



He Tirohanga Taratahi ki te Kōkenga o Te Tārūke-ā-Tāwhiri 2024

Te Tārūke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan

Progress Snapshot 2024

AUCKLAND COUNCIL

aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

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Kupu whakataki

Introduction

As the territorial authority for the Auckland region, Auckland Council is responsible for plans and strategies to support the delivery of the Auckland Plan 2050, including Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan - the regional response to climate change.

The plan has two core goals:

- Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 50 per cent by 2030 and achieve net zero emissions by 2050.
- Adapt to the impacts of climate change by ensuring we plan for the changes we face under our current emissions pathway.

This 2024 Progress Snapshot for the Financial Year 2023-2024 covers Auckland Council's contribution to the delivery of Te Tāruke-ā Tāwhiri goals. It highlights key activity within priority areas and ongoing challenges.

More recently, severe weather in 2023 has brought the importance of readying Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland for ongoing climate disruption into clear focus. Auckland council group has responded in a number of ways. This was initiated by a \$2 billion flood recovery and resilience package in partnership with the Crown, which in 2023-2024 delivered:

- \$132 million spent on buy-outs and grants.
- \$13 million spent on the storm response fund.
- \$26 million spent on drinking water and wastewater repairs.
- \$117 million spent repairing Auckland's transport network.

As part of the recovery effort, council has provided multiple avenues of support for affected homeowners, from financial support, grants, funding for community-led responders and engagement with low-social economic communities.

Several local boards have also partnered with communities and volunteer groups to support flood affected residents. Volunteers themselves have also received funding and recognition, with community events and awards for those who worked tirelessly during the early 2023 flooding events. Alongside, the repair and rebuild effort of affected infrastructure has also been accelerated with increased resources to deliver repairs and associated funding to fast-track crucial repairs ahead of winter 2024.

In terms of emissions reduction the 2024 snapshot report provides some encouraging signs, as well as highlighting some challenges.

Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland's emissions profile (based on 2021 data) is predominantly comprised of transport emissions (41.1%), stationary energy (29.4%), and industrial processes and product use (20.9%).

While recent years (2020 and 2021) show a decrease in regional emissions, particularly from the transport sector, these reductions were largely attributed to the COVID-19 restrictions. A slight rebound of emissions in 2021 underscores the urgent need for transformative action from central government to deliver on emission reduction commitments, along with strong climate action from sectors, business, community and individuals within Tāmaki Makaurau.

Overall, key council highlights include delivery of new public transport routes out west Auckland and a sustained effort to increase patronage, whilst continuing to decarbonise the existing fleet at pace.

Our focus on reducing waste for Aucklanders has resulted in being ahead of targets for the uptake of kerbside food waste collection.

Reducing our own organisation emissions at council facilities has delivered improvements. Sites such as the Winter Gardens and community centres have moved to lower emission forms of heating, with long-term cost savings.

Auckland Council – climate statement

Inaugural council group climate statement

As a climate reporting entity, our first climate statement was prepared using the Aotearoa New Zealand Climate Standards.

Kaimahi across the Auckland Council Group have done a lot of work during the year to help the group begin to understand and embed our greatest climate-related risks and opportunities into our decision making, to measure our Greenhouse Gases (GHG), Scope 1 and 2, at a group level.

Council needs to put plans in place to proactively manage, mitigate or avoid our organisational climate-related risks to ensure we are in the best place to support Auckland’s transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient future. Our Long-term Plan 2024-2034, adopted in June this year, puts resilience to climate change front and centre.

Current impacts

- The group’s focus during this reporting period has been on repairs of key assets as a result of the 2023 extreme weather events such as:
 - The ongoing recovery of the transport network.
 - Building resilience through various projects including the Making Space for Water programme.
 - Other rates relief and business support programmes.
 - Providing support to Aucklanders whose homes were damaged through flooding and land instability through Risk

Category 3 property buy-outs and Risk Category 2P property grants.

- Central government has updated infrastructure funding and financing policy which raises the risk that funding may be directed to projects other than climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- The group’s reliance on electricity is increasing as we decarbonise our operations and move to electric alternatives.

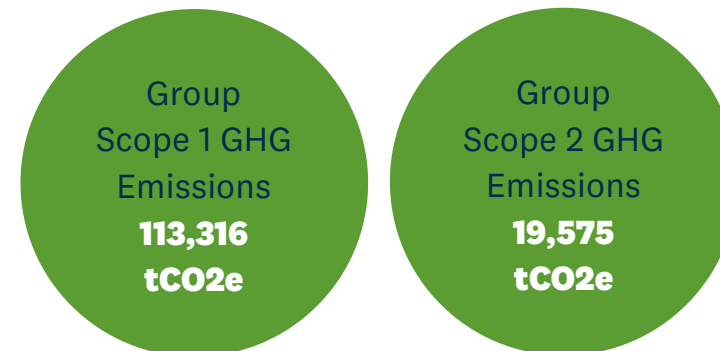
Our biggest climate-related risks

This year we assessed and ranked the group’s climate-related risks. Our highest ranked risks were (from highest to lowest):

- Increased damage to and reduced access to the group’s key assets, infrastructure and facilities.
- Inability to respond to the changing needs of Aucklanders under different climate scenarios.
- Failure to consider climate change effectively in governance structures, decision making and long-term planning.

Our Targets and metrics

- We have a target of net zero Green House Gas emissions by 2050.
- Based on the current allocation of funding for group Green House Gas emissions reduction initiatives, the group is not on track to achieve our 2050 net zero target.



He māramatanga ki te āhuarangi

Climate Insights

Global

COP 28 - accelerating action by 2023

The 28th United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference (COP 28) was held in Dubai in late 2023. This marked the conclusion of the first 'global stocktake' to address climate change under the Paris Agreement. Due to lack of progress in all areas of climate action, from reducing emissions to strengthening resilience, to financial and technological support, countries responded with a decision on how to accelerate action by 2030. This included:

- A call on nations to transition away from fossil fuels was supported by nearly 200 parties, with the aim to keep the global temperature rise of 1.5°C within reach.
- Agreement to establish a dedicated fund for addressing loss or damage to vulnerable countries and communities. Commitments to address this loss and damage, totalling more than USD 600 million.
- Parties agreed targets for the Global Goal on Adaptation and its framework, identifying where the worldwide progress needed to be resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- Governments were also called on to consider ecosystem, biodiversity and carbon stores, when developing their stronger national climate action plans (formally nationally determined contributions), due early in 2025.

