

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

National, regional, and Council strategy and policy context



**Hamilton
City Council**
Te kaunihera o Kirikiriroa

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	4
NATIONAL DIRECTION.....	5
Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019.....	5
Climate Change Commission’s Advice – Inaia tonu nei: a low emissions future for Aotearoa	6
First Emissions Reduction Plan – Te hau maarohi ki anamata: Towards a productive, sustainable and inclusive economy.....	7
Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa.....	10
National Climate Change Risk Assessment for New Zealand: Arotakenga Tuuraru moo te Huringa Aahuarangi o Aotearoa	10
Draft National Adaptation Plan – Te mahere urutaunga aa-motu (tuhinga hukihuki).....	11
Hamilton’s Climate Risk and Infrastructure Assessment.....	12
Local Government Act 2002.....	13
Resource Management Act (1991) reform	14
National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020.....	15
Government Policy Statement on Housing and Urban Development.....	16
REGIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS.....	18
Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato: Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River	19
Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao: Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan.....	20
Te Rautaki Taamata Ao Turoa o Hauaa: Ngaati Hauaa Environmental Management Plan.....	22
Regional Land Transport Plan 2021-51	24
Regional Public Transport Plan 2018-28	25
Future Proof Strategy.....	26
Hamilton-Waikato Metro Spatial Plan	26
Waikato Plan	27
Waikato Wellbeing Project	28
Waikato Regional Council Climate Action Roadmap: He mahere aarai aahuarangi	29
HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIES AND PLANS.....	31
He Pou Manawa Ora – Pillars of Wellbeing	32
Nature in the City Strategy.....	33
Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018-2024	34
Infrastructure Strategy 2021-51	34
Hamilton City River Plan	35
Housing Strategy	35
Open Space Plan	36
Access Hamilton (Transport Strategy)	36

Hamilton Urban Growth Strategy	36
District Plan	36
STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK.....	37

INTRODUCTION

There are several national and regional strategies and policies, along with existing Hamilton City Council policies and strategies, that have set the context and provided guidance for developing Hamilton City Council's climate change strategy. This document outlines these context-setting pieces and how they have influenced the development of Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa.

An explanation of how these documents have influenced or will enable Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa is provided, and the icon signals which strategy outcome it relates to. The outcomes are:



By acting together, our emissions are reducing



Our neighbourhoods enable low-carbon living



Our city is ready for Hamilton's climate

NATIONAL DIRECTION

The accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are changing New Zealand's climate. From 1909 to 2019 the average annual temperature in New Zealand has risen by 1.13 (± 0.27) degrees Celsius, and we are beginning to see rising sea levels, and changes to drought and extreme rainfall¹.

"Climate change has well and truly arrived in New Zealand and is affecting the climate where we live."¹

In 2018, carbon dioxide made up 45% of New Zealand's gross greenhouse gas emissions, with 43% of this coming from road transport. Methane made up 43% of gross greenhouse gas emissions, with 86% of this coming from livestock. The remainder of the gross greenhouse gas emissions were 10% nitrous oxide (mainly from agricultural soils) and 2% fluorinated gases¹.

As a city, Hamilton's emissions profile looks different – we do not have a large agriculture sector, so these emissions are low. Transport is the biggest contributor to our emissions and in 2018/19 made up 64% of our emissions profile. This was followed by industry and commercial activities, which represent 28% of our emissions profile. Further information on both Hamilton city's emission and the corporate emissions of Hamilton City Council, can be found on our [website](#).

Central government recognises that the climate shapes our cultural, economic, social, and environmental wellbeing. There are strategies and policies already in place or currently under development to support a national response to the issue of climate change. These have been considered throughout the development of Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa:

- Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019
- Climate Commission's Advice – Inaia tonu nei: a low emissions future for Aotearoa
- Aotearoa New Zealand's First Emissions Reduction Plan – Te hau maarohi ki anamata: Towards a productive, sustainable and inclusive economy
- National Climate Change Risk Assessment for New Zealand: Arotakenga Tuuraru moo te Huringa Aahuarangi o Aotearoa
- Draft National Adaptation Plan – Te mahere urutaunga aa-motu (tuhinga hukihuki)
- Local Government Act 2002
- National Policy Statement – Urban Development 2020
- Government Policy Statement on Housing and Urban Development

Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019

The [Climate Change Response \(Zero Carbon\) Amendment Act 2019](#) provides a framework for New Zealand to develop and implement policies that align with the Paris Agreement to limit global

¹ Ministry for the Environment & Stats NZ (2020). *New Zealand's Environmental Reporting Series: Our atmosphere and climate 2020*.

temperatures to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and allow New Zealand to prepare for and adapt to the effects of climate change. This Amendment Act allows central government to set emissions budgets which are 'stepping stones' to the country's 2050 emission reduction targets of:

- Reduce net emissions of all greenhouse gases (except biogenic methane) to zero by 2050
- Reduce emissions of biogenic methane to 24-47% below 2017 levels by 2050, including 10% below 2017 levels by 2030.

As a local government, we have a responsibility to contribute towards these budgets and targets and will be impacted by decisions that central government makes to achieve them.

Climate Change Commission's Advice - Inaia tonu nei: a low emissions future for Aotearoa

Central government established the Climate Change Commission as part of the Amendment Act. The Commission provide independent advice to the government and monitor how New Zealand is tracking against its goals.

The Climate Commission provided its first report [Inaia tonu nei: a low emissions future for Aotearoa](#) to government in June 2021, advising the government on its first three emissions budgets and direction for the Emissions Reduction Plan 2022-2025. The advice included modelling of potential pathways that national emissions could follow, based on different scenarios and assumptions, to reduce emissions from now until 2050 to achieve the net zero target.

Some key points from this report that are relevant for Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa, include:

Transport

- Reduce reliance on cars and support people to walk, cycle, and use public transport. Central government should support local governments to implement these changes
- Rapidly adopt electric vehicles
- Begin work to decarbonise heavy transport and freight by developing a low-emissions freight strategy, moving more freight by rail and sea, and encourage low-emission fuels

Energy, industry, and buildings

- Develop an energy strategy including a renewable energy target and increased energy efficiency. Work on this with Maaori, communities, industry, and local government
- Stop installation of new coal boilers and phase out fossil fuels in existing boilers
- Innovate to decarbonise industries that will find it hard to reduce emissions
- Upgrade Building Code to ensure low emission and healthy buildings
- Encourage low-emissions designs and construction
- Mandate energy performance programmes for public and commercial buildings

Waste and fluorinated gases

- Revise the waste strategy, including goals to reduce waste emissions
- Invest in resource recovery infrastructure, research, and development

Forest and other carbon stocks

- Establish a national programme for more native forests

- Amend climate policies including the Emissions Trading Scheme to manage the number of forests planted
- Effective pest management to protect forests
- Clarify the role of permanent exotic forests in transition
- Protect peatlands and wetlands from losing carbon e.g., through drainage and destruction

A fair, inclusive, and equitable transition

- Develop a strategy that enables:
 - Upholding Treaty principles through genuine partnership with iwi/Maori
 - Planning that is pro-active and co-designed
 - Education for New Zealanders to participate in a low-emissions economy
 - Supporting high-emissions labour force to retrain and move into low-emissions roles
 - Assessing the distributional impact of climate policies and strategies

Transition for iwi/Maori

- Develop a strategy to ensure Treaty principles are embedded in emissions reduction plans
- Work in partnership with iwi, Maaori, and local government
- Develop a strategy to advance a Maaori-led approach for Maaori and the Maaori economy
- Build partnerships that result in equitable outcomes for iwi and Maaori

The Commission also advised the government to limit offshore mitigation for emissions budgets, meaning that the budgets must be met as far as possible through domestic action.

