

**JUNE
2023**

Climate Action Plan



Climate Change
IN OUR REGION



horizons
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Horizons Regional Council Climate Action Plan

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Climate change, the challenge, our response

A healthy environment is critical for a vibrant regional economy and thriving communities, whānau and businesses. To have a healthy environment, we must address climate change.

Our region is seeing effects of climate change now. In recent years, drought and extreme weather events have affected public water supplies in parts of the region. Reduced water availability has affected farmers and growers. Cyclone Gabrielle, the most severe weather event to affect Aotearoa so far this century very likely became wetter and wilder due to climate change.

Climate change is driven by how we collectively live, use resources and interact with Te Taiao, the natural world. However with collective action, we can lessen the more severe impacts of climate change, the tools to do so are at our disposal.

We must act now, industry, central and local government, communities and individuals, if we are to make the step change necessary to drastically reduce emissions this decade and build resilience to the effects of climate

change. The window for meaningful action is fast closing.

We need a cohesive regional response. For that purpose, the Climate Action Joint Committee support a coordinated response to climate change across the councils and communities of the region. Made up of tangata whenua members, the region's mayors and Horizons' Chair, the committee has developed the Manawatū-Whanganui Climate Change Action Plan / Mahere Hurihanga Āhuarangi Manawatū-Whanganui. This plan has influenced the actions Horizons are and plan to take.

We also need Government support and direction. We will work with Government to align our climate response to achieve a just and equitable transition to a low emission, sustainable future for the Manawatū-Whanganui Region.

Horizons Climate Action Plan outlines our initial short-term response and sets a pathway for future action. We are sharing our choices to address climate change. Let us act, learn and celebrate success together as we work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect our environment and adapt to the challenges climate change presents.

“Nā tō rourou, nā taku rourou, ka ora ai te iwi if we all contribute, the people will thrive.”



Rachel Keedwell PhD
Horizons Regional Council
Chair.

Horizons' vision for the Manawatū- Whanganui region

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***Tō tātou rohe-
taiao ora, tangata
ora, mauri ora.***

**Our place - a healthy
environment where
people are thriving.**

To achieve this vision, we must
respond to climate change.

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Regional climate action, leadership and outcomes

HORIZONS' VISION

Tō tātou rohe-taiao ora, tangata ora, mauri ora.
Our place - a healthy environment where people are thriving.

CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

- Building community and environmental resilience to the effects of climate change.
 - Transition to a sustainable, carbon neutral regional economy.
- Ensure central and local government efforts align to the needs of our region.

Community
Initiatives and
Input

Council
Long-term
Plans

Iwi/Māori Initiatives and
Input to councils as
Te Tiriti o Waitangi partners

Horizons Climate Action Plan/ City and District Council Climate Action Plans

National Emissions
Reduction Plan

National
Adaptation
Plan

Manawatū-Whanganui Climate
Change Action Plan

Climate Action Joint Committee

NATIONAL DIRECTION

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

CLIMATE ACTION

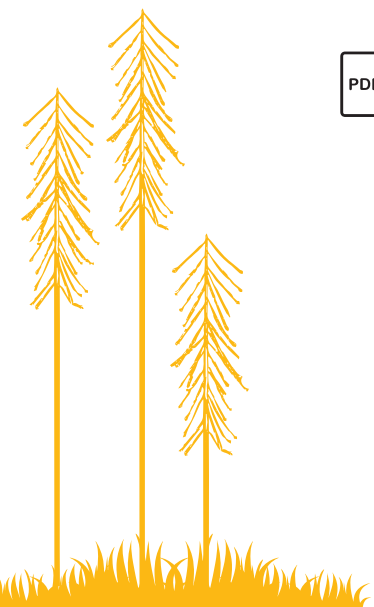
Horizons Climate Action Strategy

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Horizons Climate Action Strategy sets out Horizons' objectives and the approach for climate action. Our strategy guides our action.



**Horizons Climate Action Strategy
(2023 reviewed version)**



Horizons' climate action objectives

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Everyone has a role to play in our response to climate change: local and central government, tangata whenua, communities and individuals.

Horizons sees its role as facilitating and directly contributing to an effective, constructive response to climate change in our region.

Horizons aims to:

- Build the resilience of communities and our environment to the effects of a changing climate.
- Support the transition to a sustainable, carbon-neutral regional economy by 2050.
- Ensure central and local government efforts align to the needs of our region.