National

Disclosing climate risks and opportunities

Mandatory climate-related disclosures for large financial market participants came into effect for financial years starting on or after 1st January 2023. The first climate disclosures will be published in 2024.

This legislation, under the Financial Sector (Climate-related Disclosures and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2021, requires around 200 large financial entities, including publicly listed companies, insurers, banks, and investment managers and the council to disclose their climate-related risks and opportunities.

Change in national policy direction

- A raft of new Resource Management Act reforms are underway that will impact the way Auckland grows and adapts to natural hazards.
- The Government Policy Statement (GPS) on land transport was released, prioritising economic growth and productivity, increased maintenance and resilience, safety, and value for money.
- In December 2023, the Minister for Transport advised NZTA and Councils to stop work on Vehicle Kilometres Travelled (VKT) reduction plans.
- In December 2023, the Minister of Transport confirmed that the Transport Choices programme, funded from the Climate Emergency Response Fund (CERF), would no longer be funded.

He tirohanga taratahi ki tō tātou kokenga

Snapshot of our progress

Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan

2023/2024 Progress Snapshot Overview

-10.5% Decrease in net CO₂e emissions from 2016 baseline

C40 CITIES Emission **50% emissions by 2030** **Net zero emissions by 2050**

Adaptation **In development**



Natural environment	Built environment	Transport	Economy	Communities and coast	Food	Te Puāwaitanga ō te Tātai	Energy and industry
A healthy and connected natural environment supports healthy and connected Aucklanders. The mauri (life essence) of Tāmaki Makaurau is restored.	A low carbon, resilient built environment that promotes healthy, low impact lifestyles.	A low carbon, safe transport system that delivers social, economic and health benefits for all.	A resilient, low carbon economy, guided by our kaitiaki values, that supports Aucklanders to thrive.	Communities and individuals are prepared for our changing climate and coastline, and carbon footprints of Aucklanders have reduced.	A low-carbon, resilient, local food system that provides all Aucklanders with access to fresh and healthy food.	Intergenerational whakapapa relationships of taiao, whenua and tāngata are flourishing. The potential and value of Māori is fully realised.	A clean energy system that supports and provides for a resilient, low carbon Auckland.

5 action areas	9 action areas	8 action areas	7 action areas	5 action areas	5 action areas	7 action areas	6 action areas
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<p> 30.5 Concentration of air pollutants (NO₂mgF/m³) in Queen Street</p> <p> 18% Average percentage of tree cover (3m+)</p>	<p> 12.3% Percent of annual dwellings consented within 1km of a train or busway station (rapid transit network stations)</p> <p> N/A Percentage of new buildings built to a sustainable design standard (in development)</p>	<p> 87M Public transport boardings annually</p> <p> 836 Million liters of petrol purchased</p> <p> 624 Million liters of diesel purchased annually</p>	<p>786KG Total waste per capita per year</p> <p> 126KG Domestic waste per capita per year</p>	<p> 74,795 Aucklanders engaged in living a low carbon lifestyles</p> <p> 65% Auckland's schools engaged in sustainability education</p>	<p> 41% Domestic food waste as a proportion of total domestic waste</p> <p> 23,308 Tonnes of domestic food scraps diverted from landfill</p>	<p>KEY FOCUS: Marae Resilience, Rangatahi Māori knowledge</p>	<p> +33% Increase in emissions from electricity consumption</p> <p> 13% Decrease in emissions from stationary fuel combustion</p>
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Positive
 Negative Change
 No change
 No trend / update

Priority Area Updates

Natural Environment

Highlights

Planting for a greener future

For the 2023 calendar year, Auckland Council planted approximately 750,000 trees and plants across the region. This is just over 18 hectares planted by the Urban Ngahere programme.

Council also facilitated tree planting events as part of ecological volunteer programmes. Mana whenua, schools, volunteers and community groups planted smaller trees and plants in regional parks, contributing to the total number of trees planted annually.

An IQ boost for canopy cover monitoring

Advances in technology have allowed Council geospatial staff to use geospatial artificial intelligence (GeoAI) to train and develop models that can analyse aerial imagery to establish the extent of vegetation cover. Through machine learning algorithms canopy cover can be assessed at a regional scale, monitoring the urban forest characteristics and regional changes that are taking place over time.

Mana whenua growing their growing capacity

Council is working with mana whenua to gain a better understanding of the challenges facing urban ngahere. The Tūpuna Maunga Authority made up of mana whenua and Auckland Council, has contributed significantly to the Urban Ngahere Programme, implementing a network-wide vegetation restoration programme.

Council continues to work with iwi, hapu, and community nurseries to help them expand their growing capacity as they play a crucial role in supplying native plants.

i-Tree software

Council is also utilising i-Tree software to provide data about the ecosystem benefits of trees and predicting the benefits of planting new trees in specific areas. The software can assign values to the various ecosystem services that trees can provide, such as carbon sequestration, stormwater interception and pollutant capture.

Challenges

- Knowledge of climate change risks continues to be a knowledge gap. We need to continually adapt our understanding of natural systems as ecological changes occur.
- With many initiatives to re-green Auckland, further work on a coordinated approach is required to align and deliver outcomes and help deliver more within available budgets.

Figure 1 My Tree output

MyTree Benefits Over 20 years.



Bartlett's rata, (*Metrosideros bartlettii*)

Serving Size: 60.00 cm. diameter

Condition: Excellent

Location: Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

Expected over 20 years: \$597.69

Carbon Dioxide Uptake	\$12.81
Carbon Sequestered ¹	69.99 kg
CO ₂ Equivalent ²	256.62 kg
Storm Water Mitigation	\$39.86
Runoff Avoided	16,883.22 L
Rainfall Intercepted	308,413.21 L
Air Pollution Removal	\$46.93
Carbon Monoxide	0.27 g
Ozone	9,319.73 g
Nitrogen Dioxide	3,303.68 g
Sulfur Dioxide	233.88 g
PM _{2.5}	916.26 g
Energy Usage³	\$387.83
Electricity Savings	1,722.35 kWh
Heating Fuel Savings	9.92 MMBtu
Avoided Energy Emissions	\$110.26
Carbon Dioxide	1,772.63 kg
Carbon Monoxide	794.05 g
Nitrogen Dioxide	334.6 g
Sulfur Dioxide	3,565.63 g

Built Environment

Highlights

Reducing natural hazard risks to future communities

A new Future Development Strategy was adopted after receiving 10,083 submissions, which aims at managing the City's growth over the next 30 years. This strategy focuses on:

- Concentration of growth within existing urban areas and avoiding high risk developments.
- Prioritising investment in infrastructure to support active modes and public transport whilst reducing environmental impacts and enhancing the city's resilience to natural hazards.
- The FDS provides strategic direction to remove four future urban areas or parts of future urban areas previously marked for future development but have been assessed as unsuitable for urban growth (southern part of Takaanini, Hatfields Beach stage 2, parts of Kumeū-Huapai-Riverhead and parts of Drury-Ōpaheke).