First Emissions Reduction Plan - Te hau maarohi ki anamata: Towards a productive, sustainable and inclusive economy

Following the advice from the Climate Commission and public consultation (to which Hamilton City Council made a submission), central government released the [first Emissions Reduction Plan](#) in May 2022. This is the first statutory plan, under the Climate Change Response Act, to require the Government to act to reduce emissions right across the economy and support all New Zealanders to make the most of the transition and seize the opportunity to lower the cost of living and improve living standards.

In this plan, the government provided the first three emissions budgets which are as follows:

Table 1: First three emissions budgets for Aotearoa New Zealand, as outlined in the government’s first Emissions Reduction Plan.

Budget period	2022-25	2026-30	2031-35
All gases	290 Mt CO ₂ e	305 Mt CO ₂ e	240 Mt CO ₂ e
Annual average	72.5 Mt CO ₂ e	61 Mt CO ₂ e	48 Mt CO ₂ e
<i>Note: Mt CO₂e – megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent</i>			

The Government also incorporated new strategies and policies, including new targets. Some of these key strategies, policies and targets that are relevant for Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa, include:

- Reduce transport emissions by 41% by 2035
- Reduce vehicle kilometres travelled (VKT) by light fleet by 20 percent by 2035 through improved urban form and providing better travel options, particularly in largest cities

- Increase zero-emissions vehicles to 30 per cent of the light fleet by 2035
- Set sub-national VKT reduction targets for Aotearoa New Zealand’s major urban areas (Tier 1 and 2) by the end of 2022 (Hamilton is a Tier 1 urban area)
- Improving the reach, frequency, and quality of public transport
- Providing national direction to deliver a step-change in cycling and walking rates
- Supporting local government to accelerate widespread street/road reallocation to support public transport, active travel and placemaking
- Implementing mode-shift plans for our largest cities and begin planning for other urban areas
- Producing a national electric vehicle infrastructure plan
- Developing a strategy for moving to a circular economy with a thriving bioeconomy
- Developing a circular sustainable development pilot fund to support business, communities, and iwi to further move to a circular economy
- Reduce waste from construction and demolition
- Reducing organic waste disposal to landfill by looking at food waste and green waste collections, and at businesses separating food and green waste
- Integrating emissions reduction into land-use planning and investments as part of the resource management reforms
- Integrating emissions into urban planning and funding
- Developing an energy strategy
- Setting a renewable energy target
- Investigating a potential mandatory energy performance certificate or programme for commercial and public buildings
- Establishing a long-term carbon sink
- Developing an Equitable Transitions Strategy to drive a well-signalled and inclusive transition
- Supporting workers, households, and communities to understand, plan and manage the transition
- Establishing a fund to drive behaviour change

The advice and modelling provided by the Climate Change Commission, and the government’s first Emissions Reduction Plan, have been used to guide the outcomes of Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa.



We have considered modelling provided by the Climate Change Commission to central government, and central government's 2050 targets, first three emissions budgets, and first Emissions Reduction Plan, to set emissions reduction targets for Hamilton city's emissions. We have also set targets for Hamilton City Council's operational emissions. These targets set the ambition for our climate change response. More information about how we set these targets can be found in the supporting document, 'Setting our emissions reduction targets', [on our website](#).

A key focus area will be developing a low-emissions transport network and system, to support access to active modes of transport and public transport. This is in line with the government's intention to reduce car travel, implement mode-shift plans for urban areas, and set targets for urban areas.

As we work with our community and businesses to better understand the impacts of climate change and the transition to a low-carbon future, we will contribute to an equitable transition.



By developing Hamilton Kirikiriroa into a 20-minute city of compact and connected neighbourhoods, we will support improved urban form. We will integrate emissions reduction into land-use planning through our focus on low-carbon infrastructure and opportunities for renewable energy solutions.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa

The Climate Commission recommended that central government commit to working in partnership with iwi/Maori and local government, to develop a strategy to ensure the principles of Te Tiriti of Waitangi are embedded in subsequent emissions reduction plans. In the first Emissions Reduction Plan, central government have outlined that they will support development of a Maaori climate strategy.

Although this government strategy has not yet been delivered, we have followed this advice throughout the development of Our Climate Future, by considering the treaty principles and Council's foundation strategy, He Pou Manawa Ora (Pillars of Wellbeing, see page 32 for further information):

- **Partnership** - Working with iwi and hapuu by engaging with these groups in the strategy development, to ensure that Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa reflects the needs and desires of our Maaori partners. We will continue to work in partnership Maaori as we develop plans for the implementation of the strategy.
- **Participation** – Encouraging and having the need for Maaori to be involved at all levels, including by consulting iwi and hapuu representatives and our internal Amorangi Maaori and Maangai Maaori in strategy decisions and development.
- **Protection** - Safeguarding Maaori cultural concepts, values, and practices by including te ao Maaori (the Maaori world view) as a guiding principle for the Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa. This means that tikanga (cultural practices, traditions) and taonga (treasures) are at the heart of our decision-making.
- **Prosperity** – Providing equitable support and opportunities for Maaori to improve their economic health alongside all New Zealanders, by ensuring that a just transition is a key element of Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa, and that the strategy enables Council to work alongside and advocate for those most affected by the changing climate.

National Climate Change Risk Assessment for New Zealand: Arotakenga Tuuraru moo te Huringa Aahuarangi o Aotearoa

Under the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019, government must produce a national climate change risk assessment every six years. In response, the Minister for Climate Change must prepare a National Adaptation Plan (see details below).

The first [National Climate Change Risk Assessment](#) was completed in August 2020 and identified 43 priority risks. The 10 most significant risks across five domains were²:

Natural environment

- Ongoing sea level rise and extreme weather events pose a risk to coastal ecosystems (intertidal zone, estuaries, dunes, wetlands etc.)
- Climate change enhances survival and spread of invasive species, which is a risk to indigenous ecosystems and species

² Ministry for the Environment. 2020. *National Climate Change Risk Assessment for Aotearoa New Zealand: Main report – Arotakenga Tūraru mō te Huringa Āhuarangi o Āotearoa: Pūrongo whakatōpū*. Wellington: Ministry for the Environment.

Human

- Climate change impacts will displace individuals, families, and communities, risking social cohesion and community well-being
- Differential distribution of climate change impacts will risk exacerbating existing inequities and creating new inequities

Built environment

- Changes in rainfall, temperature, drought, extreme weather events and sea level rise poses a risk to availability and quality of potable water supply
- Extreme weather events, drought, increased fire weather and sea level rise poses a risk to buildings

Governance

- Not accounting for uncertainty and change over long timeframes results in an increased risk of adverse climate-related outcomes
- Current institutional arrangements that are not fit for adaptation will exacerbate the risk that climate change impacts across all domains

Economy

- Extreme weather events and ongoing, gradual change will incur costs to governments such as lost productivity, disaster relief expenditure, and unfunded contingent liabilities
- Extreme weather events and gradual changes will also risk overall financial instability

The report also highlighted that while all risks are relevant for Maaori, there are some of particular significance to Maaori, potentially affecting Maaori interests, tikanga, and mana (authority, dignity, power). There are some risks that will also have a disproportionate impact on Maaori.

Draft National Adaptation Plan - Te mahere urutaunga aa-motu (tuhinga hukihuki)

The [Draft National Adaptation Plan](#) is a response to the first National Climate Change Risk Assessment and sets out how New Zealand will address the 43 priority risks identified in the assessment. At the time of writing, central government was consulting on this draft plan, to which Hamilton City Council has submitted a response.

The draft plan sets out a proposed future work programme, indicating national priorities for 2020-26. It sets three focus areas:

1. Reform institutions to be fit for a changing climate
2. Provide data, information, and guidance to enable everyone to assess and reduce their own climate risks
3. Embed climate resilience across government strategies and policies.