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Horizons' approach

We will:

- Work together toward shared outcomes.
- Involve local communities in decisions that affect them.
- Share what we know, being open about what we don't.
- Support people to make a difference.
- Consider the climate in everything we do.
- Prioritise the most vulnerable.
- Remain open to new information and ways of doing things.
- Act now, with future generations in mind.
- Prioritise nature based solutions in our response.
- Where we can, influence climate action beyond our operations.

Horizons Climate Action Plan will need regular review.

We need to balance action with gathering information that informs how we act. Actions need evaluation. We need to be flexible in our response to consider new evidence, technology and innovation to ensure an effective response.

Climate action is required to:

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Mitigate

Reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere by either reducing emissions or removing them.

Adapt

Responding to the changes we are seeing and will encounter in the future. Planning and acting to avoid and minimise adverse effects where we can.

Transition

A focus on communities navigating change, maximising social and economic opportunities while carefully managing challenges and risks.



Climate change is a key strategic priority for Horizons

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To date Horizons has:

- Adopted its first Climate Action Strategy in 2020.
- Considered climate change throughout our 2021-31 Long-term Plan, allocating resources for our climate change response.
- Coordinated and produced the region's first Climate Change Risk Assessment in 2021 that has been used to inform and prioritise regional action.
- Established the Climate Action Joint Committee. Comprising the region's seven mayors, Horizons' Chair and seven tangata whenua representatives. The purpose of the Committee is to support a coordinated response to climate change across the councils and communities of the Manawatū-Whanganui.
- Supported development of the Manawatū-Whanganui Climate Change Action Plan / Mahere Hurihanga Āhuarangi Manawatū-Whanganui.

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Research and evidence, a call to action

In 2022, The International Panel on Climate Change released the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6). That report comprises the global scientific community's best information on how the climate is changing, the risks that poses and effective response. Some key findings were:

- The earth's temperature is changing at an unprecedented rate and we are responsible.
- We still have time to act. Our actions globally can stop the most severe impacts of climate change.
- To keep warming to around 1.5°C above preindustrial levels requires a 43% reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.
- We can limit the effects of climate change with existing technology if there is the political and societal will to do so.
- The more we reduce emissions, the more viable options we will have to adapt.
- A step change adaptation is required to match rising risks and support climate resilient development.
- Indigenous knowledge, mātauranga Māori in Aotearoa / New Zealand, needs to be part of the response to climate change.

“Climate action is important as we are the people who will grow up in this world. We have to care for it, there's no plan B.”

OJ, Whanganui Intermediate School
Environmental Club, March 2023



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A vibrant future is possible if we act now

We have a choice, take meaningful action now, or face a future where the impacts of climate change get worse and we have fewer options to respond. Evidence is clear; we need a step change transition to a low emission economy if we are to secure a vibrant future for current and future generations.

If we make a just transition, jobs can be created, new industries developed, community connections strengthened, our lifestyles can become healthier as we embrace different ways to move. Our link to Te Taiao, the natural world can strengthen.

**“Exercise instead of driving,
choose greener options, support
community projects, spend more
time doing selfless things.”**

Room 1 Glen Ōroua School,
December 2022

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National context and direction

Climate change is a key focus for central government. Recent and ongoing reform in urban design, freshwater management and proposed resource management reforms all consider and are in part a response to climate change.

The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 sets National Emission Reduction Targets, established the Climate Change Commission and requires emission budgets to be set, firstly for 2022-25.

The National Emissions Reduction Plan (NERP) contains strategies, policies and actions to achieve New Zealand's first greenhouse gas emissions budget to contribute to global efforts to reduce emissions to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, the intergovernmental commitment under the Paris Agreement.

What the NERP means for Horizons:

- Support active transport, increased use of public transport and better travel options
- Provide better public transport in low socio-economic areas and for vulnerable groups.
- Targets to reduce vehicle use in the region.
- Support localised and community based emission reduction solutions.

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) aims to ensure that communities have the information and support they need to prepare for and adapt to the impact of climate change.

What the NAP means for Horizons:

- Enables better risk based decisions.
- Drives climate resilient development in the right places.
- Lays the foundation for a range of adaptation options including managed retreat.

The NAP acknowledges that local government are close to at risk communities. It acknowledges that central and local government's adaptive responses need to align.

Both the NERP and the NAP acknowledge the role and prioritisation of nature based solutions to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change.

How to reduce agricultural emissions is being considered by Government.

Aligning regional climate action

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The Manawatū-Whanganui Climate Action Plan / Mahere Hurihanga Āhuarangi Manawatū-Whanganui is about understanding how we best work together in response to climate change. It recommends actions councils should be taking individually, and identifies initiatives best progressed jointly across four key focus areas:

- **Empowering communities**
- **Working with nature**
- **Addressing known issues**
- **Supporting good decisions**

Horizons' Climate Action Plan embeds recommended actions from the Manawatū-Whanganui Climate Change Action Plan into Horizons climate change response. To implement some actions, councils need to work together and pool resources.

