert from gas boiler to heat pump, as part of broader pool facility upgrades and asset renewal decisions	Iwi partners, pool users, Waikanae community	2027 – 2037	Subject to future funding decisions	71 tCO ₂	Energy savings, energy security, improved user experience
Solar panels on Council buildings	Install solar panels on Council buildings at the Paraparaumu Civic precinct		2026 – 2030	Updated business case awaiting approval	65 tCO ₂	Energy savings, energy security
	Develop business cases for additional solar panels at other Council sites,		2027 – 2037	Subject to future funding decisions	TBC	Energy savings, energy security

⁷ EECA, *The impact of electric homes* (2024)

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	such as the Paraparaumu Wastewater Treatment Plant					
Energy efficiency	Convert remaining streetlights across Kāpiti to LEDs as opportunities arise	NZTA	Ongoing	Underway	13 tCO ₂	Energy savings
	Continue to improve energy monitoring across Council operations and reduce costs through energy efficiency. We are aiming to reduce Council's overall energy consumption by 1% per annum.		Ongoing	Underway	15 tCO ₂	Energy savings
Council's supply chain	Work with our suppliers to measure and reduce energy emissions from capital works and services provided to Council, including the emissions embodied in materials such as steel, concrete and asphalt.	Council suppliers	Ongoing	Subject to future funding decisions	Pathways in-development	Energy savings, improved health & safety
Enabling emissions reduction across Kāpiti						
Community solar resilience project	Install solar panels and batteries at eight community emergency hubs including marae, schools and halls. This will improve community resilience during emergency events and reduce each building's energy bills and emissions at other times.	Iwi partners, local schools, Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority (EECA), Electra	2026	Underway. 75% funded by EECA, 25% by Council.	23 tCO ₂	Energy security, community resilience, energy savings
Business education	Continue to educate and support local businesses to seize the benefits of decarbonisation	Local businesses	Ongoing	Underway	Enabling action	Energy savings, energy security, local economy
Community education	Continue to educate and support households and community groups to seize the benefits of decarbonisation, including offering free Healthy Home Kits from our libraries, our Sustainable Spring and Greener Neighbourhoods programmes, and delivering climate education through Enviroschools.	Community groups, local schools, Enviroschools	Ongoing	Underway	Enabling action	Energy savings, energy security, healthier homes, connected communities
Ratepayer Assistance Scheme (RAS)	Explore opportunity to adopt the RAS, which could provide low-interest finance for Kāpiti residents to undertake sustainable home upgrades	LGFA, central government	Ongoing	Subject to Government approval and future funding decisions	Enabling action	Energy savings, energy security, healthier homes

Waste

Progress so far

- Emissions from waste in Kāpiti increased 10% between 2018/19 and 2023/24
- Otaihangā Zero Waste opened mid-2024 and has already diverted more than 350 tonnes of materials and products from landfill
- There are no open landfills in Kāpiti. Our landfill waste is transferred to other districts. Council manages 3 closed landfills in Kāpiti.

Opportunities

Waste accounts for 9% of emissions in the Kāpiti Coast district.

Most of these emissions are from biogenic methane, a potent greenhouse gas that is generated when organic material like food scraps and garden waste go to landfill and break down in an oxygen-free environment. In Kāpiti, more than half of what we put in our kerbside rubbish bins – totalling over 4,000 tonnes/year – is food and garden waste.⁸ Across the country, it's estimated that New Zealanders throw away \$3bn worth of food every year.⁹ We can reduce these emissions by minimising food waste and composting organic material instead of sending it to landfill.

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

Did you know? As part of building Te Ara Whetū, the new library for Waikanae, 94% of demolition waste has been diverted from landfill. The Council has worked with Otaihangā Zero Waste and our lead contractor Naylor Love to separate and reuse or recycle these resources.

Regional and national collaboration to minimise waste

In 2023, the Council worked with seven other councils to develop the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2023-29, including a local action plan for Kāpiti. The Council's work programme has a strong focus on making better use of existing resources and supporting communities and businesses to take action in line with the 'waste hierarchy'. This means minimising waste through redesign, reduction, reuse, repair and repurposing, rather than relying on waste management such as recycling and disposal services.