Infrastructure investments enhance climate resilience

Significant infrastructure investments were directed towards enhancing climate resilience in key locations. These included Westgate, Tāmaki, Mount Roskill, Māngere, Drury and Auckland City Centre. Investment has focused on community services, green spaces, walking and cycling connections and public transport.

Sustainable urban planning

New initiatives included the establishment of a waste political advisory group, reimagining the regional arts and culture strategy Toi Whītiki, and development of a consolidated open space, sport, and

recreation policy. These efforts reflect Auckland's broader dedication to sustainable urban development and community well-being.

Auckland's sustainable homes increasing

In the 2023 calendar year, 2,448 Auckland homes were Homestar certified, a 72 per cent increase on 2022. This indicates that Auckland is making progress on building better quality, sustainable energy efficient homes.

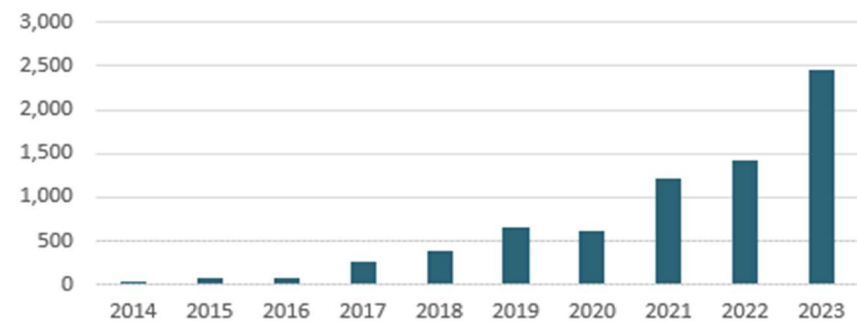


Figure 2 Number of Homestar certified dwellings

Challenges

- **Increasing uptake of sustainable building materials and methods** is essential for reaching our climate goals.
- **Uncertainty exists around regulatory reform.** With a new government comes a change of direction, new policies, and regulations. Auckland will need to continue to advocate and negotiate with government for a comprehensive climate approach over the long-term.
- The long-term approach must ensure a consistent pathway for Auckland's quality compact approach, focuses most growth on Auckland's areas which are adaptable to natural hazards and easily reached by public transport, walking, cycling, and within reasonable walking distance of services and facilities.

Taiao hanga – Te Whakawātea mō te Wai

Built Environment – Making Space for Water

The severe weather events in early 2023 have reminded Aucklanders how vulnerable we are to the impacts of flooding, with all 1.7 million residents impacted in some way. Many suffered significant losses including property damage, physical and mental trauma and even loss of life.

That is why *Making Space for Water* is such an integral part of the Long-term Plan and why investing in infrastructure is so important to strengthen Auckland’s resilience against flooding.

\$820 million has been approved to fund projects that will help build resilience against future flood events, including the core aspects of the council’s Making Space for Water initiatives.

‘Making Space for Water’ proposes seven operational initiatives including delivery of critical works, repairs to build resilience of the stormwater network and reducing the impact of future flooding.

AI keeps a watchful eye on stormwater

Healthy Waters has taken a significant step forward in its stormwater management by implementing AI-driven hotspot cameras as part of the Making Space for Water programme.

Auckland-Tāmaki Makaurau faces growing challenges in managing stormwater due to the combined pressures of a growing urban population and the increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. Traditional methods of monitoring and maintaining stormwater infrastructure have proven inadequate to address these challenges.

Following a successful trial in 2022, Healthy Waters installed new cutting-edge AI-driven hotspot cameras to enhance stormwater

management. Twenty-three solar-powered cameras have been strategically placed at critical stormwater assets across the city, where they continuously capture and analyse images using artificial intelligence. One of the initial areas to benefit from this technology is Mangere.

Figure 3 Walmsley Road Bridge where a camera will be installed and examples of material it will capture



While longer-term flood reduction projects are underway, the AI cameras provide an interim solution that enhance the city’s resilience against flooding, helping to reduce response times and minimise flood damage.

Te ngao me te ahumahi

Energy and Industry

Highlights

Renewable energy reduces costs and builds resilience

Council is investing in renewable energy generation to lower energy costs and build resilience. Several council owned sites have received solar photovoltaic arrays including:

- Waitakere transfer station (5.1kW) array and a second 50kW array at the new workshop.
- Community Centre upgrades at both Blockhouse Bay and Glendowie, with 29kW and 6.56kW arrays respectively.
- Installation of solar water pumps at sites in Anawhata and Pae o te Rangī regional parks.

Figure 4 Glendowie Community Centre now uses Solar Photovoltaic Cells providing low-cost energy while reducing carbon



Decarbonising council facilities

Wider investment into decarbonising existing council assets is focused on converting from natural gas to heat pumps for space heating and hot water, and metering energy use. Highlights include:

- The Auckland Art Gallery physical works have been completed with new heat pumps and pipework replacing old gas boilers.
- New electrical metering was installed at Aotea Centre and Go Media Mt Smart Stadium and at Auckland and Kumeu film studios.
- Approval has been given to decarbonise the West Stand at Mt. Smart Stadium including supports to install solar panels.

Figure 5 Anawhata and Pae o te Rangī Farms Solar Water pumps



Challenges

Challenges exist in the decarbonisation of private industry, with large capital investment required to transition from gas to electrification.

The Government Investment in the Decarbonisation Industry (GIDI) fund has been disestablished by the current government. The fund provided capital investment support for businesses to transition from fossil fuels to cleaner more efficient sources.

