



Pūtea Hapori Urupare Āhuarangi - Community Climate Response Fund Guidelines

About this guide

This guide outlines criteria, eligibility and evaluation for applications to the Pūtea Hapori Urupare Āhuarangi- Community Climate Response Fund (the fund). It provides an overview of the application process and information you will need to supply.

Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to ensure this guide is as clear and accurate as possible, the information contained should be considered general guidance only and does not constitute legal advice. In the event of any uncertainty, applicants should obtain independent legal advice.

About the fund

The objective of the fund is to encourage community, school, marae, and iwi/hapū projects that build resilience of communities and our environment to the effects of climate change or support the transition to a sustainable carbon neutral regional economy by 2050.

What funding is available?

For the 2026-27 financial year, \$52,250 will be available for all projects.

There is no cap on the amount that can be applied for, provided it is below the total amount available. However, Horizons want to fund multiple projects throughout the region each year. It is unlikely that applications requesting a large proportion of the fund amount would be successful.

Funding is available for projects that:

- Raise awareness and encourage a deeper understanding of the challenges our communities face.
- Strengthen local connections and build enduring partnerships.



- Create plans for transformational change that support community and tangata whenua climate resilience.
- Encourage participation in action projects that make a difference now to build collective community resilience.
- Are based in or occur in the Manawatū-Whanganui region.
- Are a good fit with one or more of the fund's five impact areas.

Impact areas

- **Planning for Resilience (Te Aumangea)**- aims to strengthen local connections, enhance community knowledge and understanding of the natural hazard risks they face now and into the future as the impacts of climate change become more severe; to empower communities to engage in emergency management planning for the now and adaptation planning for the future. *Planning for resilience may focus only on planning for the future.*
- **Water Resilience (Te Wai)**- focuses on proactively addressing the challenges posed by increasing water scarcity in a changing climate, by taking practical steps to enhance water resilience.
- **Energy Resilience (Te Ngao)** aims to enhance energy security while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Nature-based Resilience (Te Taiao)** looks to nature for solutions to build climate resilience, enhancing ecosystem resilience, regenerating food and farming systems, and sequestering carbon through forest, kelp or wetland restoration.
- **Food Resilience (Te Kai)** focuses on creating a low-carbon, sustainable and resilient regional food systems, while fostering community and tangata whenua wellbeing and connection.

Who can apply?

- Not for profit organisations such as community groups, schools, early childhood centres, iwi/hapū groups are eligible. The project must be non-profit making.
- Applicants must be a legal entity registered in New Zealand, such as an incorporated society or charitable trust (not including for profit legal entities).
- Individuals seeking funding need to partner with a not-for-profit organisation. Their application will require written confirmation from that organisation endorsing the project and partnership with the individual.



Fund Principles

- Mātauranga Māori/Māori knowledge will be respected and acknowledged when fund applications are assessed and throughout the fund process.
- Any eligible organisation has an equal opportunity to be considered for a grant.
- Expectations of grant recipients will be clearly communicated, reasonable and proportional to the amount of funding they receive.

What we can fund

- Project or programme costs including project-related resources, equipment and materials.
- Salaries and wages to implement the project.
- Resourcing expertise or technical support to provide specific climate-related advice.
- Events/engagement/hui/kōrero that advance the outcomes of the project.
- Research or trials involving a community cluster that could have wider benefit or knowledge transfer to other communities.
- Projects on private land provided written landowner permission is provided.
- Multiple applications from the same organisation for different projects.

What the fund generally does not cover

- Retrospective costs incurred or settled before the agreed commencement date of the funding agreement.
- Purchase of land and buildings.
- Air travel, accommodation, hotel/motel expenses.
- Projects that have received other Horizons Regional Council funding in the same financial year.
- Projects that are considered the primary responsibility of local or central government or another funding body.
- Conference fees and costs.
- Purchase of vehicles and any related ongoing maintenance, repair, overhead costs or road user charges.



