

**OUR CLIMATE FUTURE:  
TE PAE TAWHITI O KIRIKIROA**  
Supporting document

# Communication and engagement context



**Hamilton  
City Council**  
Te kaunihera o Kirikiriroa

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## INTRODUCTION

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Hamilton City Council has engaged with our local community on multiple occasions, to gain an understanding of their thoughts and views on climate change. While not all specific to the development of the climate change strategy, Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa, these engagement pieces have provided clear guidance for how we should respond to the challenge of climate change.

This document provides an overview of these engagement pieces, and how they have influenced Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa. An explanation of each engagement is provided, and the illustration signals which strategy outcome area it relates to. The outcome areas are:



**By acting together, our emissions are reducing**



**Our neighbourhoods enable low-carbon living**



**Our city is ready for Hamilton's climate**

## COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENTS

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### **Establishing the Environment Committee**

In 2019 the Environment Committee was established, in response to the interest from the community on climate change and the environment. This provides a platform for environmental/climate change discussions to take place at an elected member level and gives the community opportunity to talk directly to elected members on the issues that they are concerned about.

### **Climate Strike for Future and other youth engagements**

Students across Hamilton have voiced their desire for Council to respond to the climate crisis on multiple occasions, including a Climate Strike for Future protest, rallies, and tree planting events, as well as emails and a petition delivered to Council. Throughout these engagements we heard that the youth of Hamilton wanted Council to recognise that urgent action is needed to safeguard the future of Hamiltonians, our biodiversity, and our city.

While Council has not declared a climate emergency, there was a commitment to develop Climate Change Action Plans for the city. This kick-started Council's climate change response, including the development of this strategy.

Our youth are passionate about climate change – it is their future on the line, and they have to live with the impacts of a changing climate. An equitable transition is key in Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa, and we'll work alongside our rangatahi (young people) and others to advocate for those most impacted by the climate crisis and to collaborate on projects.

### **Climate Change Action Plans**

In response to the community's call, Hamilton City Council agreed to develop a yearly Climate Change Action Plan for the city. Action Plans have been developed for 2020/21 and 2021/22<sup>1</sup> and outline:

- the emissions profile of the city and of Hamilton City Council,
- corporate emissions reduction targets for Hamilton City Council,
- a roadmap to achieve these targets, and
- what actions are underway and in development to respond to the changing climate.

Through the work undertaken for the Climate Change Action Plans, we understand that transport is a key contributor to our city's emissions. There are already multiple projects underway to address this and it is a focus area of the Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa to ensure that these efforts continue and are further intensified.



We will focus on reducing emissions from transport, through creating a low-emissions transport network and system.

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<sup>1</sup> The 2020/21 and 2021/22 Climate Change Action Plans can be found on our [website](#).

## Climate Change Engagement Reports

### [Businesses and organisations report, May 2020](#)

Hamilton City Council commissioned Creativate to lead climate change engagement interviews with businesses and organisations, to hear their struggles, successes, and strategies in climate impact.

This involved online interviews with representatives from 10 key organisations across five sectors in Hamilton. The organisations were:

- Wintec
- University of Waikato
- Ministry of Education
- NZ Police – Hamilton
- Waikato District Health Board (DHB)
- Fonterra
- Dairy Goat Co-operative
- Gallagher
- Stark Property
- WEL Networks

The interviews found that there are already diverse capabilities across these organisations, and there is an openness to sharing these and learning from each other's skills of:

- Building low-climate-impact developments
- Refurbishing existing developments for low climate-impact
- Optimising building management systems
- Accessing funding for climate improvements
- Waste minimisation
- Public engagement with climate impact
- Measurement of carbon footprint and climate impact
- Photovoltaic energy adoption
- Micro-grid technologies
- Staff engagement for climate impact
- Repurposing waste streams

While the majority of respondents were not actively measuring their climate impact, there was a strong internal drive towards sustainability, which was only increasing with the younger workforce. Respondents were already encouraging alternative modes of transport for their staff and stakeholders, with particular focus on cycle ways, using the Waikato River as a transport route, and minimising the number of vehicles on the roads. The main challenge faced by respondents was a lack of capital for replacing aging infrastructure such as older, energy inefficient buildings and heating systems.

All respondents were willing or very willing to participate in a discussion group focussed on minimising Hamilton city's climate impact. They perceived Hamilton City Council as playing a role in leading climate initiatives for the city.

### [Community groups report, July 2020](#)

In partnership with Creativate, Go Eco facilitated a workshop with community groups to understand key climate insights from Hamiltonians. This workshop focussed on three questions based on te ao Māori (the Māori world view) and the [Waikato-Tainui Environment Plan, Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao](#). These questions and key findings are outlined below.