Te ngao me te ahumahi - Toitū ana te matomato o ngā māra o te hōtoke

Energy & Industry - Wintergardens flourish sustainably

The Wintergardens at the Auckland Domain was opened in the early 1900's, comprising of two Victorian-style glass houses. The main glasshouse is heated to over 19 degrees Celsius during winter, within which vibrant tropical and temperate plants flourish.

Maintaining the glasshouse temperature requires a lot of energy, approximately 350,000 kWh per year. This energy was provided by a natural gas boiler. Heating using non-renewable energy sources is a major contributor to carbon emissions.

Figure 6 ÖkoFEN PES 128 and PES 64 Pellet Boiler Cascade System



To heat the facility more sustainably, the gas boiler was replaced by a fully automated 192kW ÖkoFEN pellet boiler.

Compared to our previous gas heating system, the ÖkoFEN pellet boiler will save 100 tonnes of CO2 per year, and we have projected cost savings of \$25,000 per year.

The wood pellets are manufactured in New Zealand, made from sawdust that would otherwise go to landfill. Any ash produced is high in phosphorus and nitrogen, so it can be recycled into an ideal fertiliser for plants in our parks.

Figure 7 12 tonne capacity pellet hoppers with sloping floors



\$25,000 per year saving¹



100 tonnes CO2 saved per year



¹ Based on original gas boiler operation, holding other variables constant

Transport

Highlights

More Aucklanders are using public transport to get around

Patronage has been gradually increasing over the last two years, with the aim to get to 100 million annual boardings by FY2024/25.

Highlights from projects contributing to this shift include:

- Key improvements along the Northwest corridor have been delivered with three new frequent routes now live. Daily boardings have now reached over 9,500 across the three new routes.
- The City Rail Link construction has progressed with an expected completion date in 2026.
- Prioritisation of buses over general traffic is being investigated with use of dynamic lanes at congestion hot spots and trialling of intelligent signalling for buses through major corridors.
- Auckland Transport has developed a public transport growth programme to further accelerate public transport patronage and improve reliability and customer experience.

Cleaning the fleet

Several key programmes are focused on transitioning the Auckland Transport fleet away from fossil fuels to lower emissions.

- Auckland Transport is transitioning to a zero-emission bus fleet by 2035. There are now 180 zero emission buses in the fleet, around 13% of the total.
- Nine low emission ferries are planned to be operating by 2028. Four low emission ferries now under construction with three ferry terminals and new charging infrastructure being built.
- Auckland Transport has transitioned 98% of streetlights across the region to LED contributing to the 41% reduction in operational

emissions compared to FY18/19. Auckland Transport's target is 50% by 2030.

Streets for people, not congestion

Auckland Transport hit several milestones aimed at encouraging people to shift from private car use to public and active modes of transport.

- The Wai Horotiu Queen Street project was completed, creating a low emission only zone and encouraging active modes.
- Three new Walking projects were completed and open to the public at Maura Road, the Causeway on Waiheke Island and Pukekohe town centre.
- A Vehicle Kilometre Travelled (VKT) reduction plan detailing long-term plans to focus on transport emissions was developed.

Challenges

While progress has been made, the scale and pace does not align with our 2030 and 2050 emissions reduction targets.

- Public transportation patronage has increased but significant increases are required to meet our emission targets.
- Advocating for government policies and investment in reliable and accessible public transport, projects that deliver network optimisation and promoting active modes (walking and cycling) should be a priority to reduce emissions, improve air quality and overall health.

Ikiiki – Pai katoa ngā pahi i te Uru

Transport – Bus is best out West

To support the interim improvements on State Highway 16 (SH16), Auckland Transport launched the Northwestern bus service improvements in November 2023. These services are fully funded by the Climate Action Transport Targeted Rate (CATTR) programme, including the delivery of three frequent transit network (FTN) routes in the West.

The three new frequent routes are:

- WX1: running along SH16 between Westgate and the City, (at least) every 10 minutes.
- 11T/W: running via Great North Road between Westgate and the City, (at least) every 15 minutes.
- 13: running between Te Atatu Peninsula and Henderson, (at least) every 10 minutes.

Since the introduction of these new services, a steady increase in patronage has occurred, with more than three million boardings on the new services since November. Daily boardings have now reached 9,500 across these three new FTN routes.

Travelling by public transport within west Auckland is now easier and bus is now the mode of choice for more west Aucklanders. For instance, an 84% increase in passengers using the buses in Te Atatu Peninsula, compared to 2019 (pre-COVID19).

With additional bus priority to be delivered on Fred Tator Drive and Triangle Road in the coming months, it is expected that journey time for passengers will be more reliable, making the service more attractive than driving.

Figure 8 Western Services patronage 2024

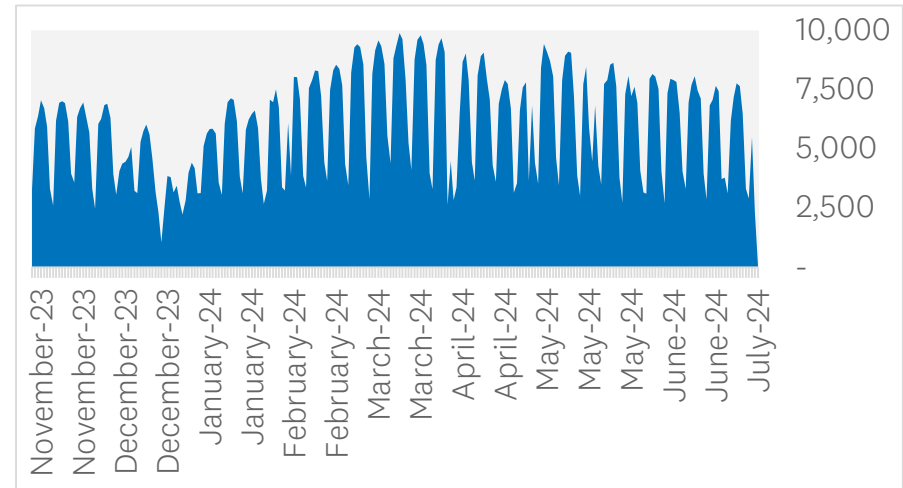
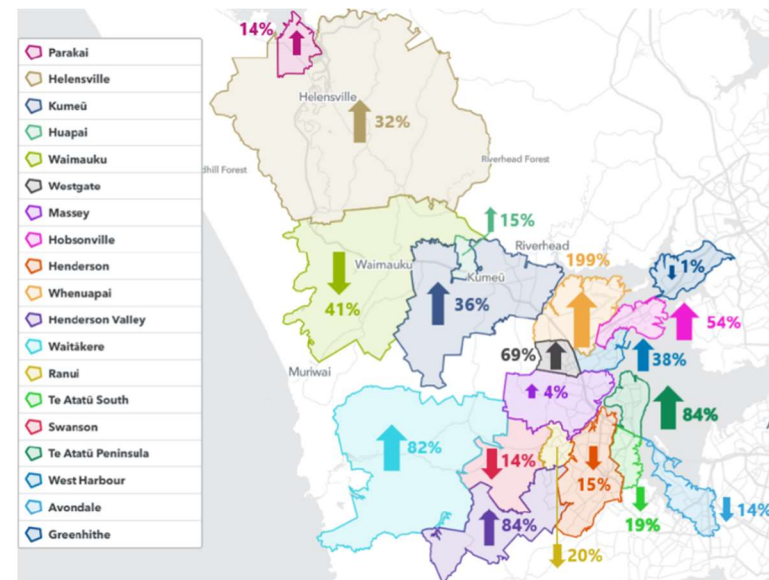


