

Our Climate Statement 2023/24

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From the Mayor and Chief Executive

Climate change remains an urgent issue, and we're pleased with the progress over the past five years in our efforts to make Hamilton Kirikiriroa a lower-carbon and more resilient city. However, there is still more to do.

Council formally acknowledged climate change as a strategic risk for our organisation and approved our first climate change strategy, Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa, which guides our response.

While we have made demonstrated progress, our understanding of the risks of climate change is still underway. It is essential we understand and respond to these risks so we can support Hamilton Kirikiriroa to become a climate resilient city.

To prepare for future climate challenges and opportunities, we need to consistently integrate our climate response into all that we do as a Council. This includes enhancing our processes, systems, decision-making, risk management, and governance and management responsibilities. Evolving our business-as-usual practices will ensure a proactive climate response.

We've established frameworks for governance and management oversight and provide regular updates to decision-makers regarding climate issues. However, the quality of climate-related information varies, impacting our ability to fully consider climate change in all decisions.

Since 2018/19, we have measured our corporate emissions and provided annual updates to our community. While we have seen a reduction in emissions, we recognise we're not accounting for all our activities and need to improve our data and monitoring to better understand our impact.

Gaining a better understanding of climate change and managing climate risk across our organisation is crucial for consistent decision-making. To effectively integrate these considerations into our strategic and financial

planning processes, we first need to improve and expand our climate risk data. We have committed funding for 2024/25 to begin work on collecting this data.

We recently completed a physical climate change risk assessment for Council operations and began integrating these risks into our existing risk management framework. Next, we must assess risks for our city and community to manage these risks more effectively.

This document, Our Climate Statement 2023/24, marks the next step in our journey. As our first public climate change disclosure report, it sets the baseline and identifies key areas for improvement. This report enhances transparency, clarifies our risk responses, and demonstrates our commitment to a low-carbon, resilient future in Hamilton Kirikiriroa.

Sharing this information will lead to impactful changes in how Council integrates climate considerations into everything we do. We will keep working together with iwi, hapuu, residents, community organisations, businesses, central and local government and other key partners to help our climate response.

We will continue to provide progress updates annually through ongoing Our Climate Statements.



Paula Southgate

Kahika



Lance Vervoort

Tumu Whakarae

Introduction

Our Climate Statement 2023/24 is Hamilton City Council's first climate change disclosure. It is the start of our wider, ongoing climate change maturity work which looks at how well we are integrating our climate change response across our organisation.

As the climate changes, we are expecting Hamilton Kirikiriroa will experience hotter temperatures, an increase in the number of hot days and nights, and more rain and extreme rain. But climate change is more than just changes in temperature and extreme weather events – it is the impact of these changes on our city, community, and organisation that we need to both limit and prepare for.

These physical changes in climate, including flooding, storms, and drought, will likely damage infrastructure like pipes and roads, and impact our natural spaces and biodiversity such as the gullies and awa (river). As well as the physical impacts of climate change, the transition to a low-carbon city and economy will have both risks and opportunities for our organisation and Hamilton Kirikiriroa. These transition impacts include things like increased costs for heating and cooling buildings, changes to the local economy and employment opportunities as new low-emissions industries arise, and inequality issues as communities are impacted by climate change and the low-carbon transition in different ways.

Hamilton City Council is working to better understand the risks and opportunities that climate change presents. We are committed to working with others to identify and address these risks and opportunities by reducing emissions and building resilience. Our climate change response has developed over the past five years and this climate change disclosure report represents the next step in our journey.

A climate change disclosure report is a public statement about an organisation's climate risks. It outlines the processes, systems, risk management, monitoring practices, and management and governance structures that the organisation is putting in place to respond to the risk. In summary, it shares how the organisation is changing its way of working to address climate change. Hamilton City Council is not currently captured under the mandatory climate change disclosure regime in Aotearoa New Zealand. However, we are choosing to report annually as part of our climate change work programme.

Why is Council completing this work?

Completing climate change disclosure reports represents best practice in understanding, taking responsibility for, and responding to climate change risk. Reporting on this drives a better response to the climate change risks across the organisation. It also provides stakeholders with an update on how well the organisation is prepared for the transition to a low-carbon and climate resilient future.

This report is a key treatment activity for our organisation's Strategic Risk 9: Failure to respond to climate change. By having our climate risk information in the public domain and using the findings of our annual disclosure report to better support our climate change response, we are taking responsibility for our climate action. This in turn will enable better outcomes for the organisation, community, and city as we face the challenge of climate change.

Our approach to climate change disclosures

The Taskforce for Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) has informed the global approach to climate change disclosures. The TCFD recommends that an entity should disclose information about how climate change risks and opportunities are integrated across its **governance, strategy, risk management**, and **metrics and targets**. Building on the TCFD recommendations here in Aotearoa New Zealand, the External Reporting Board (XRB) have issued Climate Standards (NZCS) to provide a consistent framework for considering climate change risks and opportunities across these four domains.

Council has completed an assessment of how we are currently integrating climate change across the organisation using the TCFD domains and NZCS. As we are at the start of our climate change disclosure journey, we do not currently have all the information required by the framework and standards. In addition, the TCFD framework and NZCS are intended for use by the financial sector, which means in some areas the approach needs to be altered for the local government context (see Figure 1). Where practical, we are working to voluntarily align with the NZCS.

As we continue to complete our disclosures each year, we anticipate the information and our alignment with best-practice standards will improve.

Figure 1. Applying the TCFD framework for Hamilton City Council

Description of TCFD domain		Translation to Council context
Governance	How the organisation's governance oversees climate change issues, and how management assess and manage those issues.	How Council ensures climate change is receiving the appropriate attention from Elected Members and the Executive Leadership Team. This includes understanding how they are informed of climate change risks and opportunities, and whether climate change is considered in their decision-making to ensure climate risks are managed.
Strategy	Understanding the impacts of climate change and the low-carbon transition on the organisation's business, strategy, and financial planning, and how the organisation is responding.	How well Council understands the climate change impacts (including financial impacts) for both our organisation and Hamilton Kirikiriroa, and how well these impacts are factored into long-term strategic planning so we are prepared for the transition to a low-carbon and climate resilient future.
Risk management	How the organisation identifies, assesses, and manages climate change risks, and how these processes are integrated into the organisation's existing risk frameworks.	How Council has identified and evaluated climate change risks for Hamilton Kirikiriroa and our own organisation, and how these are integrated into our overall risk profile. This includes understanding if the risks are considered over the appropriate timeframes, and how the risks are being addressed.
Metrics and targets	How the organisation measures and monitors its climate change risks and opportunities, such as emissions targets, investments in climate adaptation, etc.	How Council is monitoring progress towards a low-carbon and climate resilient future for our organisation and for Hamilton Kirikiriroa. This includes how Council and city-wide emissions are reducing in line with our targets, how we are measuring progress against other key indicators, such as extreme weather impacts on our infrastructure and services, and any risks to achieving these.