There are then six outcome areas and a number of critical actions required to achieve them:

1. **Natural environment.** This outcome area addresses the pressure the climate change is putting on our land, marine and freshwater ecosystems, and the impacts on our cultural, economic, and spiritual wellbeing. Critical actions include implementing the Department of Conservation's Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan and delivering a collection of actions run by Biosecurity New Zealand.

2. **Homes, buildings, and places.** This outcome area addresses the risks climate change presents to the durability, safety, and cultural and personal value of our homes, marae, urban environments, community spaces and sites of significance such as urupaa (cemeteries, burial sites). Critical actions include building resilience at the property level by supporting households and businesses to assess and respond to climate-related risks and supporting communities to adapt and conserve taonga and cultural assets.
3. **Infrastructure.** This outcome area addresses risks to services we depend on such as energy, telecommunications, transport, water, and waste to help asset owners manage climate risks and continue to deliver the services we depend on as our climate changes. Critical actions include integrating adaptation into the Treasury's investment decision-making processes for infrastructure.
4. **Communities.** This outcome area addresses the risks climate change presents to communities, who may be impacted in different ways. Some are more exposed because of where they are, while others are less able to take action to adapt. Critical actions include ensuring information and advice on disaster resilience is available, accessible, and usable to everyone in our communities, including Maaori and Pasifika, disabled people, people with English as a second language, and people in hard-to-reach areas. Another critical action is developing a Health National Adaptation Plan.
5. **Economy and financial system.** This outcome area focuses on addressing the potential economic cost of climate change to Aotearoa New Zealand, and the risks presented to sectors and businesses, particularly our primary industries, tourism, and distribution networks. Actions to address these issues include supporting high-quality implementation of climate-related financial disclosures and delivering a fisheries system reform.

The draft National Adaptation Plan also identifies how local government is on the front line in preparing for and dealing with climate impacts and risks and highlights the priority to work with Maaori as Treaty partners.

Hamilton's Climate Risk and Infrastructure Assessment

In December 2020 Hamilton City Council commissioned a Climate Risk and Infrastructure Assessment. This report provided some guidance on things to consider, such as:

- **Water:** The water quality from Waikato River may deteriorate, whilst the demand for drinking water will rise as the temperatures increase. Changing temperatures may impact the biological mechanisms used to treat our wastewater and sewerage.
- **Infrastructure:** Roads, bridges, buildings, etc. will need to be designed and built with the structural integrity to withstand more extreme weather. Existing infrastructure may be more vulnerable to extreme weather, leading to more regular maintenance and replacements.
- **Parks and green spaces:** Pest species may be more likely to survive and thrive due to changes in temperature and rainfall, leading to increased pest maintenance. These conditions may also affect what is planted. Materials and shade for outdoor facilities may also need to change, for example providing more shade for children's playgrounds so that they are still used in the sun and heat.

Hamilton City Council plans to undertake a detailed risk assessment in 2022/23, using guidance published by the Ministry for the Environment in September 2021. This risk assessment will use the standard approach and will be consistent with the national framework.

The first National Climate Change Risk Assessment and draft National Adaptation Plan, and findings from Hamilton City Council's Climate Risk and Infrastructure Assessment, have informed the development of the Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa.



We will address the risks posed to drinking supply by encouraging sustainable water use and conservation of the Waikato River. Our focus for the risks posed to the natural and built environment will be futureproofing existing and new infrastructure to be climate resilient and regenerating our environment to improve resilience of natural areas.

By working with our community groups to improve community resilience, we will mitigate the 'human' risk of climate change and the risk that these impacts will be differentially distributed across our communities.

Local Government Act 2002

The [Local Government Act](#) defines the purpose of local government as:

- (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
- (b) to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and in the future.

The Local Government Act does not define what each of these well-beings means; this is up to each individual Council. Hamilton City Council has defined them as:

Paapori (social):

We care for, and about, our people
E manaaki ana taatou i oo taatou iwi

Ohaoha (economic):

Our economy provides opportunities to prosper
Maa taa taatou oohanga ngaa whai waahitanga e taurikura ai te tangata

Taiao (environmental):

We love and protect our environment
E kaingaakau ana, e tautiaki ana taatou i too taatou taiao

Ahurea (cultural):

We celebrate our unique and diverse culture
E whakanui ana taatou i too taatou ahurea ahurei, kanorau hoki

Hamilton City Council recognises that climate change impacts on all four well-beings, and therefore as a local government we have a responsibility to act upon this. We have applied a climate lens to these four well-beings in Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa and included the guiding principle 'Equitable and holistic – *Kia torowhaanui, kia taurite*' to ensure that our climate actions will deliver to improving the social, cultural, environmental, and economic wellbeing of our community.



Our partnerships with others are key to ensuring that social and cultural wellbeing is promoted. By focusing on 'acting together' to reduce our emissions, we recognise the role of the collective in delivering community-wide change, and that we will need to work with all groups in our diverse community to ensure that the climate actions are delivered.

To improve the economic wellbeing of our community in the face of climate change, we need to ensure that our local economy will continue to grow and provide opportunities for our people to prosper as we transition to a low-carbon way of living. We will support our communities and businesses to respond to climate change, while advocating for those most impacted by the low-carbon transition.



We will continue to provide for social wellbeing – caring for and about our people – by creating a 20-minute city of compact, connected, and healthy neighbourhoods, and supporting community sharing networks. This will reduce emissions and provide other co-benefits. For example, options for more active modes of transport can lead to healthier communities.



Incorporating nature-based solutions when futureproofing our infrastructure, will promote environmental wellbeing. We'll also continue improving the resilience of our natural areas and gullies.

Te ao Maaori as a guiding principle

Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa promotes cultural wellbeing, encouraging celebration of our unique and diverse culture, by incorporating the guiding principles of 'Valuing te ao Maaori - Te whakanui i te ao Maaori' and 'Working together – Te mahi ngaatahi'. This means maatauranga Maaori (Maaori knowledge) and tikanga will be ever-present our climate change response, and that we will collaborate with our diverse community groups in responding to climate change.

Resource Management Act (1991) reform

The [Resource Management Act 1991](#) (RMA) is the main law governing how people interact with natural resources, and promotes the sustainable use, development, and protection of them. In February 2021, the Government announced it would repeal the RMA and replace it with three new pieces of legislation³:

³ <https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/key-initiatives/resource-management-system-reform/overview/>

- **Natural and Built Environments Act:** This will be the main replacement, focusing on land use and environmental regulation. It will protect and restore the environment while allowing for better development.
- **Strategic Planning Act:** This will provide more integration across the wider resource management system, for example with other relevant legislation like the Local Government Act and Climate Change Response Act. The primary tool for this will be long-term regional spatial plans.
- **Climate Change Adaptation Act:** This will support New Zealand’s response to the effects of climate change, and address funding adaptation and managed retreat.

The reform of the RMA is a great opportunity to incorporate our response to climate change into the way we plan for Hamilton city’s growth. We have considered how Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa can align with the objectives of the RMA reform to assist with this, and in particular the objectives:

- better preparing for adapting to climate change and risks from natural hazards, and better mitigation of emissions contributing to climate change; and
- better enabling of development within environmental limits.



We will better mitigate emissions contributing to climate change through creating neighbourhoods that enable low-carbon living. This includes focus on sustainable urban intensification, and low-carbon infrastructure and buildings.



We will focus on understanding physical climate risks for Hamilton to ensure we build the right things in the right place and futureproof existing and new infrastructure to be climate resilient. This will help us better prepare for climate change adaptation.

National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020

Under the RMA, a national policy statement sets the national direction on issues of national importance with relation to sustainable management.

The [National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020](#) (NPS-UD 2020) outlines the policies and objectives for urban development. It aims to ensure that our cities and towns are well-functioning and meet the needs of their diverse communities. It will remove barriers, allowing areas that have good access to existing services, public transport, and infrastructure to grow up and out.