Figure 9 Percentage change in PT journeys by suburb; March 2024 vs March 2019



Ngā hapori me te tahatai

Communities and Coast

Highlights

Supporting our communities to take action

- Council engaged 74,795 Aucklanders through events, local board projects, online tools, grants, and community-led activities that focused on climate action.
- The Auckland Climate Grant funded 32 community-led action projects, delivering climate outcomes in the priority areas of sustainable food and transport.
- Approximately 28% of total grant funding was provided to underserved communities including Māori-led, Pasifika, Youth-led and Asian community projects.
- Futurefit achieved the milestone of engaging over 100,000 people to calculate their carbon footprint. Currently three large businesses; Spark, ASB Ban and Chorus are using the 'FutureFit in Business' package to help reduce staff and personal emissions.

Projects on the ground in the community

- The Reducing Energy Hardship project supported over 1,000 households to make their homes warmer. Households involved are expected to save up to \$500 per year on energy bills.
- Local boards have supported seven community bike hubs, which reduce barriers to cycling and reliance on cars. The hubs repaired a total of 6,756 bikes and gave advice to 15,414 bike hub visitors.
- Eighteen schools have been supported by the 'The Mana Ora: Students Decarbonising Schools project', along with engaging 6,697 young people.

Storm Response funding supports resilient communities

Through these projects, communities were supported to understand their local climate risks or participate in practical projects to be better prepared for future weather events.

- 'Working with high-risk communities to increase climate resilience' funded 39 community and youth-led projects that engaged 4,280 Aucklanders from impacted communities.
- Additional storm response funding is supporting the acceleration of the 20 Shoreline Adaptation Plans across the region, with Tranche 1 (3 plans) now completed.
- In partnership with Rodney, Kaipātiki, and Devonport-Takapuna local boards, the Recovery Office has recently boosted its engagement with communities across north Auckland areas.
- As part of storm recovery navigators, council support and local board members provide people with holistic wrap-around support, while connecting them to wider programmes and services.

Challenges

Sustaining and increasing support for community-led initiatives to achieve climate action outcomes is critical and challenging during financially constrained times.

- Several community groups the council works with to deliver climate action initiatives rely on government funding. Reduced government funding has impacted some community-led services.
- Supporting communities to build capability and provide tools and resources will continue to be a priority. Greater coordination, collaboration and partnering can deliver effective community planning and outcomes within current resources.

Ngā hapori me te tahatai - Te whakaoranga i te āwhā

Communities and Coast – Storm recovery

Properties receive help to prepare for winter

Auckland Council has visited over 1300 properties affected by 2023's floods, working with residents, helping them understand how to prepare their properties for the winter ahead.

Teams from across council have partnered up to address this need, which includes them getting out and visiting Aucklanders, and explaining to risk-prone residents the importance of keeping their properties clear.



Figure 10 Mayor Wayne Brown shovelling bark from a blocked manhole

Mayor Wayne Brown identified several simple fixes last year when visiting flood affected areas of the city and said that while he believed they were not the complete solution, they would go a long way to making a difference.

“I am thankful for all the effort our teams have put into flood prevention since I called for action a year ago. The mayoral grant allocated for this work is being used wisely and as we head into winter, the advice being offered will help communities understand what they need to do to be prepared for downpours and how to keep themselves and their communities safe.”

Funding communities to mark anniversary

Auckland Council is funding over 30 storm-affected communities to implement activities that enable people to connect, heal and build resilience one year after severe weather events devastated the region.

“We are working with community organisations and resident groups who decide for themselves what their neighbourhood needs to mark the one-year anniversary in a meaningful way,” says Mat Tucker, Group Recovery Manager.

The council has allocated almost \$30,000 so far to fund locally-led and managed activities across the region, such as:

- Mental health and resilience education.
- Projects to capture personal stories of resilience.
- Recognising bravery, hardworking volunteers and lessons learned.
- Community connection events.

Funding has been distributed to support 46 community organisations and ten resident groups across Auckland, with more in the pipeline.

Ngā kai

Food

Highlights

Kerbside food scrap collection successfully rolled out

Auckland Council's weekly food scraps collection has been rolled out to over 475,000 households across mainland urban Auckland, the largest food scraps roll-out undertaken in Australasia.

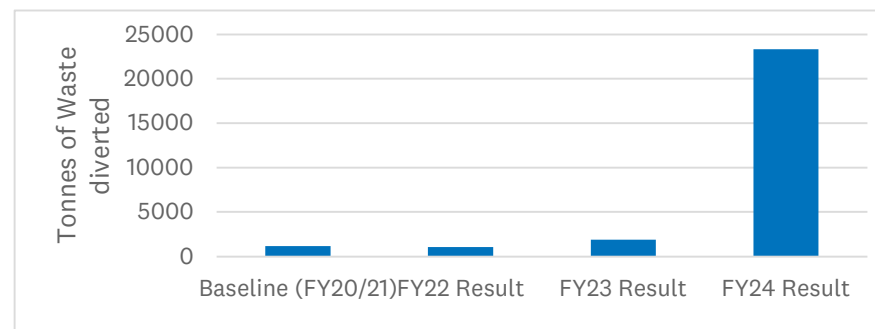
The target for the first year was to divert 18,000 tonnes of food scrap from landfill. The service achieved over 20,000 tonnes of food scraps.