Governance

This section outlines the role of Elected Members in overseeing climate change risk and opportunities, and the role of the Executive Leadership Team in assessing and managing these risks and opportunities.

Summary

What we've achieved

- ✓ Established frameworks for governance and management oversight of climate change.
- ✓ Regular interactions with, and updates to, decision-makers regarding climate issues.

What we need to improve

- ↑ Strengthen governance and management frameworks to ensure climate change information is applied to decisions.
- ↑ Consistency, depth, and quality of climate change information provided to decision-makers, and how this is monitored.
- ↑ Understanding of climate change and managing climate change risks.

Elected Members

Elected Members are the governing body for Council¹ and set the strategic direction for our climate change response. In 2022, they approved the climate change strategy, [Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa](#), and adopted the [Climate Change Policy](#) as key guiding documents for our organisation.

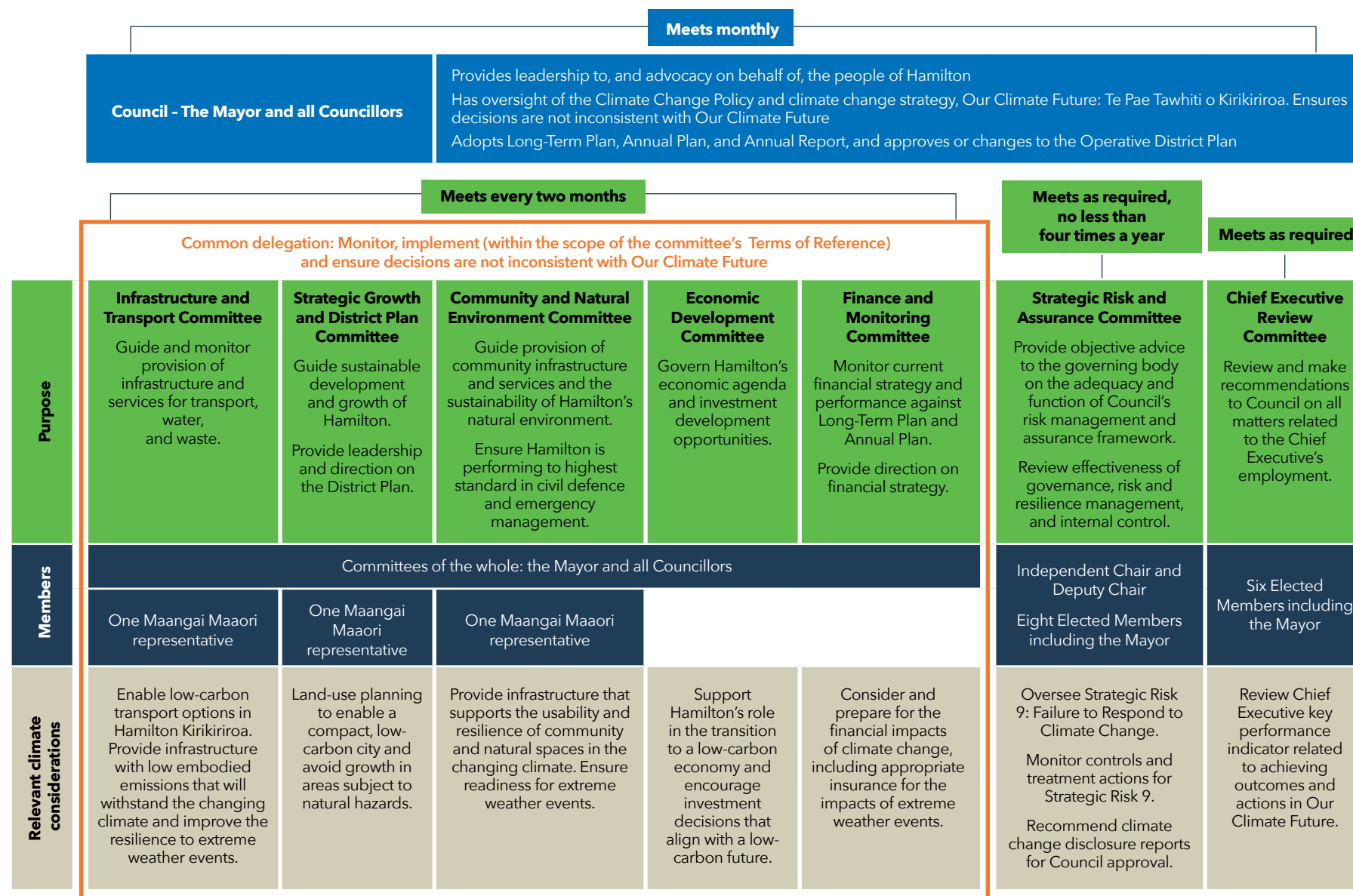
Committees and structure

Elected Members' oversight of climate-related risks and opportunities can change every three years, as the Council and committee structures and responsibilities are established at the beginning of each triennium. The committees that have a governance role in relation to climate change risk for the 2022-25 triennium are shown in Figure 2, along with their climate change responsibilities and delegations.

This triennium, Council established an internal panel for climate change, the Climate Strategy Advisory Group (CSAG). The CSAG is a sub-group of Elected Members who meet quarterly or as required. There is formal membership, but all Elected Members and Maangai Maaori (who represent iwi and Maaori living in Hamilton on select Council committees) are invited and can attend the meetings. The purpose of the CSAG is to monitor delivery of the outcomes of Our Climate Future and provide governance input and advice to staff relating to the climate change work programmes. The CSAG does not have any decision-making powers and is not intended to make recommendations to Council.

¹ See [Local Government Act 2002](#), Section 41.

Figure 2. Hamilton City Council's climate-related governance structure and responsibilities for 2022-25



Executive Leadership Team

Hamilton City Council's Executive Leadership Team is made up of the Chief Executive and General Managers who are responsible for different groups across Council.

Climate-related roles and responsibilities

The Chief Executive is responsible for providing advice to Elected Members and implementing their decisions, ensuring effective and efficient management of Council activities, enabling accurate reporting of Council's financial and service performance, and providing leadership to Council staff². The Chief Executive has a key performance indicator (KPI) related to delivering what is outlined in our strategies and plans (as reported to the relevant Committee) which includes Our Climate Future. All General Managers – except for the Strategy, Growth and Planning General Manager – do not have climate-related responsibilities explicitly assigned, but there is work happening across all areas of Council to support our climate change response (see timeline on page 13 for examples).

The Strategy, Growth and Planning General Manager is responsible for climate change leadership and co-ordination, and the Sustainability and Climate Change team sit within this group. The Sustainability and Climate Change team are responsible for leading the implementation of Our Climate Future and supporting the organisation to embed climate change into decision-making.

Information flows between Elected Members, Executive Leadership Team and staff

To support governance oversight of our climate change response, Council receives updates on the implementation of Our Climate Future. An update on the strategy implementation was provided in October 2023 (see [Council Open Agenda 12 October 2023](#)). Council will continue to receive this information as well as the annual climate change statement.

² See [Local Government Act 2002](#), Section 42.