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

⁸ Kāpiti Coast District Council, *Solid waste survey: composition of solid waste in Kāpiti Coast District* (2017)

⁹ Rabobank and KiwiHarvest, *Food Waste Survey* (2025)

Actions to reduce waste emissions

Actions					Benefits	
Action		Key partners	Timeframe	Status	Potential emissions reduced per year	Broader benefits
Reducing emissions from Council operations						
Council waste	Continue initiatives to minimise waste from Council operations, including staff education, diverting food scraps to our worm farm, and regular waste audits		Ongoing	Underway. Waste Levy funded.	<1 tCO ₂ -e	Waste reduction, cost efficiencies
Wastewater treatment	Explore options to manage biosolids from wastewater treatment and divert from being sent to landfill	Iwi partners, Water Services Authority	Ongoing	Subject to future funding decisions	Up to 411 tCO ₂ -e	Cost efficiencies
Council's supply chain	Introduce waste minimisation plan requirements for all Council contracts over a certain threshold	Council suppliers	2026 – 2028	Underway	TBC	Waste reduction, cost efficiencies
Enabling emissions reduction across Kāpiti						
Household food waste	Deliver education to minimise food waste including Love Your Compost workshops and the Love Food Hate Waste campaign		Ongoing	Underway. Waste Levy funded.	Enabling action	Waste reduction, reuse resources
	Support development of a private sector food waste collection service or facility	Waste collectors	Ongoing	Underway. To be externally funded	Enabling action	Waste reduction, cost efficiencies
Waste education	Continue to deliver waste minimisation education, including Enviroschools at participating Kāpiti schools	Local schools, Enviroschools	Ongoing	Underway. Waste Levy funded.	Enabling action	Connected communities
Business & community-led projects	Provide 'Funding for Less Waste' grants (formerly Waste Levy Grants) to support projects that will result in less waste in Kāpiti. There are 3 funds available: • Small Community Projects (\$20k) • Local Business (\$50k) • Community Projects (\$50k)	Community groups, local businesses	Ongoing	Underway. Waste Levy funded.	Enabling action	Waste reduction, local economy, connected communities
	Continue to support waste minimisation at large events through implementing the solid waste bylaw, providing	Large event organisers	Ongoing	Underway. Waste Levy funded.	Enabling action	Waste reduction

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	bookable resources, advice on waste planning and post-event waste audits					
Construction & demolition waste	Work with the regional 'Build Cluster' to develop pathways to minimise Kāpiti construction and demolition waste	Build Cluster (businesses, industry experts)	2026 – 2027	Underway	Enabling action	Waste reduction, reuse resources
	Trial the use of biochar to convert treated timber waste into a reusable resource	Otaihanga Zero Waste	2026 – 2027	Underway	Enabling action	Waste reduction, innovation, local economy
Recovery, recycling, disposal services	Support Otaihanga Zero Waste expansion and operations, including the new Reuse Shop	Otaihanga Zero Waste	Ongoing	Underway. Waste Levy funded.	Enabling action	Waste reduction, local economy, reuse resources
	Continue offering TyreWise, a scheme to recycle and repurpose end-of-life tyres free of charge	TyreWise	Ongoing	Underway. TyreWise is funded by fees collected on imported tyres.	Enabling action	Environmental health, reuse resources
	Continue to increase engagement with specialised recycling programmes, such as batteries, tetrapaks, lids, e-waste	Otaihanga Zero Waste	Ongoing	Underway. Waste Levy funded.	Enabling action	Environmental health, reuse resources
Solid waste bylaw 2021: construction & demolition waste	Set a bylaw threshold requiring Building Consent applicants for developments above a certain value to submit waste management plans and to monitor, audit and direct waste from construction	Building Consent applicants over threshold value	2026	Underway	Enabling action	Waste reduction, cost efficiencies
	Require Multi-Unit Developments of 10 units or more to use waste calculator tool	Developers	Ongoing	Underway	Enabling action	Waste reduction, cost efficiencies
Closed landfills	Continue aftercare of closed landfills, including maintenance of wetlands and planting native trees to sequester carbon		Ongoing	Underway	TBC	Environmental health
	Improve emissions data collection from closed landfills, such as through gas surface monitoring, and explore options to capture or minimise these emissions		2026 – 2027	Underway	TBC	
Transport emissions from waste	Improve data collection around transport emissions from waste collectors operating under licence in Kāpiti	Waste collection licensees	2026 – 2027	Underway	Enabling action	Cost efficiencies