A key component of the NPS-UD 2020 is that Councils will need to enable greater height and density. Buildings within a walkable range from rapid transit stops and city centres can now be six storeys or higher. This should reflect demand and allow people to live closer to public transport and be less reliant on cars.

The NPS-UD 2020 also has wider outcomes, including ensuring that climate change is a particular focus when considering how a city will work for its community. Specifically, Objective 8 of the NPS-UD 2020 states that New Zealand’s urban environments:

- (a) support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions; and
- (b) are resilient to the current and future effects of climate change.

While the NPS-UD 2020 has climate change and mode-shift embedded in its outcomes, intensification and increased development often lead to environmental degradation. Therefore, we need to consider how climate-positive urban form can be achieved and have addressed this in Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa.



Setting emissions reduction targets will ensure our city's growth does not equate to increased emissions.



We will consider the climate when designing where, how, and what can be built in Hamilton. This includes creating a 20-minute city of compact and connected neighbourhoods with sustainable urban intensification, and low-carbon infrastructure and buildings

Government Policy Statement on Housing and Urban Development

The [Government Policy Statement on Housing and Urban Development](#) (GPS-HUD) provides a shared vision and direction for housing and urban development in Aotearoa New Zealand. The vision is that everyone in Aotearoa New Zealand lives in a home and within a community that meets their needs and aspirations. This will be achieved through a number of outcomes, including one focused on 'thriving and resilient communities' that means everyone is living in communities that meet their needs, and where they have access and are connected to employment, education, and social and cultural opportunities. These communities will:

- Have public transport and active networks at the heart of community and urban development
- Have urban development that supports ecosystem health and improves biodiversity, water quality and air quality
- Be planning, prepared for, and adapting to the effects of climate change
- Have urban design that supports reduced emissions (including building material, construction practices, and whole of life) and resilience to natural hazards

The GPS-HUD recognises that the way we plan and build homes, towns, and cities is critical to meeting the national emissions reduction targets, and to helping us build resilience and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate. We need to reduce transport emissions and the emissions that result from building and operating homes, through significant changes to the way we plan, invest, and develop homes, infrastructure, and places.



We will align with the goal to make public and active modes of transport at the heart of our communities, by creating a low-emissions transport network and system.



We will implement urban design that supports reduced emissions by creating a city of 20-minute neighbourhoods and enabling low-carbon buildings and infrastructure.



Through building the right things in the right place and futureproofing our new and existing infrastructure, our urban design will support resilience to natural hazards. We will also support our ecosystems and biodiversity by focussing on regeneration of the natural environment and protection of the Waikato River.

REGIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS

On a per capita basis, the Waikato region's gross emissions are higher than the national average⁴. Our region is already experiencing the effects of climate change, and according to projections provided by Ministry for the Environment, these are likely to intensify⁵:

- Compared to 1995, temperatures are likely to be 0.7°C to 1.1°C warmer by 2040 and 0.7°C to 3.1°C warmer by 2090.
- By 2090, the Waikato is projected to have from 10 to 60 extra days per year where maximum temperatures exceed 25°C.
- Rainfall will vary locally within the region. Winter rainfall in Ruakura is projected to increase by 4 to 8 per cent by 2090.
- Some increase in storm intensity, local wind extremes and thunderstorms is likely to occur.
- The frequency of ex-tropical cyclones is projected to either decrease or remain unchanged over the 21st century; however, the ex-tropical cyclones will likely be stronger and cause more damage as a result of heavy rain and strong winds.

Our regional partners recognise that we need to act to reduce emissions and adapt to the changing climate. There are strategies and policies already in place or currently under development to support a regional response to this, and have been considered throughout the development of Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa:

- Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato: Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River
- Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao: Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan
- Te Rautaki Taamata Ao Turoa o Hauaa: Ngaati Hauaa Environmental Management Plan
- Waikato Tainui Environment Plan 2050
- Regional Land Transport Plan
- Hamilton-Waikato Metro Spatial Plan
- Future Proof Strategy
- Waikato Plan
- Waikato Wellbeing Project
- Waikato Regional Council Climate Action Roadmap

⁴ [Climate Roadmap, Waikato Regional Council.](#)

⁵ <https://environment.govt.nz/facts-and-science/climate-change/impacts-of-climate-change-per-region/projections-waikato-region/>

Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato: Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River

The [Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River](#) is the primary direction-setting document for the Waikato River and activities within its catchment affecting the Waikato River. The vision is for:

“A future where a healthy Waikato River sustains abundant life and prosperous communities who, in turn, are all responsible for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River, and all it embraces, for generations to come”⁶.

This vision is enabled through the Waikato River Authority and is consistent with the overarching purpose of the settlement between Waikato-Tainui and the Crown to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River. The vision responds to the degradation of the Waikato River and its catchment that has occurred due to human activity, and due to physical intervention, land use, and subsurface hydrological changes that have altered the river’s natural processes. It addresses how these actions have severely compromised Waikato River iwi in their ability to exercise mana whakahaere (control, access to, and management of resources) or conduct their tikanga, and have reduced the relationships and aspirations of communities with the Waikato River.

There are a number of objectives for the Waikato River outlined in Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato, which are reflected in Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa. Of particular relevance is the recognition that the Waikato River is degraded and should not be required to absorb further degradation as a result of human activities; protection and enhancement of significant sites, fisheries, flora, and fauna; and recognition that the strategic importance of the Waikato River to New Zealand’s social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing is subject to the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

We recognise that Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato sits above all else in the region and that the health of the Waikato River is key to our climate change response.



Reducing our emissions will assist in protecting the Waikato River from further degradation as a result of human activities.



We will regenerate our natural environment to improve the resilience of our gullies, which are intrinsically linked to the Waikato River. We will continue to encourage more sustainable water use and better conservation measures, and work with iwi, to protect the Waikato River.

Due to the location of marae and the relationship with the awa (river), iwi and Maaori tikanga and kawa are at greater risk from the degradation of the Waikato River. We will work to better understand how climate change risks our community’s wellbeing advocate for those most impacted by the effects of climate change.

⁶ Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato, Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River, p.4

Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao: Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan

The [Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan, Tai Tumu Tai Pari Tai Ao](#), provides guidance on incorporating te ao Maaori and maatauranga Maaori into environmental decision-making, and exercising kaitiakitanga (guardianship, protection, stewardship) over the Waikato-Tainui rohe (area, region). The Plan is part of Whakatupuranga 2050 (Tribal Strategic Plan), a long-term development approach to building the capacity of Waikato-Tainui marae, hapuu, and iwi.

The over-arching purpose of Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao is to:

“Provide a map or pathway that will return the Waikato-Tainui rohe to the modern day equivalent of the environmental state that it was in when Kiingi Taawhiao composed his maimai aroha.”⁷

The plan outlines issues, objectives, policies, and methods to guide decision-making on a number of environmental topics, from customary activities to natural hazards, to specific environmental areas. Of greatest relevance to Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa are those focussed on natural heritage and biosecurity, and natural hazards including climate change.

Natural heritage and biosecurity

Waikato-Tainui highlights decreased indigenous biodiversity, impacts to the relationship between Waikato-Tainui and the environment, and inefficient resource development, use, associated activities, and infrastructure risks that are compromising natural heritage. It is important to Waikato-Tainui that the remaining indigenous species are protected from further depletion and other threats to their wellbeing, and that their populations and habitats are enhanced and/or restored. Key objectives to address these issues include:

- The full range of Waikato ecosystem types found throughout the Waikato-Tainui rohe are robust and support representative native flora and fauna.
- Cultural, spiritual, and ecological features of the Waikato landscape that are significant to Waikato-Tainui are protected and enhanced to improve the mauri (life force) of the land.