Elected Members receive information about how we are managing climate change risk via updates on Strategic Risk 9: Failure to respond to climate change, which are provided to the Strategic Risk and Assurance Committee (see Figure 2 and the [Risk Management](#) section for further information) by the Strategy, Growth and Planning General Manager and Sustainability and Climate Change Manager.

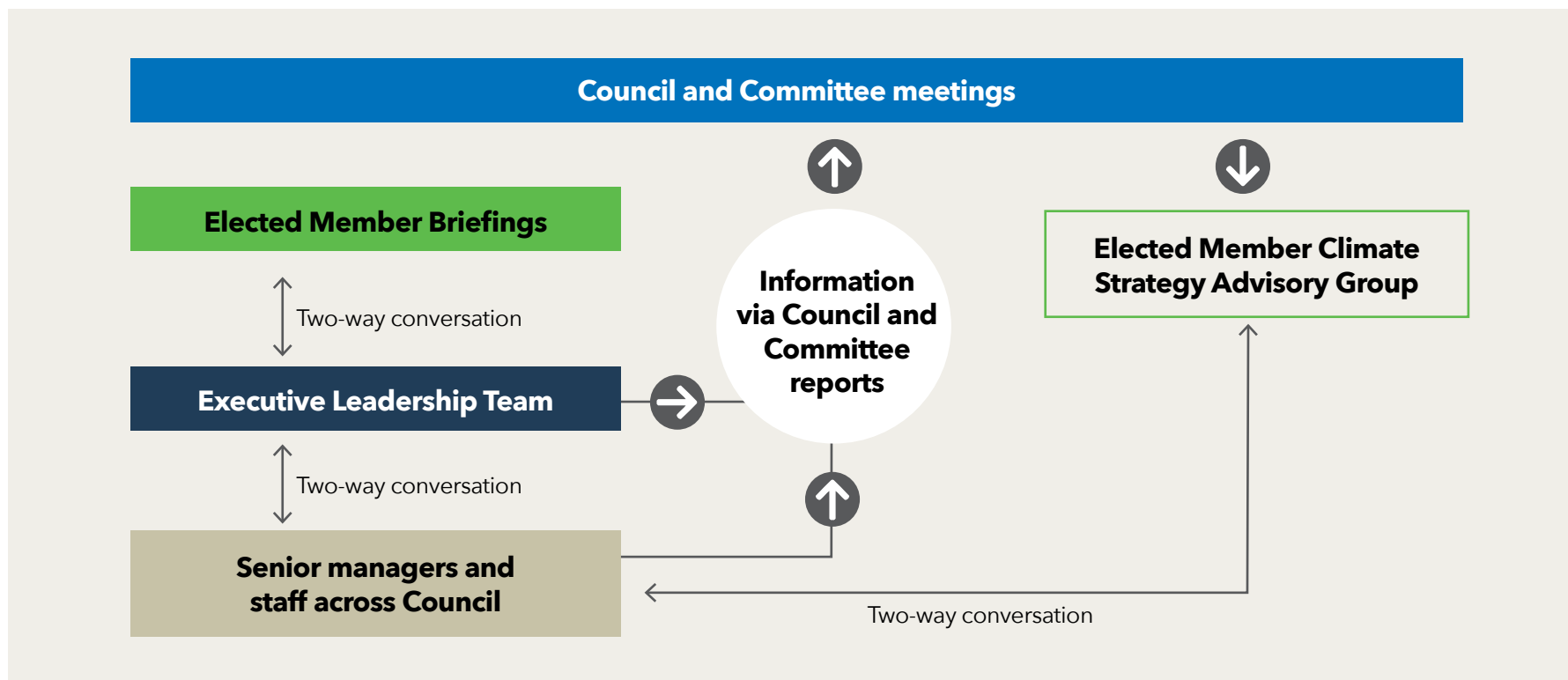
The [Climate Change Policy](#) is a key tool for providing Elected Members with information on the climate impacts of key decisions they are asked to make. The Policy includes a requirement for staff to assess the emissions and adaptation impacts of the decision sought from the Elected Members (see further detail in the [Strategy](#) section). This information is captured in the relevant Council or committee report, all of which are approved by a member of the Executive Leadership Team.

As well as formal Council and committee meetings and reports, Elected Members and Maangai Maaori receive and discuss information in Elected Member Briefings. These are a chance for the Executive Leadership Team and staff to provide further context for Elected Members on complex or detailed climate matters.

The Sustainability and Climate Change team also provide updates to the Strategy, Growth and Planning General Manager and wider Executive Leadership Team as required. Staff across Council provide climate change information as part of their projects and programme updates to the Executive Leadership Team as needed and there is no formal process to provide this.

A summary of the information flows for governance and management is outlined in Figure 3. While we have these reporting systems and processes in place, in practice there is inconsistency in the quality and depth of climate change information provided to Elected Members and the Executive Leadership Team to guide their decision-making. We recognise that we need to strengthen these frameworks and improve and monitor the climate change information our decision-makers receive. Improving the quality of information will require better climate change knowledge across the whole organisation.

Figure 3. Information flows between Executive Leadership Team and Elected Members



Skills and capabilities

There is a variable level of understanding of climate change and climate change risk across both our Elected Members and Executive Leadership Team. We know this impacts if and how well governance and management decisions currently align with Our Climate Future (although we do not formally monitor this). This is an area of improvement we have started to address, as the Sustainability and Climate Change Team delivered climate change education sessions for our Executive Leadership

Team throughout 2023/24. The education sessions focused on improving the understanding of climate change science and policy, climate-related risks, our role in preparing for and responding as local government, and the work already underway. The sessions were well-received, and a future area of focus will be investigating how we can continue and expand education to our Elected Members, senior managers, and the wider organisation.

Strategy

This section outlines how well Council understands the climate change risks that are currently, or may in the future, impact Council and Hamilton Kirikiriroa. It sets how we are responding to the risks and opportunities presented by climate change through our strategic and financial planning and decisions.

Summary

What we've achieved

- ✓ Understand some climate change impacts and risks.
- ✓ Started incorporating risks into our strategic direction, including through Our Climate Future strategy.

What we need to improve

- ↑ Understand full scope of climate change impacts and risks.
- ↑ Complete scenario analysis.
- ↑ Improve integration of climate change risk into core strategic planning processes and documents.