The collected food scraps are transported to a purpose-built processing plant in Reporoa. The plant uses anaerobic digestion to break food waste down into valuable by-products (biogas, renewable energy and regenerative fertiliser).



Figure 11 Food scraps are sent to Ecogas' processing facility in Reporoa where they are converted into liquid fertiliser and biogas

Figure 12 Over 1200% increase was achieved with food scrap kerbside collection.



Waste Minimisation and Innovation Fund (WMIF)

The WMIF is a \$500,000 regional grant funded by the waste levy in line with the Waste Minimisation Act 2008, to provide seed funding for projects with waste minimisation objectives.

- In the last financial year, the WMIF received 34 applications for food and organics related initiatives, with 18 of these funded.
- Successful projects include the development of the composting hubs within schools, educational workshops and community grants that are open to the public.
- Recycling and food waste solutions were integrated in Mangere-based initiative by Legasea and Papatūānuku Kōkiri Marae. This enables the public to exchange empty household aluminium cans for fish frames to use as food (kai).

Challenges

A lack of government mandate, decentralised responsibility for delivering action across the food system, and lack of Aotearoa New Zealand specific research are some of the key challenges hindering the coordination and resourcing of food system transformation.

Ngā kai - Te toa o Te Kaupapa Kāuta ka Putarere

Food - The Kitchen Project Pop Up store

In a first of its kind, a pop-up store is offering University of Auckland students easy access to fresh seasonal fruit and vegetables during exams.

The pop-up store is in response to student feedback and a recent University of Auckland PhD study that found half of the students on campus were struggling with food security and hunger. Three out of every four students were skipping fruit and vegetables due to a lack of access and cost of living pressures.

Figure 13 Example of the Kitchen Project's fresh fruit and vegetables



The pop-up store will be located at Whare Kai, a community hub newly established by Auckland Council's The Kitchen Project, at the heritage Caretaker's Cottage on the corner of Albert Park, in the central city.

Social enterprise and non-profit Perfectly Imperfect will provide seasonal produce to the pop-up store run with the support of volunteers, including students themselves.

This initiative connects students to affordable, fresh produce that would otherwise go landfill, such as kumara that are deemed too small by supermarkets but are still tasty and perfectly good for eating.

Figure 14 Caretakers Cottage used as a community hub for The Kitchen Project



During October, students can head to the pop-up store and choose between two value-packed and generous-sized mystery boxes: standard size for \$15 or large for \$26 and pick and mix from the produce on offer at the store.

The pop-up store will operate from 1.00 to 4.00 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, commencing 17 October and concluding 26 October 2023 and will also be open to the public.

Economy

Highlights

Continued growth in green bond investment

Council remains committed to its sustainable finance programme, which is an integral part of how future capital investment is funded. This commitment is reflected in an expanding green bond plan. In the last financial year, council issued three new green bonds increasing total green bonds holdings to NZ\$3.7 billion. This included a benchmark EUR \$600 million green bond issued in March 2024.

Council group is also exploring cost-effective solutions to halve the groups greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and how these initiatives can be funded through sustainable finance products such as sustainability-linked products and the impacts of our green bonds.

Impacts of our green bonds

Funds raised through green bonds to date have been used to finance and refinance debt funded assets. These include:

- Water and wastewater infrastructure – Fred Thomas Drive pump station upgrade, Hunua water main and the Rehabilitation of Puketutu island.
- Clean transportation - Electric trains, cycleways, City Rail Link, Wiri Electric Train depot and the Manakau bus station.
- Energy efficiency and green buildings – Street lighting LED upgrade, Te Manawa – Westgate community building, green buildings and Watercare floating solar arrays.

Climate Connect Aotearoa innovation hub

Climate Connect Aotearoa (Climate Connect) is a hub for climate innovation, run by Tātaki Auckland Unlimited. Over the past twelve months several workstreams have progressed, notably:

Energy and Decarbonisation

- Climate Connect joined with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (ECCA) to hold a free event focusing on decarbonisation of small to medium sized enterprises.
- An energy challenge, in partnership with Ara Ake focused on energy sharing. A pilot in Franklin reviewed the regulatory barriers to increase the uptake of renewable energy for households.

Tools developed for shared challenges

- The ClimateLink tool was launched to help businesses find contacts, funding prospects and resources for climate action.
- Future Wynyard 2050 was a collaborative event initiated by a hackathon, to bring together large corporates to conceive and develop solutions to shared energy challenges.
- A hui hosted by Climate Connect brought 115 people from Māori businesses, iwi and hapu. It focused on Māori knowledge systems, practices and applying these to climate challenges.

Challenges

- In July 2024, Tātaki Auckland Unlimited released their Economic Monitor 2024 report, highlighting on-going challenges which affect this priority, to enable a just transition and build resilience.
- Among these, changing narratives and political direction have resulted in some actions now stalling. This has knock on effects on partnerships and slower engagement with Government as policy is developed.

Te Puāwaitanga ō te tātai

Te Puāwaitanga ō te tātai

Te Ora ō Tāmaki Makaurau is the wellbeing framework developed by mana whenua in response to Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri. The wellbeing framework aligns a te ao Māori and specifically Tāmaki Makaurau view within the plan. Ngā mahi a te ora are the core values of the framework and are expressed as Te Puāwaitanga ō te Tātai, with a set of activities and action areas. These principles and action areas are also applied, across the other priority areas.

Highlights

Manaakitanga

Mana whenua and mataawaka engage in Resilient Marae

Six mana whenua and one mataawaka marae have been engaged in the Resilient Marae programme. This mahi supports marae whanau to wānanga, develop taiao plans and provide seed funding for some upgrades, acquiring technical expertise and resourcing whanau support. Working at the individual marae level allows for tailored plans, priorities and actions that include identifying short to long-term marae development improvements.

Whanaungatanga

Rangatahi Māori climate action

The Mātātahi Taiao kaupapa is a rangatahi Māori-led response to te taiao for delivering climate action outcomes.