Natural hazards

Waikato-Tainui recognise that the risk of natural hazards occurring, and the magnitude of their effects, can be exacerbated by inappropriate land use and development, risk management, and climate change. These hazards cause environmental as well as cultural and/or spiritual impacts, and Waikato-Tainui recommend that balance is required between natural ‘soft’ solutions and ‘hard’ engineered solutions in response to their management, particularly for areas of significance to Waikato-Tainui or to avoid further adverse effects on the environment. Key objectives to address these issues include:

- Land use and the construction of structures occurs in a way that does not increase the risk or magnitude of a natural hazard event, and that does not increase the risk or effects on human life or activity in the event that a natural hazard event occurs.
- The risk of adverse effects on human, cultural, spiritual, or environmental wellbeing shall be prioritised over risks to individual properties when assessing natural hazard risks and/or the need for hazard protection structures.

⁷ Tai Tumu Tai Pari Tai Ao, Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan, pg. 16

- The cause and effects of climate change are understood and prepared for within the Waikato-Tainui rohe.

While the Plan is designed to enhance Waikato-Tainui participation in resource and environmental management, it has also provided guidance for Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa, to ensure that our decisions for climate change align with the objectives and policies of Waikato-Tainui's in respect to the environment. The following lines of Kiingi Taawhiao's maimai aroha, regarding the Waikato River and Kirikiriroa Hamilton, have been taken as guidance for the Strategy:

Hoki ake nei au ki tooku awa koiora me
ngoona pikonga
He kura tangihia o te maataamuri.

*The river of life, each curve more beautiful
than the last.*

E whakawhiti atu ai i te koopuu maania o
Kirikiriroa,
Me ngoona maara kai, te ngaawhaa
whakatapu ake o te whenua moomona

*Across the smooth belly of Kirikiriroa, its
gardens bursting with the fullness of good
things.*

Through consideration of this vision and including 'Valuing te ao Maaori – *Te whakanui i te ao Maaori*' as a guiding principle in Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa, we will work alongside our iwi and Maaori partners to ensure that our climate response is inclusive and incorporates maatauranga Maaori, to strengthen and maintain the mauri of our environment.

Furthermore, we have aligned with natural heritage and biodiversity and natural hazards objectives from the Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan in the strategy:



In working to understand and plan for impacts of climate change, we will consider the cultural, spiritual, and ecological features of the Waikato and Hamilton Kirikiriroa landscape that are significant to our communities, including iwi and hapuu.



We will enhance Hamilton's ecosystems and native flora and fauna, by improving the resilience of our natural environment to climate change and encouraging sustainable water use and conservation measures to better protect the Waikato River.

We will work to better understand our knowledge of physical climate risks for Hamilton and use this to build the right things in the right place and educate our community. This aligns with the Waikato-Tainui objective to understand and prepare for the effects of climate change in the Waikato-Tainui rohe.

Te Rautaki Taamata Ao Turoa o Hauaa: Ngaati Hauaa Environmental Management Plan

[Te Rautaki Taamata Ao Turoa o Hauaa: Ngaati Hauaa Environmental Management Plan](#) expresses and articulates the values, frustrations, aspirations, and position statements of Ngaati Hauaa in relation to the environment. It includes guidance on priority projects to carry out and their expectation for consultation by others. The plan aims to enable Ngaati Hauaa to exercise their responsibilities as kaitiaki (guardians, stewards) and in particular to ensure that they are able to:

- Restore the mauri of their taiao (environment)
- Swim in, drink from, and gather food from their rivers and streams
- Provide for the cultural, social, and economic wellbeing of their people
- Revitalise their traditional knowledge and practices
- Build the capacity of their future kaitiaki

The policies and actions included in the plan relate to:

- **Sustainable land use development** – The plan highlights how development and use of land has not always been sustainable, and that urban development is increasing pressure on natural resources, affecting plants, animals, and indigenous biodiversity. Furthermore, there have been impacts on the ability to use and develop underutilised Maaori land, and inadequate recognition of Ngaati Hauaa values and maatauranga. Ngaati Hauaa outline an integrated approach to sustainable use, development, and management of land, how they will manage the potential effects of land use and develop and revitalise maatauranga.
- **Aspirations for use and development of lands** – Ngaati Hauaa outline that there has been inadequate recognition of their values, interests, and relationships with marae, urupaa and ancestral lands, and remaining lands are fragmented. Deteriorating marae infrastructure and facilities may be vulnerable to climate change impacts and there is a shortage of affordable housing for their people. The plan outlines how they will provide for a range of uses and activities on Maaori land, and for the productive and sustainable use of Maaori land. This includes taking steps to prepare for and adapt to the effects of climate change, such as ensuring a secure and reliable water supply and raising awareness and understanding of the issue.
- **Te wai Maaori – Water** – Ngaati Hauaa recognise multiple issues facing the health and wellbeing of waterbodies. This includes inadequate recognition of maatauranga with regards to rivers, streams and aquifers; the impact of land activities on water; and the limited amount of water and increasing pressures on water resources, among others. Their policies focus on restoring the mauri of freshwater through a holistic and integrated approach; equitable and efficient water allocation; avoiding further degradation of water quality; and building traditional and contemporary knowledge of water.
- **Ngaa Repo – Wetlands** – The plan outlines how wetlands can be protected from further degradation, and how Ngaati Hauaa will work with others to increase the extent of wetlands.
- **He Mahinga Kai – Fisheries** – The plan outlines how freshwater fisheries are not as abundant as they previously were, due to degradation of habitat, invasive species, and commercial fishing. It also notes that there is a disconnection of people from these sites, due to restricted access. Policies outline how access to freshwater fish species can be enhanced, how fisheries can be protected, how they can be restored and sustained, and how associated cultural practices can be revitalised.

- **Te Ararangi – Air** – Ngaati Hauaa recognise that there are activities within the rohe that contribute to poor air quality, such as industrial air discharges and vehicle emissions, which are anticipated to worsen due to population growth, development, and land intensification. Their policies outline how they will manage activities that contribute to poor air quality; manage activities so that celestial landmarks can be seen; and build traditional and contemporary knowledge about air and celestial landmarks.
- **Cultural heritage** – The plan focuses on how Ngaati Hauaa cultural heritage can be protected from the impacts of land development, for example by managing the potential effects of land disturbance activities such as earthworks on cultural heritage, and by working with others to protect, manage, and/or restore waahi tapu (sacred and valued sites/areas).
- **Customary activities** – The plan recognises that the impacts of others and of activities has affected areas for customary activities. It outlines how Ngaati Hauaa will manage the potential effects of land use and development on customary activities and enable the revitalisation of traditional knowledge and practices associated with these activities.
- **Kaitiaki – Ngaa Hauaa Tangata** – Ngaati Hauaa recognise that they are guardians of the environment and have a responsibility to care for it. The plan outlines how they will build capacity and capability, form effective working relationships with others, be actively involved in and influence resource management processes and decisions, and lead or be involved in environmental restoration projects.

While the policies and actions are primarily aimed at Regional and District Councils, they have been considered in the development of Hamilton City Council’s strategy, Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa.



We will focus on developing a low-emissions transport network and system, and support businesses with emissions reduction efforts, which will contribute to improving air quality in the region.

We will align with Ngaati Hauaa objectives regarding cultural heritage through better understanding the impacts of climate change for our community. We will empower our communities to respond to climate change and advocate for those most impacted by the effects.



Sustainable land use development will be supported by creating a 20-minute city of compact, connected, and healthy neighbourhoods and sustainable infill development.



By building the right things in the right place and regenerating our natural environment (with particular focus on the Waikato River), we will continue working to mitigate the impacts of urban development on natural resources, plants, animals, and indigenous biodiversity.