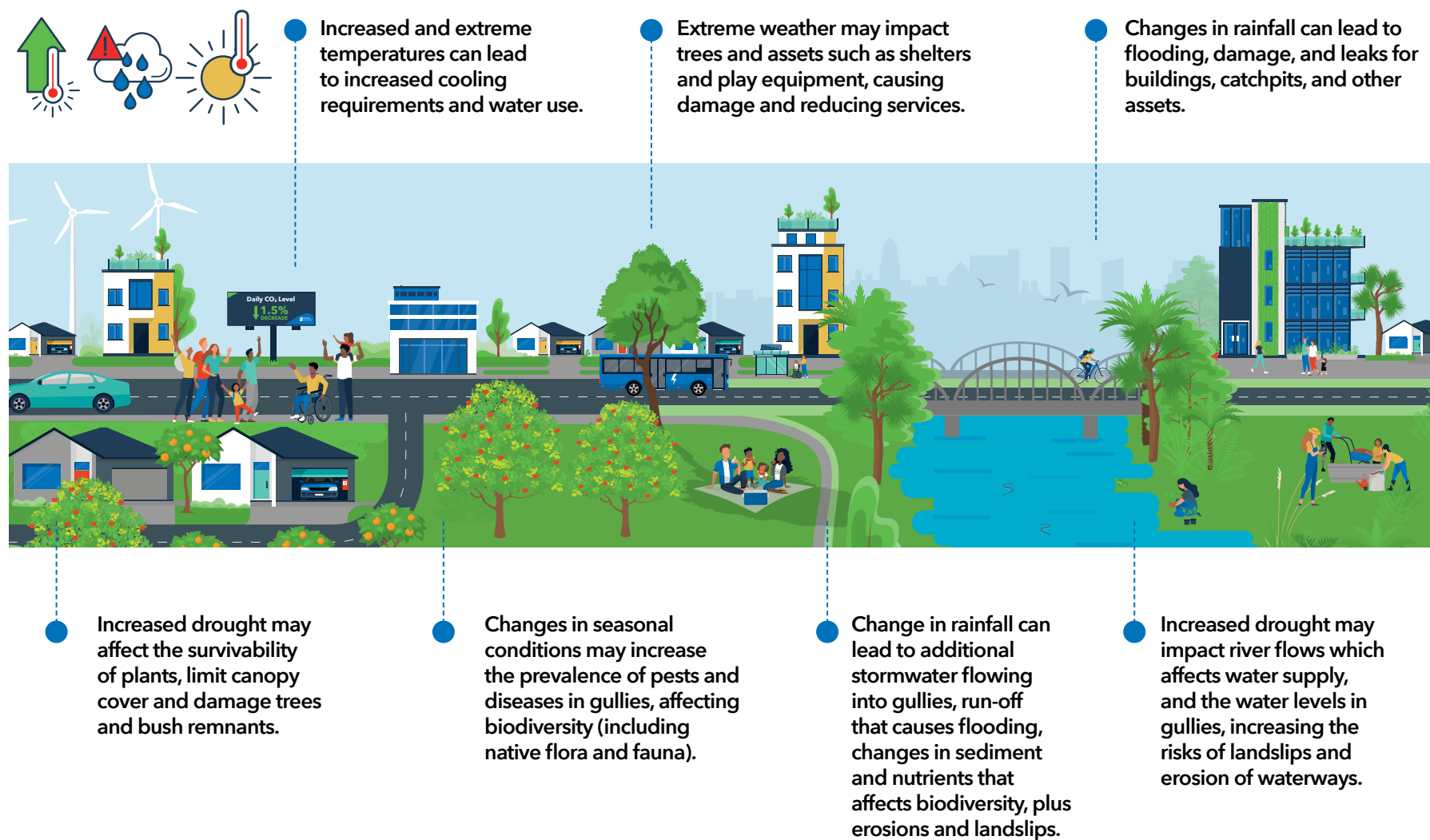
Understanding what climate change means for Hamilton City Council and Hamilton Kirikiriroa

Our understanding of the climate change impacts and risks we may face here in Hamilton Kirikiriroa is drawn from the [National Climate Change Risk Assessment](#), [National Adaptation Plan](#), and other councils' climate change risk assessments. This gives us an indication of what our organisation may need to prepare for and respond to.

In 2023, we completed a high-level physical climate change risk assessment for Council's assets. This gave us some further insight into the risks and impacts we need to address (see [Risk Management](#) section for further information). A summary of the potential impacts of climate change Council needs to prepare for and respond to can be seen in Figure 4.

We recognise our understanding of climate change risk for our city and organisation is currently limited. We need to improve this by completing climate modelling for Hamilton Kirikiriroa, a comprehensive city-wide climate change risk assessment, and scenario analysis, we can fully understand both the physical and transition risks that Council and our community need to respond to. These are key pieces of work we need to initiate and build our capacity to deliver to ensure we are addressing the key risks.

Figure 4. Potential impacts of climate change for Hamilton Kirikiriroa and Hamilton City Council



Building our strategic response to climate change

We have been building our climate change response for some time and have started to incorporate the climate change risks and opportunities we are aware of into our strategic planning processes and documents.

Our journey so far

This timeline shows the journey we've taken in developing our strategic response to climate change so far:



2019/20

- Council recognised climate change is an urgent issue.
- Measured 2018/19 baseline emissions for Hamilton City Council and for Hamilton Kirikiriroa.

2020/21

- Council established 'Failure to respond to climate change' as Strategic Risk 9.
- Measured Council's emissions for 2019/20.
- Delivered Council's first Climate Change Action Plan.
- Set our first emissions reduction target for Council.
- Nature in the City Strategy adopted with a target for 10% native vegetation cover by 2050.



2021/22

- Measured Council's emissions for 2020/21.
- Delivered Council's second Climate Change Action Plan.
- Completed a Three Waters Resilience Study.
- Adopted first Climate Change Policy.

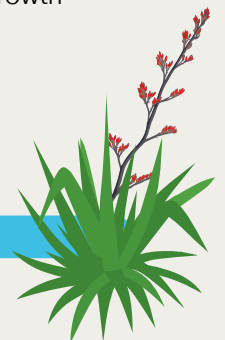


2022/23

- Measured Council's emissions for 2021/22.
- Approved our climate change strategy, Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa.
- Set emissions targets for Hamilton Kirikiriroa and strengthened targets for Council's emissions.
- Completed physical climate change risk assessment for Council assets and operations.
- Climate change integrated into revised Hamilton Urban Growth Strategy Te Rautaki Tupu Taaone o Kirikiriroa and Access Hamilton – Ara Kootuitui Kirikiriroa.

2023/24

- Measured Council's emissions for 2022/23.
- Measured 2021/2022 emissions for Hamilton Kirikiriroa.
- Initiated Climate Maturity and Disclosure Programme, assessing how climate change is integrated across Council.



Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa

In 2022, Council approved its first climate change strategy, Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa. This strategy outlines the priorities for Council's response to the physical and transition risks associated with climate change. Adopting this key strategy has been an important step, but its implementation has been challenging and we are still in the early stages of embedding it across the organisation.