A kāhui of 19 rangatahi have participated in a series of wānanga focussed on the preservation and application of traditional Māori knowledge systems and practices in Taiao. Their kaitiaki responsibilities have included supporting three climate action

projects to improve freshwater quality, restore repo (wetland) health, and re-establish iwi traditional food systems.

Figure 15 Mātātahi Taiao Kaupapa is a Rangatahi Māori led response to climate action

In collaboration with the Resilient Marae programme two mana whenua marae are engaged to enable their aspirations for their rangatahi to be involved in the development of their taiao plans.

Two mana whenua trust organisations and an additional mana whenua marae have also engaged their rangatahi in the kaupapa.



Mātauranga

Building climate resilience through Māori knowledge

In 2023, Climate Connect Aotearoa (Tātaki Auckland Unlimited) established He Kete Mātauranga, an online space to support building climate resilience through Māori knowledge. A series of video interviews enables communities and businesses to connect to te ao

Te Puāwaitanga ō te tātai

Māori leaders and innovators to explore understandings of mātauranga Māori and the role this plays in climate action.

In June 2024, Climate Connect Aotearoa hosted a Mātauranga Māori and Climate Innovation Hui at Te Māhurehure Marae in Pt Chevalier to bring these discussions to life. Over 115 people attended the hui that featured a lineup of Māori experts and practitioners in science, innovation and mātauranga Māori.

Challenges

Mana whenua and Māori have persistently called for urgent transformational responses to climate change: dynamic, integrated and interconnected.

Te Tāruke a Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan embeds a Māori outcomes framework: *Te Anga Oranga o Te Ora o Tāmaki Makaurau* and Māori principles: *Te Puāwaitanga ō te Tātai*.

A key challenge is to integrate, connect and report our implementation of Te Tāruke a Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan, aligned with these outcomes and principles.

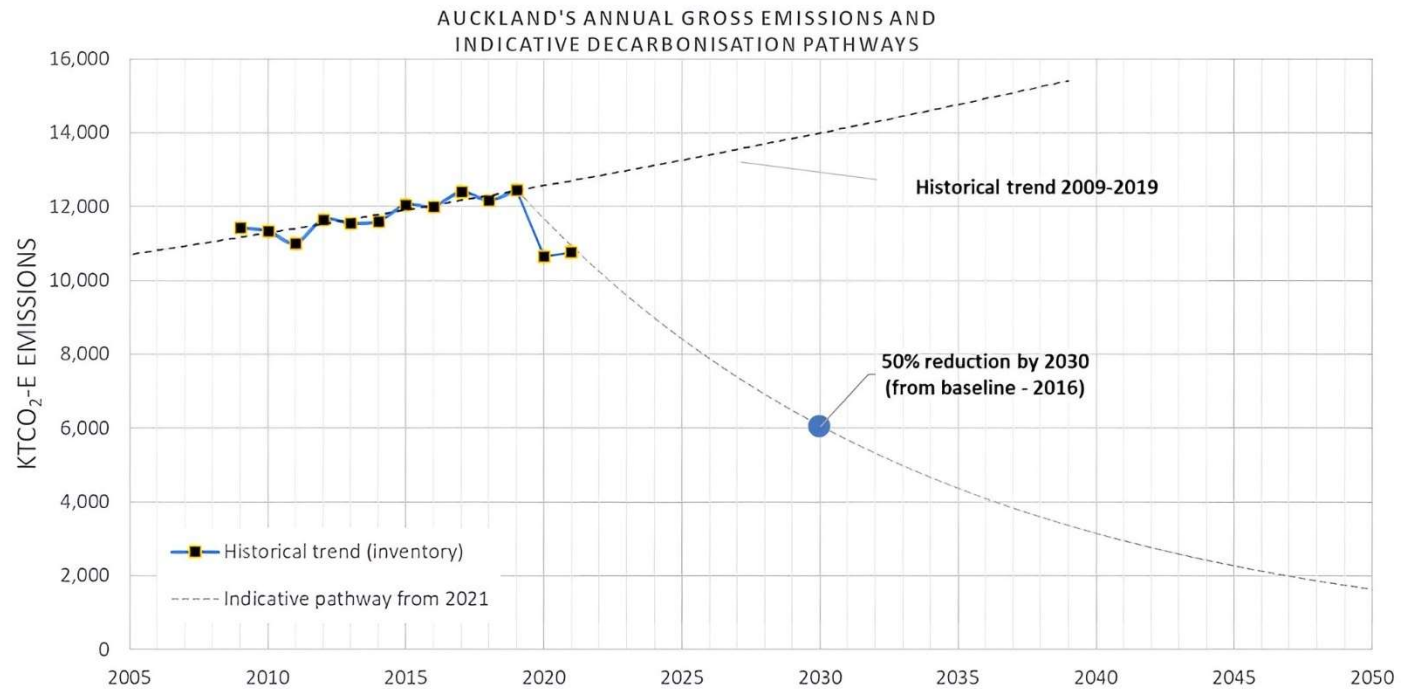
Auckland's Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Greenhouse Gas emissions produced in Auckland dropped due to COVID-19 restrictions, but the rebound is already underway

Figure 16 Auckland's greenhouse gas emission profile (2021 data in kt CO₂e)

Auckland Council produces a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory for the Auckland region each year. The latest greenhouse gas inventory available is up to 2021.

While regional gross emissions increased between 2009 and 2019, the recent years (2020 and 2021) show a decrease in regional emissions, particularly from the transport sector. This reduction was mainly the result of the COVID-19 restrictions. The increase in the 2021 emissions so soon, compared to 2020, indicates that a post COVID-19 rebound was underway.