The principles that will guide our actions and decision-making throughout implementation of the strategy, include ‘Valuing te ao Maaori – Te whakanui i te ao Maaori’, ‘Working together – Te mahi ngaatahi’, and considering maatauranga Maaori as part of our bold and informed approach (‘Bold and Informed – Kia whai kaha, kia maarama!’). This is in alignment with the Ngaati Hauaa Environmental Management Plan, and their aspirations to revitalise their traditional knowledge and practices and build the capacity of future kaitiaki.

Regional Land Transport Plan 2021-51

The [Regional Land Transport Plan 2021-51](#) (RLTP) has been developed by the Waikato Regional Transport Committee. It outlines the strategic direction for land transport in the Waikato region over the next 30 years. The vision is for land transport to be an integrated, safe, and resilient transport system that delivers on the wellbeing of the diverse Waikato communities. The plan has three strategic objectives:

- Strategic corridors and economic development
- Road safety
- Access and mobility

These objectives and all decision-making in the RLTP are informed by two underpinning objectives: integrate land use and transport planning, which ensures collaborative, spatial-based approaches to decision-making drive the best outcomes for communities; and climate change and environmental sustainability, which ensures that transport plays its role in delivering an energy efficient, resilient, and low carbon, sustainable future.

The RLTP also includes climate-related targets:

- Reduce carbon emissions from the transport sector by a minimum of 30% by 2030 (from 2018/19 levels), on the path to net zero by 2050
- Trips per capita by public transport and active modes significantly increase year on year, while trips per capita by private motor vehicle decrease.

As these objectives and targets show, climate change is now at the forefront of transport decision-making in the region. This is a great opportunity to incorporate our response to climate change into the way we plan for Hamilton's transport network and system. We have considered how Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa can align with the objectives of the RLTP to ensure the momentum results in the urgent action required.



With transport emissions making up the largest share of our city's emissions profile, we will contribute to the emissions target set by the RLTP as we work towards our own emissions reduction targets.

In collaboration with national, regional, and community partners, we will focus on creating a low-emissions transport network and system that supports walking, biking, and scooting, public transport, and zero-emissions vehicles for those trips that require a car.

Regional Public Transport Plan 2018-28

Waikato Regional Council is responsible for the planning management and provision of public transport across the Waikato region.

The Waikato Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP) 2018-2028 sets out the priorities and the needs of public transport services and infrastructure to be delivered in the Waikato over the 10 years of the plan. It was prepared in partnership with territorial authorities and key stakeholders from a wide range of sectors. The plan provides a means for councils, transport operators and stakeholders to work together to develop and improve public transport services and infrastructure in the region, while enabling public input into the design and operation of the public transport network.

The vision for the plan is to build a public transport system that enhances the vitality of our communities, strengthens our economy, and helps create a healthier environment.

The objectives of the plan are to:

- Deliver a layered network of public transport services that meet a diverse range of travel needs
- Transition to a mass-transit-oriented network over time
- Provide the infrastructure necessary for an accessible, effective and efficient public transport network
- Provide high quality and intuitive public information
- Provide a fares and ticketing system that is easy to use and affordable for passengers
- Provide public transport services that are affordable for passengers and funders
- Develop and maintain partnerships that obtain best value for money in the delivery of transport solutions.

At the time of writing, Waikato Regional Council are consulting on the Draft 2022-2032 Regional Public Transport Plan, to which Hamilton City Council has submitted a response.

Future Proof Strategy

[Future Proof](#), Te Tau Tiitoki, is a joint project that considers how the sub-region (made up of Hamilton City Council, Waipa District Council and Waikato District Council) should develop into the future, and the issues that affect us now and will affect us over the next 30 years.

The [Future Proof Strategy](#) is a 30-year growth management and implementation plan, which follows guiding principles across six areas:

1. Effective partnerships, leadership, and implementation
2. Vibrant city centre connected to thriving towns, villages, and rural communities
3. Protection of natural environments
4. Affordable and sustainable resource use
5. Productive partnerships with taangata whenua/mana whenua
6. Sustainable resource use and climate resilience

The sixth guiding principle is especially relevant to the development of Hamilton City Council's strategy, Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa, as it focuses on water quality and efficient water use, planning activities that reduce emissions and build climate resilience, and a radical shift in land use and transport planning that prioritises the health and well-being of the Waikato River.



We will play our part in a radical shift in transport planning through the creation of a transport network and system that supports low-emissions travel options.

Our city-wide emissions reduction targets will ensure that growth does not stop us from mitigating the effects of climate change.



We will consider emissions as a priority as our city grows. Our city planning will prioritise sustainable urban intensification within Hamilton's existing built environment, to realise the low-carbon benefits that this can bring.



Futureproofing existing and new infrastructure will help to build climate resilience in our asset management planning activities.

Hamilton-Waikato Metro Spatial Plan

The [Hamilton-Waikato Metro Spatial Plan](#) is delivered as part of the Future Proof partnership. It focuses on how we can best plan for the longer-term, to maintain and improve our liveability through the way we grow and how we move around.

The vision for the Hamilton-Waikato metro area is to be a highly liveable and sought-after place to live in New Zealand, with the metro area a place where our people can easily access employment, education, and health facilities, and serviced by reliable and efficient transport connections and great places.

Some key objectives of the plan that have been considered in the development of Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa, are:

- Improve access to employment, education, and services.
- Assist emission reductions and build climate resilience.
- Enable quality-built environments, whilst avoiding unnecessary urban sprawl.
- Enhancing the quality of the natural and built environments and the vitality of Hamilton (and Auckland) and the communities within the Hamilton to Auckland (H2A) corridor.

The Metro Spatial Plan also includes the following indicators to measure success, that are relevant to our climate change strategy:

- Transport emissions in the metro area are reducing per capita.
- The health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and its catchment within the metro area is improving year on year.
- The proportion of the metro area population living within 30 minutes of work, education and other services is increasing by using a range of modes.
- The proportion of trips being made by public transport and active modes (walking and cycling) is increasing.



As 64% of our city's emissions profile in 2018/19, transport represents a key opportunity to achieve our emission reduction targets. This aligns directly with the Metro Spatial Plan objectives and indicators, and we recognise that we'll need to work with others, including our regional partners, to achieve them.



Creating 20-minute neighbourhoods will mean that people can live locally by meeting most of their daily needs walking from their home, in pleasant surroundings, and with safe, easy access to other parts of the city by biking, using micro-mobility, or public transport. This will improve accessibility and increase the proportion of trips made by public transport and active modes.

We will also focus on sustainable urban intensification within Hamilton's existing built environment.



Through improving the climate resilience of our natural environment, and encouraging sustainable water use and conservation measures to protect the Waikato River, we will enhance the quality of our taiao and awa.

Waikato Plan

The [Waikato Plan](#) is a 30-year plan for the region, created by Waikato councils, central governments, and other private and public agencies, which provides a united voice for the region to central government and others. It is designed to help co-ordinate and guide decision-making and investment on complex issues such as population change, transport, water, economic development, and the environment.

The Waikato Plan aims to '*Build champion communities, together*', and has identified five priorities to achieve this which reflect the most important matters facing the region and the greatest opportunities for positive change. The five priorities are:

1. People - Planning for population change
2. Connections - Connecting our communities through targeted investment
3. Iwi/Maori - Partnering with iwi/Maori
4. Environment - Addressing water allocation and quality
5. Economy - Advancing regional economic development

The issues highlighted in the Waikato Plan, and the priorities and actions to address them, are all implicated by climate change. Therefore, the Waikato Plan has been considered when developing Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa.



Our city-wide emissions reduction targets will mean our emissions decrease, even as our population changes and our city grows. We will play our part in advancing the economic development of the region by understanding the impacts of the low-carbon transition on our economy, and how best to support our businesses and community through the change. This will help our economy to continue to grow throughout the low-carbon transition.