The vision and three outcomes of Our Climate Future are:

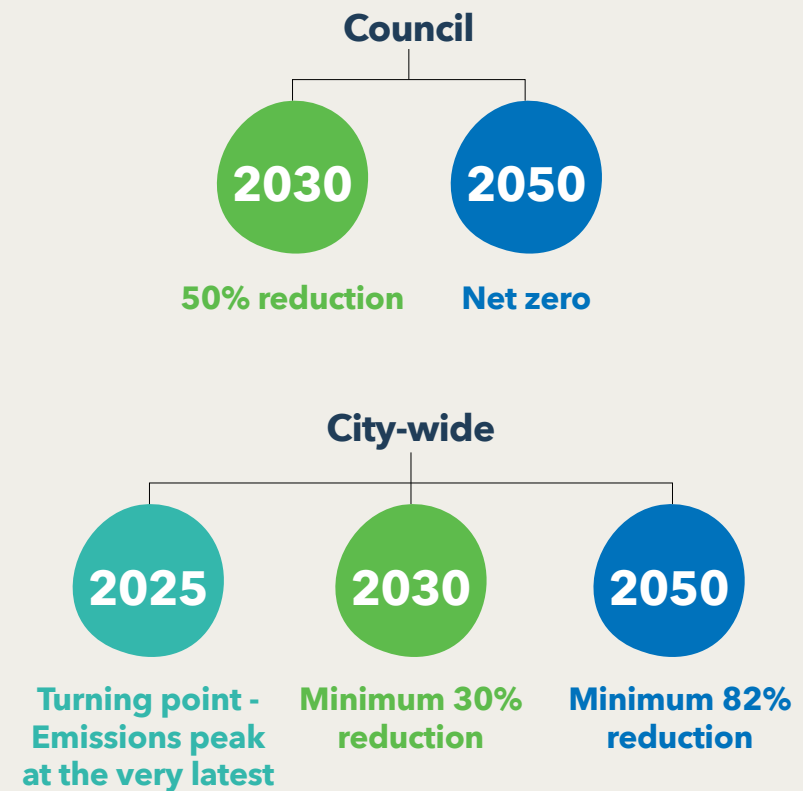
Vision:

Hamilton Kirikiriroa is a thriving, low-carbon city that responds and adapts to climate change.

Outcomes:



Our Climate Future also sets emissions reduction targets for Hamilton Kirikiriroa and Hamilton City Council's operational emissions:



'Net zero' refers to reducing emissions as much as possible, with any remaining unavoidable emissions being sequestered through planting and maintaining trees. 'Net zero' therefore does not mean there are no emissions produced – just that these are balanced by capturing them from the atmosphere.

We do not yet have formally approved emissions reduction plans that set out how we'll achieve these targets, but we have started making progress with our own emissions (see [Metrics and Targets](#) section for further information).

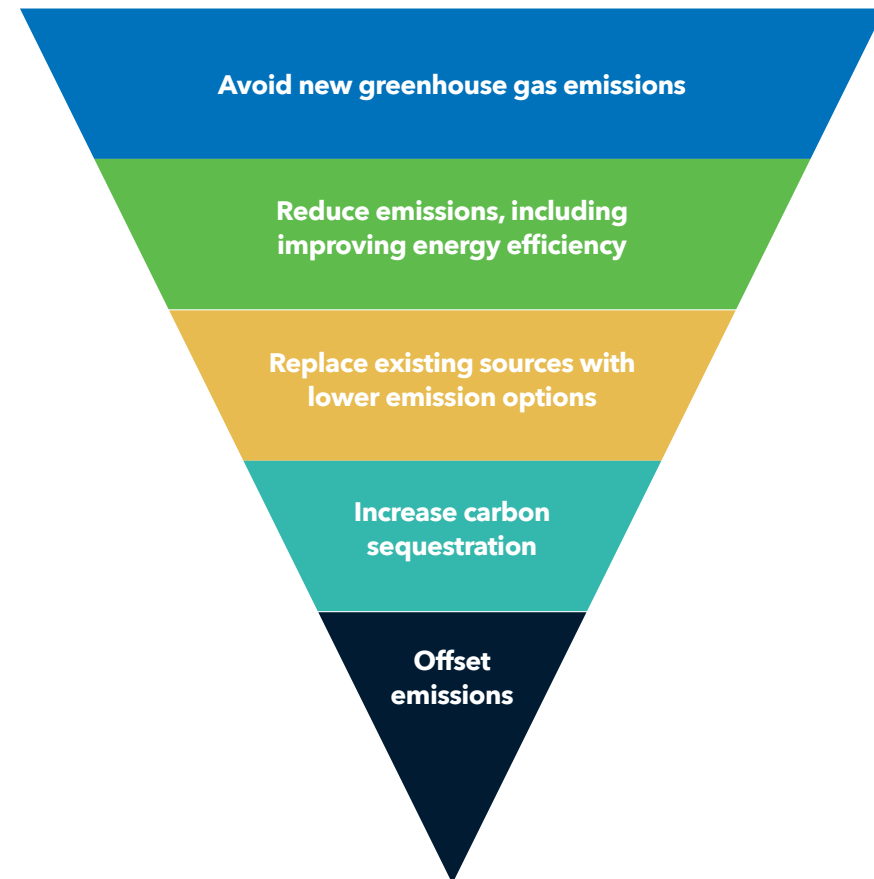
Climate Change Policy

Council adopted the [Climate Change Policy](#) in 2022. The policy sets the rules for when, and the extent to which, climate change will be considered in Council decision-making. It applies to Hamilton City Council Elected Members, staff, and the organisations and people who are contracted to work for Council.

The Policy provides a hierarchy for Council to apply to decision-making, shown in Figure 5. It also directs Council to assess climate change risks and emissions impacts of all key decisions – which are decisions covered in business cases, project plans, procurement processes, and Council reports – and when planning, designing, and building Council infrastructure. To ensure a consistent and transparent approach for these considerations, climate change impact statements should be provided for each decision.

The Climate Change Policy is a key tool for ensuring our staff, management, and Elected Members are considering emissions and physical climate change impacts in decisions. We now need to focus on improving the understanding of climate change across the organisation and building capacity for staff to complete the impact assessments.

Figure 5. Emissions hierarchy



Corporate planning

Every three years Council develops a Long-Term Plan, which sets major projects, budgets, and financial strategy for the next 10 years. For the two years after that, we develop Annual Plans outlining changes or additions to the Long-Term Plan. Each year Council also produces an Annual Report which demonstrates how we performed.

We included key climate change projects in [Annual Plans](#) for 2022/23 and 2023/24, and a reflection of the year's progress in the associated [Annual Reports](#). In developing the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan, climate change was considered as a significant forecasting assumption. This means our current understanding of the future climate state and potential impacts we face were included, and adaptation responses were integrated where possible, for example in Asset Management Plans. However, as this is the first time climate change information is being explicitly incorporated into this process, there are inconsistencies in the quality and depth of responses. Improving this is a focus area for our climate maturity work and for the next Long-Term Plan process (2027-37 Long-Term Plan).



Financial Strategy

The Financial Strategy is reviewed and included in each Long-Term Plan. It outlines Council's overall approach to managing its finances and provides guidance when we make spending decisions. The strategy in the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan acknowledges the challenges Council face, including climate change and mitigation for unplanned events such as Civil Defence emergencies and natural disasters.