### **How does te ao Maaori and Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao inform our climate action?**

- Climate action needs to understand and integrate Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao as any climate action does not exist in isolation and should build on the plan already developed by Waikato Tainui.
- Climate action needs to focus on long-term regeneration and restoration, not just sustaining current levels. The Waikato Tainui Environment Plan plans now for 2050 and Hamilton's climate action should align with this.
- Climate action needs to recognise that te ao Maaori is a fundamental perspective for change, with Maaori concepts and practices to be the frame of reference when considering what can be done, how actions will be measured, what methods will be used and how science is adopted.

### **What role or position does the community and/or NGO sector have in climate action?**

- Climate action needs to recognise the role of the collective in delivering community-wide change – while direction from Hamilton City Council is needed, our community should be involved in the change rather than having it delivered on their behalf. This will allow for community members and groups to work together instead of in fragmented sections.
- Climate action should include models and examples from the community, to motivate and encourage further community leadership. By showcasing the previous successes and strategies of others, our community can learn from these behaviours and lead the way.
- Climate action needs to recognise that Hamiltonians have a key role to play and should promote Hamiltonians' civic duty to act responsibly towards to the environment and honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

### **What should be the priority for the NGO and community sector in the next five years?**

- Climate action needs to focus on resourcing existing community groups and projects, rather than solely launching new initiatives. Combining the resources of councils and corporate organisations with the expertise and energy of existing groups will lead to stronger outcomes.
- Climate action needs to prioritise education to ensure meaningful, sustainable change – not just for young people in formal settings but for all.
- Climate action needs to lead to real change in order to make a difference. This could be through events, legislation, and resourcing.

With many Hamilton organisations ready to take action on climate change, and the breadth of experience and capabilities identified in our community, we have made 'Working together – Te mahi ngaatahi' a guiding principle of Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa. We have also included another guiding principle of 'Valuing te ao Maaori – Te whakanui i te ao Maaori' and considered Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao (Waikato-Tainui Environment Plan) in developing the strategy, to acknowledge and respect that te ao Maaori and maatauranga Maaori (Maaori knowledge) are a crucial part of our climate change response.



We will focus on working with industry to support their emissions reduction and have already started work on the Climate Accord, a group made up of local businesses and organisations who will champion positive climate action. We'll also provide education and tools to our community and businesses on reducing emissions, so that everyone can be involved in these efforts.



Supporting community sharing networks for food, energy, good, and services, to reduce emissions and enable other co-benefits, will be key – there are already community groups leading the way in this space who we can learn from. This will give everyone the opportunity to participate in low-carbon living.



We will focus on educating and empowering our communities, while advocating for those most impacted by climate change and the transition to a low-carbon future.

## Consultation on the Long-Term Plan

We held a number of consultations throughout 2019/2020 to inform and gain feedback on the Council's draft [2021-31 Long-Term Plan](#) and our five priorities for Hamilton.

The first conversation focussed on what Hamiltonians love about our city and what makes them proud of Hamilton. The feedback was captured via Your Neighbourhood events and live illustrations, social media, and 'pulse' Quality of Life surveys. Some key themes included:

- Love and recognition of the value of our river, trees, and birdlife
- Green spaces, walkways, and playgrounds create healthy people and options for families
- Accessible, affordable transport options and housing
- A close and connected city with walkways and cycleways
- A forward-thinking city with a growing tech industry and improving transport links

We also asked what our community thought would make Hamilton better, and some key themes from their responses were:

- Cleaning up our river, lakes, and waterways so that they are swimmable
- Improving waste collections and options
- More cycleways and paths, monorail, and river taxis
- More waterparks, outdoor fitness stations, and sports parks

In a second conversation, a series of draft wellbeing outcomes were developed with the community, capturing what is important to Hamiltonians. This feedback was captured via a 'shape your city' campaign, social media and email, and community discussions.

**Environmental wellbeing** – It is the communities' wish for Hamilton to be a city that is sustainable, clean, and green. They would like to see us encourage sustainable living and housing, develop more green public spaces, improve the quality of the Waikato River, improve biodiversity of our gullies, and promote alternative transport options. They recognise the value of the river, the 'greenness' of our city, the trees and birdlife, and special places like Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park.

**Social wellbeing** – Our people told us that they want Hamilton to be a city that is safe, easy to get around, connected and inclusive. They would like to see us create more playgrounds/play spaces and improve cycleways and footpaths to promote alternative modes of transport, as this enables healthier and more sustainable lifestyles. Our green spaces, trees, walkways, and playgrounds are considered positive attributes that create healthy people and family activity options.