Our plans to become a 20-minute city of compact, connected, and healthy neighbourhoods, and to support community sharing networks to reduce emissions and enable other co-benefits, will encourage connected communities.



Water allocation and quality is likely to be impacted by the effects of climate change. We will address this by supporting the natural environment to be climate resilient and encouraging more sustainable water use and conservation measures to protect the Waikato River.

Waikato Wellbeing Project

The [Waikato Wellbeing Project](#) is a community-led, regional initiative to achieve a more environmentally sustainable, prosperous, and inclusive Waikato by 2030.

The Project has 10 targets based on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, all to be achieved by 2030:

1. Have less than 1% of children living below the poverty line
2. Rates of non-communicable diseases and mental illness are reduced, and associated health equity for target groups is improved
3. The number of young people who are not in education, employment or training is less than 5%
4. At least 80% of rivers and 80% of lakes are swimmable
5. There are no people experiencing energy hardship
6. Reducing housing shortfall so all people are well housed
7. There is 50% reduction in waste to landfill (waste from houses, schools, businesses, and farms)
8. Carbon emissions are reduced by at least 25% by 2030 and on the path to net carbon zero by 2050

9. Maintain or enhance the mauri of coastal and marine waters to ensure healthy ecosystems
10. Prevent loss of indigenous vegetation, and increase indigenous habitat in biodiversity depleted environments by at least 10%

Achieving these targets will mean that our region has healthy environments, vibrant communities, and a strong economy, which aligns with the outcomes of Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa.



Our emissions reduction targets will contribute towards the targets set by the Waikato Wellbeing Project.

We will focus on embedding circular economy principles in all activities, which will reduce waste to landfill from houses, schools, and businesses.



Supporting community sharing networks for energy reduces emissions but also enables other co-benefits, such as reducing energy hardship and inequalities in our communities.



In supporting the natural environment of Hamilton Kirikiriroa to be climate resilient, we will prevent the loss of indigenous vegetation and improve biodiversity depleted environments.

As we transition to low-carbon living and experience more impacts of climate change, there is a risk that some parts of our community will be further disadvantaged – for example those who are unable to access or afford energy efficient homes or clean energy. We will use our understanding of how climate change risks our community's wellbeing and existing inequalities advocate for those who are most impacted by these changes, ensure our community is thriving in our future climate.

Waikato Regional Council Climate Action Roadmap: He mahere aarai aahuarangi

In their [Climate Action Roadmap](#), Waikato Regional Council recognise that the Waikato rohe is already experiencing the effects of a changing climate, and that this presents urgent risks to our economy, people, property, and environment.

The Climate Action Roadmap identifies nine pathways to reduce emissions and adapt to the changing climate:

1. **Coastal resilience** – To reduce the risk of climate-exacerbated natural hazards on the coastal environment and communities and manage the impacts of sea level rise.
2. **Agriculture and soil** – To work with the agricultural sector to develop integrated approaches to reduce emissions, increase biodiversity and improve water quality.
3. **Water is life** – To ensure fresh water is valued and communities understand how to make the most of every drop using smart ways to capture, store, use and recycle water.
4. **Habitat restoration and planting** – To proactively identify areas for restoration and planting that will deliver climate-related benefits, provide the best return for freshwater quality and habitat for native species, and support community resilience and safety.

5. **Future of transport** – To reduce the exposure of the sector to the increasing costs of carbon emissions and enable the transition to low emission transport fuels in a changing climate.
6. **Sustainable investment** – To support investments that are underpinned by sustainability principles and reduce investments with high climate change risk exposure.
7. **Biodiversity and biosecurity** – To apply strategies to improve biodiversity at risk from climate change, reduce pest incursion and expansion, and support inter-regional and central government commitment.
8. **Drainage and flood management** – To determine the extent to which current infrastructure and flood protection schemes are fit for purpose and respond accordingly.
9. **Energy** – To facilitate access, development and use of renewable energy sources within the region and displace the need for non-renewable energy resources.

These pathways highlight how the wider region faces different challenges and opportunities compared to Hamilton City. For example, 69% of the Waikato’s emissions are generated by agriculture and forestry removes 44% of the region’s carbon, whereas only 1% of Hamilton city’s emissions are attributed to agriculture, forestry, and other lands. Only 16% of the region’s emissions are generated by transport, but for Hamilton this is our primary source of emissions, representing 64%.

However, we are all working towards similar outcomes for our communities and our response to the changing climate will be strengthened by working together.



We will support others (including Waikato Regional Council and the Climate Action Roadmap) to reduce emissions through partnerships such as the Waikato Plan, Future Proof, Hamilton Climate Accord, etc.

In making Hamilton a ‘centre of excellence’ for climate response innovation, we can assist our regional partners to develop integrated approaches that will reduce emissions in different sectors.



We will enable biodiversity and biosecurity in the Waikato region by supporting the environment to be climate resilient.

Our focus on encouraging more sustainable water use and better conservation measures, and working with iwi to protect the Waikato River, will ensure fresh water is valued and communities understand how to make the most of every drop.

HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIES AND PLANS

The community of Hamilton Kirikiriroa, and particularly the voices of our rangatahi (youth), are calling on Council for real, urgent change. Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa will address this by driving action across all areas of Hamilton City Council business, to form the city's climate response.

Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa is a foundation strategy for Hamilton City Council, meaning that it underpins our organisation, guiding decisions and behaviours, and influencing other strategies and plans. As such, there are a number of strategies and plans already developed or currently under review, that will influence the strategy or enable its implementation, and have been considered in its development:

- He Pou Manawa Ora – Pillars of Wellbeing
- Nature in the City
- Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018-2024
- Infrastructure Strategy 2021-51
- River Plan
- Housing Strategy
- Open Spaces Plan
- Access Hamilton (Transport Strategy) refresh
- Hamilton Urban Growth Strategy refresh
- District Plan review

He Pou Manawa Ora - Pillars of Wellbeing

[He Pou Manawa Ora](#) is a foundation strategy for Hamilton City Council, that outlines our vision for a city that celebrates its whole history, including its unique Maaori heritage, and ensures everyone has a voice in developing its future. Much like the outcomes of Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa, we will need to work together with our Maaori partners and the whole community to deliver the outcomes of He Pou Manawa Ora.

The four pou (pillars) of wellbeing that have been identified to deliver on our collective aspirations for the city, and on the principles of the Treaty, are:

- He Pou Manawa Koorero – Pillar of History
- He Pou Toorangapuu Maaori – Pillar of Unity
- He Pou Manawa Taurikura – Pillar of Prosperity
- He Pou Manawa Taiao – Pillar of Restoration

He Pou Manawa Koorero – Pillar of History: This reminds us of the value of our unique history of language, people, place, and our commitment to acknowledge and respect our different values and qualities.

We have incorporated te ao Maaori as a guiding principle for the climate change strategy, Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa. In doing so, we acknowledge and respect the value that Maaori knowledge can bring to, and that is a crucial part of, our climate change response. We have also used the description of the Waikato River and Kirikiriroa Hamilton as seen by Kiingi Taaiwhiao as a reference point for the strategy, to honour the connection that Maaori/mana whenua have to the land, the value of this connection, and the value of this history and the land itself. By translating the title of the strategy to te reo Maaori and incorporating a whakataukii (proverb), we not only normalise the use of the language, but again acknowledge the connection that mana whenua have to Hamilton Kirikiriroa.

He Pou Toorangapuu Maaori – Pillar of Unity: This gives recognition to Maaori values, knowledge, and aspirations, recognising that Maaori are equal partners and contributors to the wellbeing of people, place, environment, and our shared future.

We have incorporated He Pou Toorangapuu Maaori by embedding Maaori cultural considerations and the Principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in the strategy. We have included maatauranga Maaori as a vital part of our guiding principle 'Bold and informed – *Kia whai kaha, kia maarama!*', to recognise this valuable insight that has been continually tested and updated over time.