Infrastructure Strategy

The Infrastructure Strategy is reviewed and included in each Long-Term Plan. It outlines how Council intends to deliver on its infrastructure responsibilities and the challenges we face. Climate change is a key consideration for the 2024-54 Infrastructure Strategy as we recognise that infrastructure must be built for the future climate and include nature-based solutions. Emissions from infrastructure construction, maintenance, and disposal also need to be considered.

Improving how climate change risks and opportunities are integrated into our organisation's core plans and strategies – including the Long-Term Plan, Annual Plan, Financial Strategy, and Infrastructure Strategy – is a focus area going forward. This will include understanding the financial impacts of climate change risks for our organisation.

Risk management

This section outlines how Council identifies, assesses, and manages climate-related risks, and how this is integrated into existing risk management processes. It includes the different types of risk categories Council has and how climate change risk is addressed based on the risk type.

Summary

What we've achieved

- ✓ Recognised climate change as a strategic risk for Council.
- ✓ Completed first physical climate change risk assessment for Council assets and operations.
- ✓ Started integrating climate change risk into existing risk management framework.

What we need to improve

- ↑ Assess physical and transition climate change risks for both Council and community.
- ↑ Deepen understanding of, and engagement with, climate change risk across the organisation.
- ↑ Ensure consistency in climate change risk management across the organisation.

Council's risk management framework

Council's risk management framework, including where climate change risk is integrated, is outlined in Figure 6. Our Risk Management Policy and framework are aligned to the joint AS/NZS [2018 Risk Management Standard](#).

Climate change as a strategic risk

In 2020, Council made 'Failure to respond to climate change' a strategic risk (Strategic Risk 9) for our organisation. The risk is defined as "Climate change causes changes to our community and city we have not anticipated or planned for which will negatively impact on the wellbeing of our community".

We have identified both internal and external causes of the risk, such as misalignment between Council's climate change strategies and operational activities, and changes in (local, national, and regional) political direction on climate change. There are a range of controls in place for Strategic Risk 9 including assigning the responsibility for our climate change response to all of Council, incorporating climate change into our strategies and plans, and implementing the Climate Change Policy. As of June 2024, the residual risk rating (the risk when controls/mitigations are considered) for Strategic Risk 9 remains at "very high" (see Figure 6).

Establishing climate change as a strategic risk was an important step for Council. However, we still need to build our knowledge of climate change risks and opportunities as we are currently limited in our ability to manage Strategic Risk 9. Improving our understanding will enable us to give better effect to Strategic Risk 9 and ensure we are putting appropriate controls and treatment plans in place.

Figure 6. Management and reporting of different types of risk for Hamilton City Council

	Strategic	Organisational	Emerging	Operational	Project and Programme
Type of risk	The risk of an event or impact that is external to Council, that if it occurs forces a change in strategic direction of Council objectives, including Council's Financial Strategy, Long-Term Plan and 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy.	The risk of an event or impact that is internal or external to Council that could impact the whole organisation.	Emerging risks are risks which may develop or already exist and are difficult to quantify but may have a high consequence, high impact if they materialise.	The risk of an event or impact that is internal or external to Council and could impact one or more operational activity.	Risks associated with individual projects and programmes.
Example risks related to climate change	Strategic Risk 1 - Failure to respond to a disaster. Strategic Risk 9 - Failure to respond to climate change	Failure of critical assets. Failure to provide a safe environment for the community.	Misinformation impacting Council activities.	Surface flooding to transport network. Plant disease or serious harm to planting. Failure to prevent flooding of habitable floors.	Extreme weather events delaying project delivery, disrupting supply chains, etc.
Managed in	Risks are managed in SHIELD, Council's online risk management platform. SHIELD enables business units and teams to take ownership for creating, managing and reviewing risk registers. Risks can be assigned to 'Climate change' category.				Risks are managed in Psoda, Council's online project management platform.
Reporting and review	Strategic and Organisational Risk Register is reported to the Strategic Risk and Assurance Committee every quarter. Risks with an 'extreme' residual risk rating are reviewed monthly with the Executive Leadership Team. Risks with a 'very high' or 'high' residual risk rating are reviewed quarterly with the Executive Leadership Team. Risks with a 'medium' or 'low' residual risk rating are reviewed six monthly with senior management.		Risk with an 'extreme' residual risk rating are reported to the relevant committee or via an Executive Update as required. There is also a monthly review with monthly reporting to the Executive Leadership team. Risks with a 'very high' residual risk rating are reported the relevant committee or via an Executive Update as required. There is a quarterly review with monthly reporting to the Executive Leadership Team. Risks with a 'high' residual risk rating are reviewed quarterly, with monthly reporting to the Executive Leadership Team. Risks with a 'medium' or 'low' residual risk rating are reviewed six monthly with senior management.		

Climate Change Risk Assessment for Council assets and operations




We completed our first climate change risk assessment for Council in 2023. It was a 'first pass' assessment that focused only on the physical impacts of climate change on our assets and operations. This included parks, office buildings, community, events and visitor venues, roads and cycleways, and waste services. We excluded waters services and assets because at the time of doing the assessment, these areas were required to follow a different asset management process.

At the time of doing the assessment, Council did not have climate modelling for Hamilton Kirikiriroa, so we used climate modelling that was completed for the Waikato Region in 2021³. This is summarised in Table 1 and outlines the potential changes we can expect for the region under two different climate models.

The short, medium, and long-term time horizons considered in the risk assessment were present day (2023), mid-century and end of century. The medium-term time horizon was chosen to align with Council's Infrastructure Strategy, which has a 30-year time span. These time horizons are in accordance with the Ministry for the Environment's [Guide to Local Climate Change Risk Assessments \(2021\)](#) and align with the [National Climate Change Risk Assessment](#).

We recognise that our risk assessment is limited by using regional data that may not provide the detail and nuances of what climate change means for our city. We expect to have updated modelling specific to Hamilton in 2025 and will use this information for future risk assessments. Improving the data we have available and using this to complete a community climate change risk assessment, as well as updating our Council climate change risk assessment, will be key work programmes for us to complete.

Table 1. RCP 4.5 and RCP 8.5 climate models for the Waikato region

<p>Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP) are scenarios used by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to describe concentrations of greenhouse gases and radiative forcings (the difference between incoming and outgoing energy in Earth's climate) that could occur by the end of the century. This indicates the level of global warming we can expect to likely experience. RCP 4.5 is an intermediate scenario with moderate temperature increases; RCP 8.5 is more extreme with higher temperatures.</p>	Climate variable		RCP 4.5 (Moderate)		RCP 8.5 (More extreme)	
		Baseline	Mid-century	End of century	Mid-century	End of century
	 Mean temperature	13.4 - 14°C	+1.0°C	+1.3°C	+1.3°C	+3.1°C
	 Hot days	36 days	84 days	103 days	107 days	232 days
	 Extreme rainfall	156 mm	166 mm	168 mm	173 mm	191 mm

³Yinpeng L, Ulrich P, Yu J, Rogers H (2021). [Waikato Regional Climate Impacts Report Applying CMIP6 Data, Hamilton](#). Prepared for Waikato Regional Council by CLIMsystems Ltd.