Sequestration

Progress so far

- The amount of carbon sequestered by trees in Kāpiti has increased 21% since 2018/19
- Since 2022, Council has planted 20ha of native trees at the Waikanae Dam
- In 2024/25, over 20,000 native plants were planted across Kāpiti with support from schools, iwi and community groups

Opportunities

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

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

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

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

Did you know? Kāpiti has over 20 local restoration groups that deliver environmental projects and work to preserve our flora and fauna, including tree planting and pest control. New volunteers are always welcomed. For more information, see the Council website: [Local restoration groups](#).

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

Actions to enable carbon sequestration in Kāpiti

Actions					Benefits	
Action		Key partners	Timeframe	Status	Potential emissions sequestered per year	Broader benefits
Assess opportunities	Undertake a district-wide survey of cost-effective and beneficial carbon sequestration opportunities across Kāpiti	Iwi partners, community groups, local businesses	2026 – 2027	Underway	Enabling action	Biodiversity, resilience, local economy
Plant trees on Council land	Continue to investigate planting and restoration projects on Council land, including at: • Ngawhakangutu Reserve, Peka Peka • Otaraua Park • Mataihuka • Maungakotukutuku • Reikorangi • Pharazyn Reserve, Waikanae	Iwi partners, community groups, local communities, regional council	Varies by project	Subject to future funding decisions	TBC	Biodiversity, resilience, local economy, community connection
Data and monitoring	Collect data about urban trees across Kāpiti, including species, condition, run-off avoided and carbon sequestered, to inform asset management and renewal decisions		2026 – 2027	Underway	Enabling action	Biodiversity, resilience, cost efficiencies
	Explore options to extend sequestration monitoring to Council reserves	Iwi partners, community groups	Ongoing	Subject to future funding decisions	Enabling action	Biodiversity, resilience, cost efficiencies
	Monitor research at national level regarding sequestration through other sources, such as wetlands and peat soils	Central govt, regional council, researchers	Ongoing	Underway	Enabling action	Biodiversity, resilience
Community-led action	Continue supporting local restoration groups, including provision of technical advice, Council officer labour, Riparian Support grants of \$33k/year and	Iwi partners, community groups	Ongoing	Underway	Enabling action	Biodiversity, resilience, community connection

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	Heritage and Environment grants of \$47k/year.					
Pest control	Continue supporting animal pest and environmental weed control efforts across Kāpiti, alongside predator free community groups and GWRC	Iwi partners, community groups, regional council	Ongoing	Underway	Enabling action	Biodiversity, resilience
Regional collaboration	Continue partnering with GWRC on initiatives including re-wetting and riparian planting	Regional council	Ongoing	Underway	Enabling action	Biodiversity, resilience

What you can do

Everyone has a role to play

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

Case study: Ōtaki Bike Space

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

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



Case study: Kāpiti College Māra Kai

In 2024, Kāpiti College used a Climate Action Grant from the Council to deliver composting and sustainable garden education to over 300 students as part of their Year 9 Noho Marae programme.

The Māra Kai programme has built a culture of climate action aligned with restoring the mauri of the whenua. Kāpiti College have seen a measurable reduction in food scraps going to landfill, which helps to reduce methane emissions.



For more examples of climate action underway across Kāpiti, check out the Council's website: [Reducing emissions for home and business](#).

What you can do reduce emissions

Getting around

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

Use energy efficiently

- Insulate your home and workplace, install curtains, block draughts.
- Borrow a Healthy Home Kit from your local library to test how your home is currently performing. Find more information on the Council website: [Healthy Home Kit](#).
- When replacing appliances choose an energy efficient option. Switch to electric heating, hot water and cooking.

- Conserve energy by turning off lights and appliances when not in use.
- Rooftop solar is a cost-effective energy option for many households. Low interest green loans can help with upfront costs.