To recognise that Maaori are equal partners and contributors to our shared future, staff held engagement session with iwi and Maaori partners in developing Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa. The purpose of these engagements was to gain iwi and Maaori views on the draft strategy, to ensure that the final version accurately interpreted and reflects the feedback of our iwi and Maaori partners.

He Pou Manawa Taurikura – Pillar of Prosperity: This provides safety, security, and opportunity for individuals, whaanau, and communities to live their best lives and prosper spiritually and economically.



Using our knowledge of how climate change risks our community's wellbeing and existing inequalities, will mean that all individuals, whaanau, and members of our community are able to prosper in our future climate.

By advocating for those most impacted by the changing climate and low-carbon transition, including Maori, we will support the safety, security, and opportunity of our communities.

He Pou Manawa Taiao – Pillar of Restoration: This reminds us of our connection to, reliance on, and responsibility to care for, the natural and physical world.



Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa recognises the role of Maori as kaitiaki of our environment, and that we will need to partner with iwi/mana whenua to protect and enhance Hamilton Kirikiriroa, especially the Waikato River.

Nature in the City Strategy

Hamilton's [Nature in the City Strategy](#) sets the long-term vision for restoring and caring for Hamilton's natural environment. The vision is that nature thrives in Kirikiriroa Hamilton and nurtures us where we are. The strategy sets a goal of achieving 10% native vegetation cover in Hamilton Kirikiriroa by 2050.

In November 2021, Council launched the first programme plan outlining how we'll kickstart the vision for Nature in the City, starting with the next three years and focus on:

- Enhance nature at Donny Park and create better access to it.
- Begin pest control and plant restoration at Te awa o Katipaki.
- Begin pest control and plant restoration at Mangakotukutuku.
- Start baseline monitoring in our natural areas, to measure progress.
- Launch a multi-agency working group for expert guidance.
- Identify new planting opportunities.
- Educate Hamiltonians on the importance of nurturing nature in our city.
- Increase our number of nature-loving volunteers.



The vision and objectives of Nature in the City will help us in supporting the natural environment to be climate resilient.

Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018-2024

The [Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018-24](#) sets the goals, objectives and targets for waste avoidance, reduction, and recovery in Hamilton.

The vision is for Hamilton to be a place where waste minimisation and resource recovery are an integral part of our lifestyle and economy.

There are five goals (below) and 33 actions in the plan, focused on services, partnerships, events, education, litter and illegal dumping, grants, data, council management, and regulation.

- Reduce quantity of all material entering the waste stream, and increase resource recovery
- Increase innovation and opportunity from waste resources
- Hamilton community is a leader in waste minimisation
- Waste and resource recovery infrastructure meets Hamilton's growing needs
- Recognise and celebrate innovation in waste minimisation and avoidance



Waste makes up 3% of our city's emissions profile. We will focus on embedding circular economy principles in all activities and alignment with the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan to do this.

Infrastructure Strategy 2021-51

The purpose of the [Infrastructure Strategy 2021-51](#) is to identify significant infrastructure challenges over the next 30 years, to identify the principal options for managing those challenges and the implications of those options.

It outlines Council's approach to managing and investing infrastructure for the six categories:

- Water
- Wastewater
- Stormwater
- Transport
- Parks and open spaces
- Community and event facilities

Climate change and related requirements and expectations are identified as a key external impact, and the strategy includes focus areas related to emissions reduction and improving resilience:

- Protect and restore our natural gully network and the biodiversity of the city to increase how green our city is, making it healthier and stronger
- Reduce the carbon footprint of the city and build a city that is resilient to the effects of climate change



Both new and existing infrastructure will need to be designed and built to withstand more extreme weather, so we have included a focus area in our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa on futureproofing and planning for infrastructure to be climate resilient. This includes restoring and regenerating the natural environment to improve the resilience of our gullies.

Hamilton City River Plan

The [Hamilton City River Plan](#) is a 30-year vision for the river, to guide how we plan and use the river into the future. The vision is that the Waikato River will be the defining heart of Hamilton.

There are four principles: people, economic opportunity, healthy river, and cultural celebration.

The vision and principles are underpinned by six themes:

- Access – Improving access to along and across the river
- Recreation – Promoting the enjoyment of the river
- Tourism – Promoting and developing tourism along the river
- Development – Promoting development that embraces the river
- Arts and Culture – Celebrating arts and culture along the river
- Natural environment – Protecting and enhancing the natural environment along the river



Through Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa, we'll focus on encouraging more sustainable water use and better conservation measures to protect the Waikato River. This is in alignment with the 'natural environment' theme of the Hamilton City River Plan.

Housing Strategy

The vision of our [Housing Strategy](#) is that every person in Kirikiriroa is well-housed, living in sustainable, flourishing, and connected communities. It is about making sure all Hamiltonians can live in good quality homes that they can afford.

The strategy has four high-level goals to work towards the vision:

1. Hamilton Kirikiriroa has a well-functioning housing system
2. Our homes are good quality and protect the health and wellbeing of our people
3. Our homes meet the diverse needs of our communities
4. Our housing system and urban form supports sustainable, resilient, and connected communities



By focussing on the creation of a 20-minute city with sustainable infill development, our urban form will support communities to be sustainable, resilient and connected.



A well-functioning housing system is crucial to an equitable and fair transition, particularly as climate change increasingly impacts where and how people live in their homes. We will use knowledge of how climate change risks our community's wellbeing and existing inequalities, to support and align with the goals of the Housing Strategy.

Open Space Plan

The [Open Space Plan](#) sets the 50-year direction to guide future planning, development, management and maintenance Hamilton's parks and open spaces. The vision is that *"Our open space network connects communities and is valued by our people"*.

There are eight goals outlined in the plan:

- Hamilton's green identity is upheld
- Open spaces meet the constantly changing needs of our people
- Open spaces are enhanced by community partnerships
- Open spaces bring people together and celebrate our cultures and historic heritage
- Our open spaces network is world class
- Open spaces are safe, well designed and distinctly Hamilton
- Ecosystems and biodiversity are understood, protected, and restored
- Open spaces are accessible, connected and make Hamilton easy to get around



We will ensure that the natural environment is supported to be climate resilient, thereby protecting and restoring our open spaces.

We recognise that open spaces, ecosystems, and biodiversity are crucial to our communities' environmental wellbeing and their ability to thrive in our future climate.

Currently under review

Access Hamilton (Transport Strategy)

[Access Hamilton](#), Hamilton's transport strategy, was refreshed at the same time as Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa was developed. In recognition that transport is the primary source of our emissions, the two were developed in close alignment. The refresh of Access Hamilton is expected to be completed in 2022.

Hamilton Urban Growth Strategy

[Hamilton Urban Growth Strategy \(HUGS\)](#) sets the spatial vision for our city and outlines how growth is managed. At the time of Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa development, HUGS was being reviewed and refreshed. This refresh aims to set out how and where Hamilton will grow over the next 50 years, with a focus on people and communities. In recognition that our growth needs to mitigate the impacts of climate change and ensure climate resilience for our people and places, there has been close alignment between the HUGS refresh and development of the outcomes in Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa.

District Plan

The [District Plan](#), a statutory planning document of Council, is the rule book guiding how we plan and zone the city. At the time of writing Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa, our District Plan was being reviewed to reflect the changes required by the National Policy Statement on Urban Development. The two have been completed in alignment, as we understand that the way we develop urban form must play a role in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

As a foundation strategy, the Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa will support and/or influence (to a larger or lesser degree) most of the strategies and plans at Council and should be considered during their development and review. He Pou Manawa Ora is another foundation strategy and has therefore helped to inform the climate change strategy. The following diagram illustrates where and how this strategy fits within the wider council strategic framework.