It was recommended that risks identified in the risk assessment as moderate to extreme in the present day should be added into Council's risk management platform, SHIELD, and managed as current operational risks (see Figure 6). If and how these risks were entered into SHIELD and have been managed since varies across the organisation. To improve this and ensure consistency, we'll need to focus on deeper engagement and understanding of climate risks and climate risk management across the organisation.

We will review and update the risk assessment for Council assets and operations every three years. This aligns with the Long-Term Plan cycle and will ensure the most up to date information is available to inform decision making. The next assessment is planned for 2025.

The climate change risk assessment highlighted our existing climate data is limited. Improving and expanding the climate data we have available, so that we have the latest information and can assess the physical and transition risks (including financial impacts) for both our Council and community, are focus areas of improvement.

Metrics and targets

This section outlines Council's metrics and targets for managing climate-related risks, opportunities, impacts, and performance, and how well they are monitored. This includes measuring and reporting Council's corporate emissions, city-wide emissions for Hamilton Kirikiriroa, and other climate change measures established through Our Climate Future.

Summary

What we've achieved

- ✓ Measured our corporate emissions annually since 2018/19.
- ✓ Provided regular updates to Elected Members, management, and our community.

What we need to improve

- ↑ Accounting for all relevant activities in our corporate emissions monitoring.
- ↑ Clarity for our emissions targets and what's in/out of scope.
- ↑ Capturing and monitoring the right data for all other climate change metrics and targets.

Hamilton City Council's corporate emissions and targets

We first measured Council's corporate emissions in 2019/20, to establish our 2018/19 baseline. Our baseline was verified by [Toitū](#). Our corporate emissions are those produced by our operations and activities and include the following sources:

Scope 1:

- Energy (LPG and natural gas) used in our buildings and operations.
- Fuels used in Council-owned fleet, in vehicles we rent for fleet purposes, and car share use.
- Livestock and fertilisers used on Council land.

Scope 2:

- Electricity used in our buildings and operations.

Scope 3:

- Flights, hotel stays, and rental cars used for staff travel.
- Transport and composting of biosolids from our wastewater treatment process.
- Waste from Council operations.

Scope 1 emissions are those that an organisation owns or controls directly.

Scope 2 emissions are those caused indirectly by the organisation from the energy it purchases.

Scope 3 emissions are all other emissions from up and down the organisation's value chain. They are caused indirectly by the organisation.

We also measured biogenic emissions from the flaring of biogas at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) for 2018/19. These emissions were 11,159 tCO₂e, almost 50% of our total emissions at the time. We recognised these emissions could be addressed by changing a single process (i.e., utilising the biogas for something else), whereas all other sources require a mix of infrastructure, behaviour change, and process and system changes across the organisation, so are more likely to fluctuate and need to be addressed through many different actions. We have therefore focused on annual measurements and reporting of these emissions (sources listed above) and have excluded biogenic emissions from the WWTP in our corporate emissions targets and annual emissions monitoring.

At this stage, we do not include emissions from other activities such as staff working from home or commuting to/from work, emissions from our upstream or downstream supply chain, or emissions from Council-controlled organisations, contractors, or joint ventures.

We know there is room for improvement in how we are measuring and reporting our corporate emissions, as there are many sources we do not account for. Going forward, a priority will be expanding the scope of our emissions to align with best practice, reviewing the scope of our corporate emissions targets, and establishing a better process for monitoring and reporting our emissions.

Council's corporate emissions targets

Our corporate emissions targets are a 50% gross reduction in emissions by 2030 and to be net zero by 2050. The 2030 target is measured against our 2018/19 baseline emissions of 11,357 tCO₂e, which excludes biogenic emissions from the WWTP.

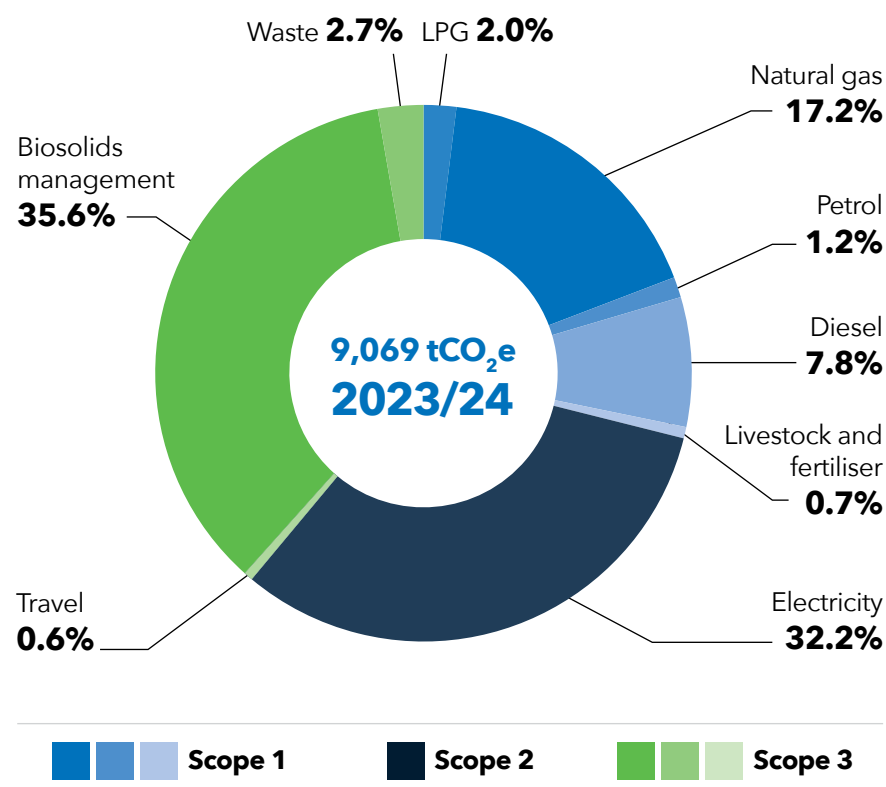
Progress so far

Council's operational emissions for 2023/24 were 9,069 tCO₂e, outlined in Figure 7. This is a 5% reduction on the previous year (2022/23) and a 20% reduction on our baseline. Over the last year, emissions have reduced in

almost all areas, however, the rate of reduction has slowed compared to previous years. Some of the key drivers behind the reductions we've seen so far include:

- improving our energy efficiency and changing fuel sources at Council sites
- reducing staff travel (for example to conferences)
- incorporating electric bikes, scooters, and cars into Council fleet to replace journeys made in petrol/diesel vehicles.