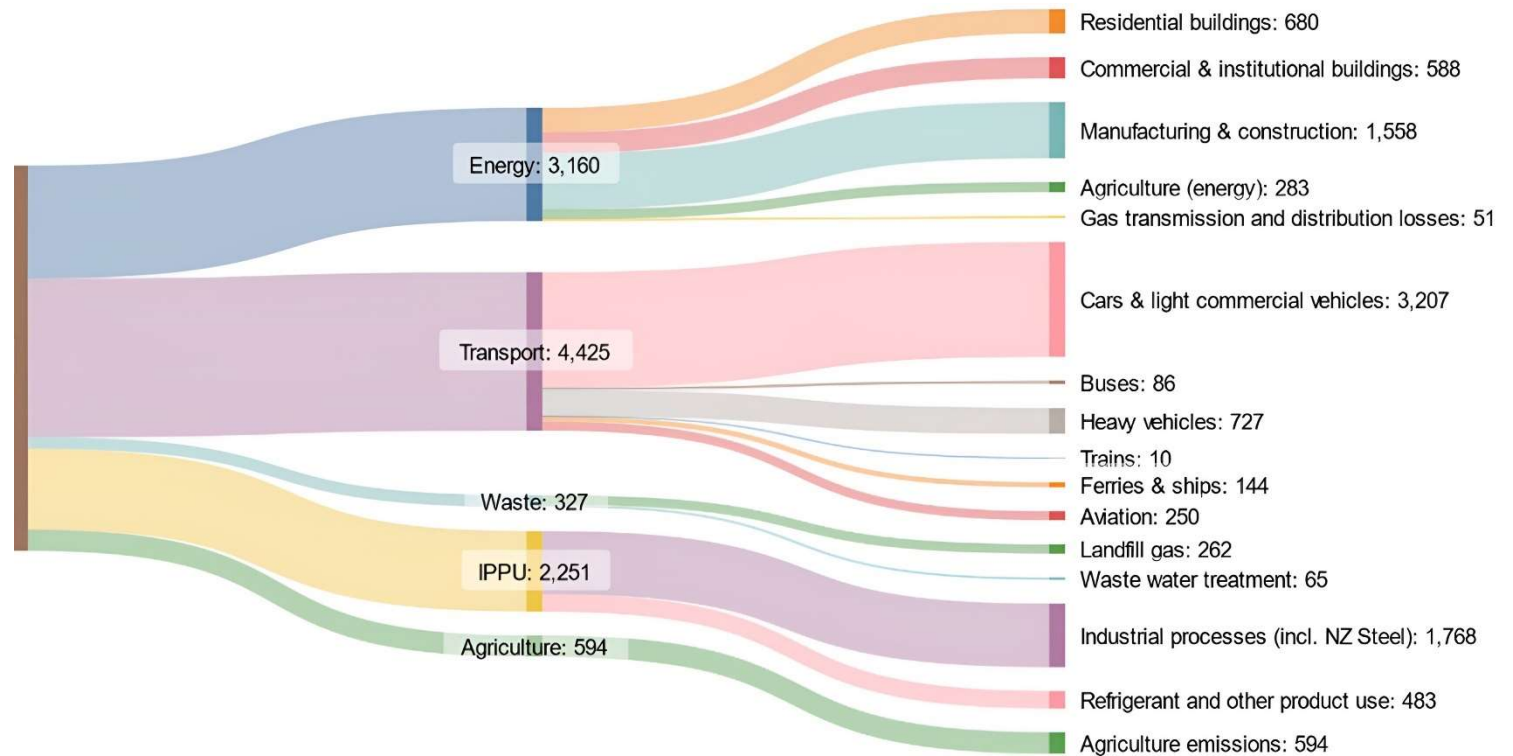
This underscores the urgent need for transformative action from central government to deliver on its emission reduction commitments, along with strong climate action from sectors, business, community and individuals within Tāmaki Makaurau.

Te Rārangi mō Ngā Haurehu Kati Mahana ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Figure 17 Auckland's greenhouse gas emission profile (2021 data in kt CO₂e)

The target of net zero emissions by 2050 with an interim emissions reduction target of 50 per cent by 2030 was set against a 2016 baseline.

Between 2016 and 2021, gross regional emissions decreased by 1,259 kt CO₂e (11.6% of gross emissions). Between 2009 and 2021, gross regional emissions only decreased by 675kt CO₂e (or 5.9% per cent of gross emissions). Compared to the previous years, the 2021 regional emissions were lower from transport, waste, and agriculture sectors but slightly higher from energy and Industrial Processes and Product Use sectors.



In 2021, Auckland's gross greenhouse gas emissions were 10,757 kt CO₂e. Transport is the dominant sector of emissions (accounting for 41.1 per cent), followed by Stationary Energy (29.4 percent), Industrial Processes and Product Use (20.9 percent), Agriculture and forestry (5.5 percent), Waste (3.0 percent) sectors.

Emissions from the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector were assumed unchanged between 2016 to 2021 due to lack of data.

Ngā wero ka rere tonu

Ongoing challenges

In Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan, Auckland Council has key targets to help deliver Auckland's fair share of emissions reduction, to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, in line with the Paris agreement.

Auckland is making progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, along with key investment by the council such as general rates and targeted rates funding for specific climate action investment.

Funding for building resilience and adapting to the impacts of climate change, such as Making Space for Water, is addressing flooding risks and vulnerable areas, to better cope with future extreme weather events.

The case studies highlighted through this progress report are tangible evidence of delivering positive outcomes for Aucklanders. From increasing public transport options, to decarbonising council's operations, to community food initiatives and building resilience to flood events, Auckland Council is responding to the climate crisis.

However, to achieve our climate goals, Auckland will continue to require increasing levels of investment from central government, along with commitment from businesses and individuals to reduce emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change.

Continued deep and sustained levels of investment will be required to allow the scaling up of programmes. However, it is not only funding challenges that will restrict the delivery of our climate targets.

Regional emissions from transport (41.4%), stationary energy use (29.4%) and industrial processes (20.9%) remain the key areas to focus on emissions for Auckland.

Transport faces key challenges with changing government priorities, such as a focus on roads and the emissions trading scheme. The current investment pace and scale currently does not align with emissions reduction goals.

The energy and industry priority faces key challenges with reduced support for businesses to transition away from fossil fuels, at a time of high energy prices driven by gas supply issues, causing prices to increase nationally.

Community climate action faces challenges as they rely on central government funding. Cuts to community services are putting pressure on community led initiatives, at a time when individuals, whanau and communities are struggling the most.

Progress has been made and council is responding to the threat of climate change. Our Long-term Plan 2024-2034, adopted in June this year, puts resilience to climate change front and centre.

Nevertheless, an acceleration of investment and direction is required if the region is to deliver on its climate goals and play its part in limiting global temperature rise.

Central government will need to provide bold and clear leadership to develop comprehensive policies and investment to align with regional emission reduction plan targets.

Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan Progress Snapshot 2024

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