What the fund does not ever cover

- Debt servicing or re-financing costs.
- Stock or capital market investment.
- Gambling or prize money.
- Payment of any legal expenditure, including costs or expenditures related to mediation disputes or ACC, Employment Tribunal, Small Claims Tribunal, Professional or Disciplinary Body hearings.
- Payment of fines, court costs, mediation costs, IRD penalties or retrospective tax payments.
- Activities or initiatives where the primary purpose is to promote religious ministry, political objectives, commercial or profit-oriented interests.
- Medical or healthcare costs, including treatment and insurance fees.
- Fundraising.
- Money that will be redistributed as grant funding, sponsorship, donations, bequests, aid funding or aid to other recipients.
- Physical works (e.g. building work) that requires consents or permits prior to consents or permits being obtained.
- A project designed for commercial or personal profit.
- Purchase of alcohol

Funding terms

- Grants are usually for one off projects; recipients will have 12 months to complete the project work and grant accountability requirements.
- Multi-year project grants will be considered if there are clear milestones and points of progress for payments. Those grants would allow applicants to apply once to receive funding annually for up to two years. Multi-year grants will make up no more than 25% of the total available budget for any fund period.
- Projects will be considered where either the full cost of the project is applied for or a proportion of the full project cost.



Evaluation criteria

Evaluation Criteria	Key questions to consider
<p>Alignment with Horizons climate change objectives</p>	<p>How the project meets one or more of the impact areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for Resilience (Te Aumangea) • Water Resilience (Te Wai) • Energy Resilience (Te Ngao) • Nature-based Resilience (Te Taiao) • Food Resilience (Te Kai)
<p>Benefits of the project</p>	<p>Who or what (environment) will benefit from the project?</p> <p>Are benefits ongoing, for how long?</p> <p>Is the project innovative? Could benefits be replicated in the future?</p> <p>What level of community engagement?</p> <p>Will the project enable whānau, hapū or iwi to practice their responsibilities as kaitiaki?</p>
<p>The project is ready to be delivered</p>	<p>Are the resources (including any additional financial requirements), skills, experience, and support available to successfully deliver the project?</p> <p>Can the project be completed in twelve months or by clearly defined milestones?</p> <p>When will the project be ready to start?</p>
<p>Measures of success</p>	<p>How will the project measure success and share learning?</p> <p>What will be the measurable, tangible outcomes achieved by the project?</p> <p>Are measures of success proportional to the size of the project?</p> <p>Is the method of project delivery cost effective?</p>



Funding options	Are alternative funding streams available? (Including Central Government grants, HRC environmental grants and the Manawatū River Leaders Accord Community Grants). Is the applicant relying on another source of funding as well to be able to undertake the project? If so, is that approved, or have they received that funding?
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Do I need to be GST registered?

No. However, funding is a taxable activity. If your organisation is conducting a taxable activity and its annual income exceeds \$60,000 per annum, it must be GST registered. For further information, see www.ird.govt.nz/gst or phone the Inland Revenue Department on 0800 377 776.

Do I need to include GST in my budget?

If GST registered, you need to provide all costs as GST exclusive. If not, you will need to use GST inclusive costs in your budget.

What if my project could also come under the Kanorau Koiora Taketake, the Indigenous Biodiversity Community Grant?

If you're unsure what fund to apply for, please check the fund criteria. If you are still unsure, please call Horizons and ask.

If you apply to this Fund and we think your application should be considered under Kanorau Koiora Taketake, we will discuss that with you and if agreed transfer your application to that fund. That may require additional information.

Funding cannot come from both the Kanorau Koiora Taketake, the Indigenous Biodiversity Community Grant and the Pūtea Hapori Urupare Āhuarangi - Community Climate Response Fund for the same project.



Fund timeline

Date	Event
Monday 23 March 2026	Funding round opens for applications
Friday 1 May 2026	Funding round closes
May / June 2026	Assessment panel considers applications
Early July 2026	All applicants are notified of decisions in writing
Early August 2026	Successful applicants finalise and sign fund agreements and finalise Health and Safety Plans.

Decision-making process

After we have received your application, we will assess it against the criteria and other applications made. A fund panel will assess the applications, and we will let you know if your application is successful by early July 2026.

Projects are expected to begin within four months of agreements being signed.

Reporting Requirements

Successful applicants receiving grants will be required as per project agreements to provide Horizons with progress updates (including photos) and a final report to be completed within two months of the project completion. Applicants will be required to complete a final report using the report template and acknowledge Horizons as the source of the grant.

Conflicts of interest

Projects that present a conflict of interest for Horizons as a consenting authority will not be eligible for funding.