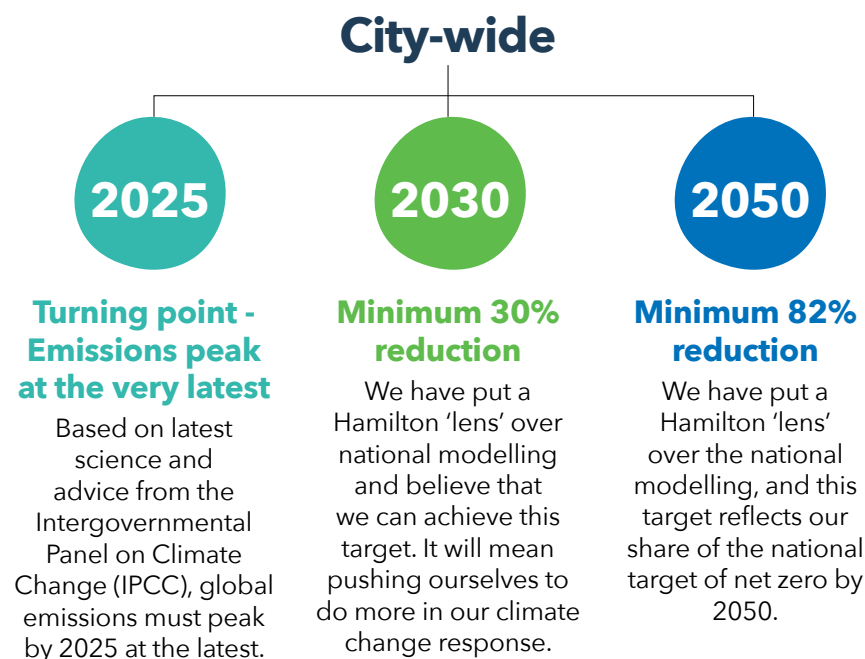
Figure 7. Hamilton City Council emissions for 2023/24



To achieve our target of 50% reduction in our operational emissions by 2030, we need to update our emissions reduction pathway and focus on delivering the most impactful actions. We also recognise that to achieve net zero by 2050, we'll need to rely on sequestration activities. This is because there will be some unavoidable emissions from our operations, such as back up generation for essential services. We are yet to determine what these activities will look like, and how much sequestration will be required. This is a key improvement area for our metrics and targets.

City-wide emissions and targets for Hamilton Kirikiriroa

We also measure, monitor, and report on emissions for Hamilton Kirikiriroa. We set emissions reduction targets for the city as part of Our Climate Future. While we set the targets, we recognise that everyone – Council, central government, our regional partners, businesses, and the community – has a role to play in achieving them:



City-wide targets are based off the 2018/19 baseline of 1,000,995 tCO₂e gross emissions. The targets we set were informed by the advice from the Climate Change Commission and the emissions targets in place for Aotearoa New Zealand.

Progress so far

We measured our city-wide emissions again for 2021/22 and found that gross emissions increased by 6% to 1,061,542 tCO₂e. This increase was expected as we are a growing city. More action is required over coming years to achieve our emissions reduction targets and support a fair and equitable transition for Hamilton Kirikiriroa.

In 2022/23, Council completed emissions modelling for Hamilton Kirikiriroa to understand how our city's emissions could change from now to 2030. This modelling was based on the first two national emissions budgets and New Zealand's [first Emissions Reduction Plan](#). Our modelling showed that city-wide emissions were anticipated to decrease by only 16% by 2030, demonstrating that we were not on track to achieve the 2030 target.

Since this modelling was completed, we have seen changes in central Government direction. Many of the policies and targets from the first Emissions Reduction Plan that were relevant for our city, particularly transport actions, are no longer being delivered. This means that we are unlikely to achieve the 2025 turning point and are further at risk of achieving our city-wide emissions target of 30% reduction by 2030. Following the release of the second Emissions Reduction Plan in late 2024, we will assess the impact of the policies on Hamilton's emissions profile.

To effectively monitor progress against the 2025 turning point and 2030 target, we need a more robust and frequent process for measuring our city-wide emissions. This work has commenced in collaboration with other councils across New Zealand.






Other climate change performance measures

Alongside the emissions targets in Our Climate Future, we set measures of success to provide a more holistic picture of our climate change response. In October 2023, a report to Council on the implementation of Our Climate Future outlined how we were tracking against the measures (see [Council Open Agenda 12 October 2023](#)). We are still establishing baselines and a regular monitoring schedule for a number of these metrics. We have provided an update for 2023/24 on the metrics we can measure in Table 2.

Establishing a review and improvement process for our climate change metrics and targets is something we're seeking to address, so we can effectively monitor our response. We also need to improve how we are reporting progress against our climate change metrics and targets to our governance and management. This will support their understanding of climate change and applying climate change information to their decision-making. Improved reporting will ensure our progress is clear and stakeholders can provide actionable feedback and guidance for us to implement.

Table 2. Additional climate change performance measures from Our Climate Future

Outcome	Metric	2023/24 update	Source
 <p>1. By acting together, our emissions are reducing</p>	Quantity of material entering the waste stream is decreasing.	<p>The amount of residential waste to landfill at Hamilton's Resource Recovery Centre in 2023/24 was 9805 tonnes, equivalent to 52.91kgs per person. This is a reduction on 2022/23 (10,932 tonnes, equivalent to 57.7kgs per person).</p> <p>The amount of waste to landfill through Hamilton's kerbside service (red rubbish bin) in 2023/24 was 18,200 tonnes, equivalent to 98.22kgs per person. This is an increase on 2022/23 (15,992 tonnes, equivalent to 88.89kgs per person).</p> <p>Waste to landfill from Council sites for 2023/24 was 1,072.76 tonnes. This is an increase on 2022/23 (1,025.43 tonnes).</p>	Waste collection reports provided by waste contractors.
 <p>2. Our neighbourhoods enable low-carbon living</p>	Increase in the use of public transport.	2023/24 saw 16.5 bus trips per capita in Hamilton compared to 14.01 bus trips per capita in 2022/23.	Waikato Regional Council (WRC) Annual Report data received by staff. See WRC Annual Reports .
 <p>3. Our city is ready for Hamilton's climate</p>	Native vegetation cover increases in line with Nature in the City strategy (10% by 2050).	The Nature in the City ecological inventory conducted 2023/24 shows that native vegetation cover is 2.5%.	GIS data collected by Hamilton City Council staff.



Next steps

Hamilton City Council's climate change maturity has improved over recent years, and progress has been made across governance, strategy, risk management and metrics and targets as outlined in this statement.

However, we recognise that further work is urgently needed if we are to fully and consistently respond to the risks that climate change presents to our organisation, our city, and our community. Some of the key improvement opportunities we have identified are summarised below. Our next step is to complete a climate maturity roadmap to outline how these, and other projects, will be prioritised and implemented:


- Strengthening governance and management frameworks related to climate change risk.
- Improving climate change information provided to governance and management.
- Ongoing climate change education for all staff, including management and governance.
- Understanding the full scope of climate change risks (both transition and physical risks) for our organisation, city, and community. This includes improving and expanding the climate risk data that we have available.
- Better incorporating climate change risks into strategic and financial planning processes such as Asset Management and the Long-Term Plan processes.
- Reviewing and improving our emissions data and how we are reporting emissions updates to governance, management, and our community.
- Completing emissions reduction pathways for our corporate and city-wide emissions.

We will continue to report on our progress in annual climate change statements.

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