Minimise waste

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

Live well locally

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

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

Where to find further guidance and support

We also recommend checking out:

- [FutureFit](#) for simple advice to help you understand your carbon footprint and reduce emissions from transport, energy and waste.
- [EECA](#) (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority) for advice on how to cut emissions, use less fuel, save money, and have a warmer, healthier home through smarter energy use. EECA also offers a range of funding for households and businesses, including [Warmer Kiwi Homes](#) grants for insulation and heat pumps.
- The [Climate Action Toolbox](#), a free tool to help small-to-medium businesses identify and seize emission reduction opportunities.

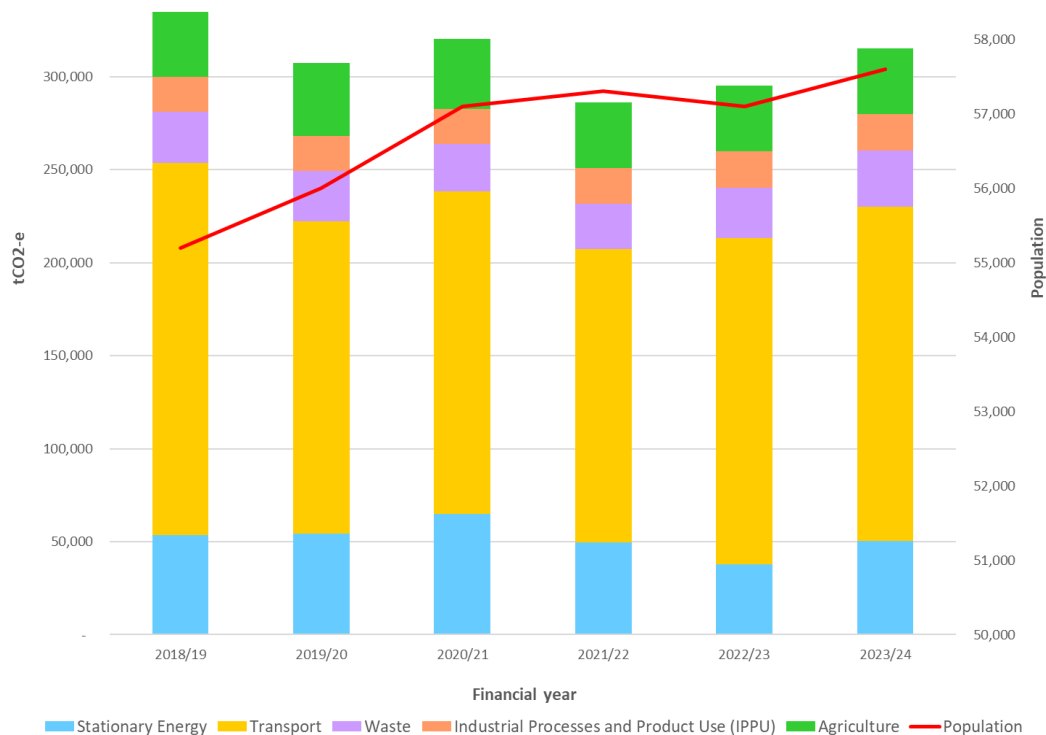
For more guidance and support, check out the Council's website: [Reducing emissions for home and business](#).

Appendix: How we monitor emissions

Measuring Kāpiti Coast emissions

In 2023/24, total greenhouse gas emissions from the Kāpiti Coast district were around 315,000 tCO₂-e. Our district emissions have reduced 6% between 2018/19 and 2023/24, even as the Kāpiti population increased over this period.

Graph 1: Kāpiti Coast district emissions and population 2018/19 to 2023/24



Kāpiti district emissions have been measured bi-annually since 2018/19 as part of the Greater Wellington Regional Council's regional emissions inventory. This work is undertaken in line with the Global Protocol for Community Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (GPC), a global framework for measuring emissions at a local government level.

The regional inventories are available on GWRC's website: [Regional emissions monitoring](#).

In late-2024, the Council joined the Local Emissions Data Platform Initiative (LEDPI) with 18 other councils across New Zealand to help develop a more standardised and cost-effective approach to emissions modelling. The LEDPI model has been used by councils across Melbourne and Sydney for the last 10 years. We will use the LEDPI tool to monitor and model Kāpiti district emissions going forward.