**Cultural wellbeing** – Our community want Hamilton to be creative, welcoming, and respectful. They'd like us to promote acceptance and have more activities, events, and arts and culture spaces. They value the support of community centres and inclusion of our diverse communities and see this as representative of how our unique and diverse culture is celebrated. The cleanliness and 'greenness' of Hamilton was also a strong theme when thinking about the city's culture.

**Economic wellbeing** – When considering how our economy provides opportunity, our people highlighted the importance of public transport that makes it easy to move around our city, along with other improvements in our transport links. New housing areas and a range of housing options in a city that is forward-thinking, were also valued.



We will focus on creating a low-emissions transport network and system that supports travel options such as biking, walking, and public transport. This will help to create a city that is sustainable and easy to get around.

By understanding the impacts of the low-carbon transition on our economy, we will set our city up to continue being forward-thinking and providing for economic wellbeing of our people.



Through developing Hamilton Kirikiriroa into a 20-minute city of compact, connected, and healthy neighbourhoods, we will enable healthier and more sustainable living, and our communities to use more climate-friendly modes of transport (such as walking, biking and public transport).



We recognise how important the Waikato River and the 'greenness' of our city are to our community. We will focus on restoring and regenerating our natural environment to improve resilience, and on encouraging more sustainable water use and conservation measures.

## Social media

In November/December 2021, we ran a series of social media posts outlining the five key messages for climate change and the key actions from the 2021/22 Climate Change Action Plan. This series also included broad action messages for the community, for example to conserve water and use the kerbside rubbish and recycling bins properly.

The social series was seen by 112,394 people, and 6140 people engaged with the assets by watching, liking, commenting, and sharing. After viewing an ad to learn more about our climate change action, 308 people clicked through to our website. The most successful posts were our plans for biodiversity, water, and waste, which reached the most people and had the most engagements. These three issues are quite tangible for our community, so this could be why they engaged more on these topics.



We also ran a quiz on our Facebook and Instagram stories, asking the community to answer three questions about Hamilton’s carbon emissions and providing incidental education about their carbon footprint. Over 200 people viewed the story to completion, and on average people got two out of three questions right.



We will continue to provide education and tools to our community on reducing emissions, to involve them in how we will achieve the emissions reduction targets set in Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa.

### **Key stakeholder workshops for strategy development**

In early 2022, Hamilton City Council engaged Impact Hub Waikato to host a series of six, hour-long workshops with key stakeholders. The purpose of these online workshops was to gain community views on the draft vision, outcome and focus areas of Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa, to ensure that the final strategy accurately interpreted and reflected the feedback and needs of the community.

Workshop attendees represented a cross-section of the Hamilton community and included members of the [Voice of Hamilton Kirikiriroa](#), and representatives of key organisations, businesses and community groups such as:

- Dairy Co-operative
- Disabled Persons Assembly
- Go Eco
- Ministry of Education (Hamilton)
- NZ Police (Hamilton)
- Tui 2000
- Waikato DHB
- Waikato Regional Council
- Waipa District Council
- WEL Networks
- Wintec

From these workshops, a report of the key themes of community feedback was produced. This report can be found on our [website](#). This feedback has been incorporated into the final strategy and implementation plans, and/or for future Action Plans where appropriate.

The draft strategy was also shared with staff and representatives from Waikato District Council, University of Waikato, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency and others through different channels so that they were able to contribute to its development.

### **Engagement with Maori stakeholders for strategy development**

Alongside the key stakeholder workshops, staff held engagement sessions with iwi and Maaori partners including representatives from Waikato-Tainui, Te Haa o te whenua o Kirikiriroa, Ngaati Wairere, and Te Ruunanga o Kirikiriroa. These engagements were a mix of online meetings and workshops, and review and comments on the draft strategy document.

The purpose of these engagements was to gain iwi and Maaori views on the draft strategy, to ensure that the final version of Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa accurately interpreted and reflects the feedback and needs of our iwi and Maaori partners. In completing feedback, we are applying the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in the strategy development by working in partnership with iwi and hapuu and involving them at all levels.

The feedback from these engagements were collated, then considered and incorporated into the final strategy and implementation plans, and/or noted for future Action Plans where appropriate.

## FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

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The timeline below shows how our community engagement for Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa does not stop once the strategy is approved; in fact, it becomes increasingly important. We will be continuing to consult the community through development of future Action Plans and implementation of the strategy once it's been approved and adopted.

An immediate focus following strategy approval is consultation with iwi, to identify what they consider to be high-risk and what priority actions we can work on together.