Key progress indicators

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

- Proportion of people using public transport, active transport and working from home
- Petrol and diesel sales

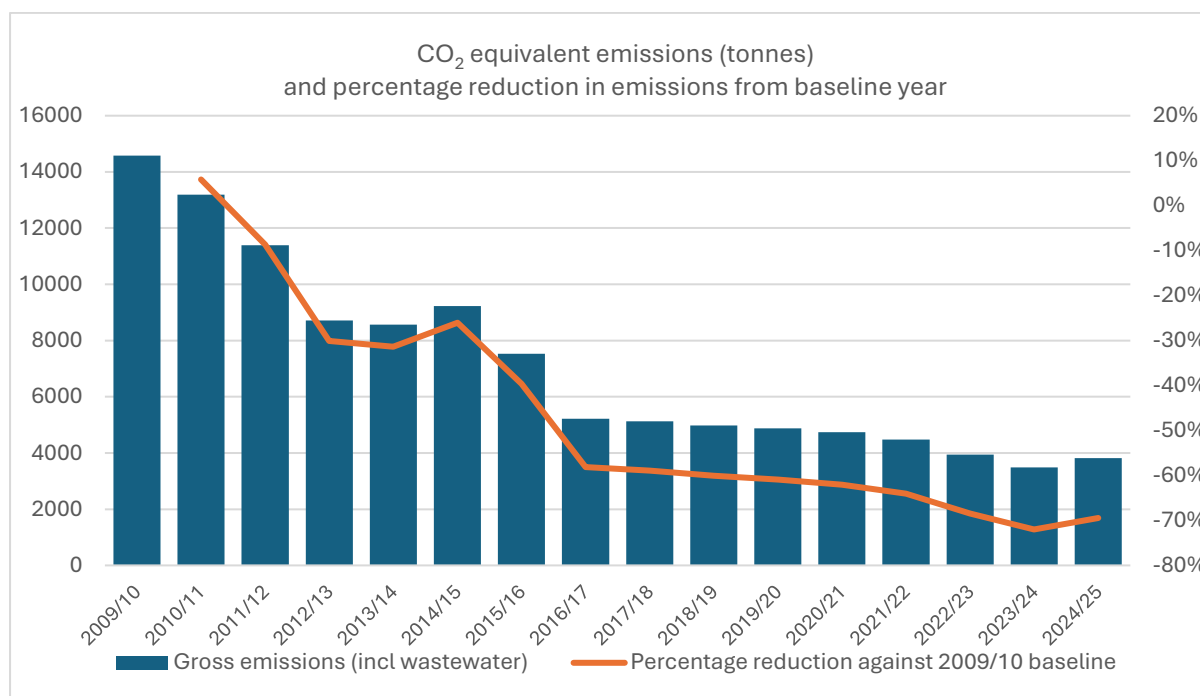
- Electric vehicle ownership rates
- Number of publicly accessible EV charging stations
- Electricity and natural gas consumption
- Rooftop solar uptake
- Composition of waste going to landfill
- Waste diversion rates from landfill
- Tree coverage in urban areas

Measuring the Council's emissions

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

Our performance is independently audited every year by Toitū Envirocare. You can find all of the Council's audited emissions inventory reports on the Council website: [Greenhouse gas emissions inventory reports](#)

Graph 2: Kāpiti Coast District Council operational emissions 2009/10 to 2024/25



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

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

As of 2024/25, we are tracking ahead of our mid-term target to reduce our category 1 and 2 emissions a 'further' 15.5% by 2032.

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

Examples of Council's emission reduction efforts

In addition to playing our part to lessen the impacts of a changing climate, the Council's emission reduction efforts have delivered a range of other benefits, including cost savings.

Case study: Converting wastewater processing from diesel to woodchip fuel

The Paraparaumu Wastewater Treatment Plant dries biosolid sludge as part of the wastewater treatment process.

In 2010, the Council converted the sludge dryer from diesel fuel to wood chip fuel, eliminating 1,181 tCO₂ of diesel emissions from the Council's carbon footprint per year. In contrast, the use of wood pellet fuel creates around 14 tCO₂ of emissions per year.

At the time of implementation, shifting from diesel to woodchip reduced the Council's energy costs by \$211,000 per year. These savings have compounded over time because the Council now pays around twice as much for diesel compared to 2010. The cost of converting the sludge dryer was \$1.26 million.

The upgrade has also reduced the Council's reliance on imported diesel, which has improved energy security and cost certainty.



Case study: LED streetlight conversion

Since 2017, Council has replaced 5,274 (out of 5,543) streetlights in the district with LED lights. This has reduced our streetlight energy use by 62% and emissions by 74%.

These energy efficient LED streetlights have significantly reduced the Council's energy bills. Without the LED upgrades, Council would be paying over \$0.5 million every year in additional electricity costs (based on 2026 electricity prices).

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

The Council will convert the remaining streetlights in Kāpiti to LEDs as opportunities arise.



Case study: Waikanae pool upgrades

Over the last three years, Council has made several upgrades to the Waikanae pool which have reduced emissions and energy costs.

These upgrades include:

- Repairing the pool covers and water leaks from the main pool
- Installing more efficient pumps
- Fine-tuning the existing gas boiler.

The upgrades have reduced emissions by 39 tCO₂, a 30% reduction of the pool's total emissions. They've also reduced the pool's overall energy use (electricity and gas) by 27%, which is saving the Council up to \$30,000 per year in energy costs.

The upgrades cost \$20,000 which have been paid back within the first year of operation.



For more information about what the Council is doing to reduce emissions, see the Council website: [What Council is doing on climate change](#).

Glossary

- **Active travel:** Any form of travel that is 'person powered' eg walking, cycling, scootering.
- **Carbon:** Generic climate term often used as a shorthand for carbon dioxide.
- **Carbon dioxide (CO₂):** A long-lived greenhouse gas, produced by burning fossil fuels, which stays in the atmosphere for hundreds to thousands of years.
- **CO₂-e:** Refers to 'carbon dioxide equivalent' which is used to describe the warming potential of different greenhouse gases compared to carbon dioxide over a specified period.
- **Decarbonise / decarbonisation:** The reduction of carbon dioxide emissions specifically, but often greenhouse gas emissions broadly.
- **Emissions:** Generic climate term often used as shorthand for greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Energy efficiency:** Using less energy to achieve the same or increased level of service across the many activities and/or infrastructure that uses electricity or other fuels.
- **Energy security:** The concept of having an energy supply that is secure from disruption, whether political, economic, or environmental in nature.
- **Fossil fuels:** Natural fuels (oil, coal, and gas) formed in the geological past from the remains of living organisms. When used as fuel, they emit greenhouse gases.
- **Greenhouse gases (GHGs):** Includes all atmospheric gases that trap heat and contribute to climate change. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O) and refrigerant gases (hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆)).
- **'Gross' emissions:** Total greenhouse gas emissions from human activity, such as burning fossil fuels.
- **Low carbon:** Term used to describe low levels of (but not necessarily zero) gross greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Methane (CH₄):** A short-lived, but potent, greenhouse gas. It degrades in the atmosphere over decades but has a warming effect twenty eight times greater than CO₂ over 100 years.
- **'Net' emissions:** The overall balance between total greenhouse gases produced from human activity, minus greenhouse gases removed from the atmosphere.
- **Net zero:** Refers to balancing emissions to zero which means emissions produced by human activity and emissions removed from the atmosphere (eg using trees) are equal.
- **Offsets:** Actions or projects to reduce or remove emissions from the atmosphere which, from an accounting perspective, are then used to reduce the emissions footprint of an organisation or country. For example, an organisation may offset its emissions by buying carbon credits produced by planting trees.
- **Resilience:** The ability of a system, community, or society to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to the impacts of climate change, while maintaining essential functions and adapting to changing conditions.
- **Sequestration:** The process of capturing and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to reduce its impact on the climate. Trees, soil, wetlands, and the ocean sequester a significant amount of carbon dioxide.
- **Stationary energy:** This category of emissions is from energy used at fixed locations, such as electricity in buildings or burning fossil fuels for heat. Stationary energy can be contrasted with transport (non-stationary) energy.