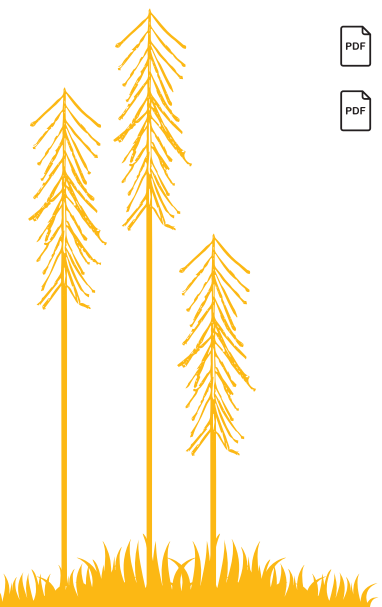
To view the climate actions recommended by the Climate Action Joint Committee, the English and reo Māori version of their action plan are linked below:



Manawatū-Whanganui Climate Change Action Plan



Mahere Hurihanga Āhuarangi Manawatū-Whanganui



Horizons' greenhouse gas emission reduction target

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In line with our shared responsibility, Horizons intends to reduce its gross greenhouse gas emissions by 43 percent by 2030 from 2019-20 levels. This target aligns Horizons with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2030 Target.

The 2019-20 financial year was the first year our greenhouse gas emissions were measured, providing a baseline against which we can track reductions.

We are focused on reducing our gross greenhouse gas emissions rather than net emissions. Carbon sequestration plays an important part in our climate-change response, both locally and globally. Indeed, Horizons already contributes significantly to plantings through its erosion-control and riparian management programmes. Nevertheless, there are issues, too, with an overreliance on forestry and, as a local authority, it is appropriate for us to show leadership. Our target is ambitious; it reflects the urgent global need to reduce emissions.

Climate action, what Horizons already does

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We are acting now, but we have much more to do. These are core work areas that while response to climate change is not their primary purpose, they provide climate related benefits or information that will inform future climate action.

Team/Work area	Description	Mitigation/ Adaptation
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to protect and enhance the region's biodiversity through active monitoring and management of priority sites including remnants of threatened ecosystems and Tōtara Reserve Regional Park. • Support landowner and community action. The Kanorau Koiora Taketake-Indigenous Biodiversity Community Grant enables community groups to undertake projects that enhance and protect biodiversity. 	Both
Biosecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the effects of invasive pests on indigenous biodiversity and the regional economy through the Regional Pest Management Plan. This plan considers how pest animals and plants could pose a new or greater threat as the climate changes. • Control possums through a regional possum control programme across 1.5 million hectares of forest and farmland. This has a positive impact on native forests allowing understory development. Flourishing forest where possum numbers are controlled store more carbon than highly browsed forest, and they support biodiversity. 	Both
Corporate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure our greenhouse gas emissions. Since the 2019-20 financial year, Horizons greenhouse gas emissions have been measured and recorded in an emissions inventory. That inventory is audited and verified to internationally recognised standards. • Improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our offices and vehicle fleet. 	Both
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support schools across the region on their sustainable journeys including climate action through the EnviroSchools programme. 	Both
Decision Making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify climate change considerations in all reports to Council. • Consider climate change in any plan change, our annual or long-term plans and our infrastructure strategy. 	Both
Emergency Management/ District Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide property specific hazard information that includes climate change modelled information. • Work with city and district councils and other agencies to reduce hazard exposure, raise awareness, maintain readiness and provide response and recovery capabilities when emergencies occur in the region. • Provide information on natural hazards through the Regional Natural Hazard Viewer that can assist people make informed risk-based decisions. • Prepare for emergency events. 	Adaptation



River/ Catchment Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage risk to people, property and infrastructure from flooding by containing floods, building and maintaining drainage infrastructure and reducing the effects of river erosion. • Assess the level of risk due to climate change and more frequent adverse events. Determining the appropriate response, such as through design of new infrastructure. Where practicable Horizons include nature-based solutions in flood protection works. • Manage and maintain river and drainage systems in the region to minimise erosion and optimise flood protection. There are 34 river and drainage schemes across the region that cover approximately 1270km of river channel. The flood protection and erosion control benefit provided covers approximately 750km² of land including 25 towns and cities in the region. • Reduce erosion and sediment entering waterways through the Sustainable Land-use Initiative (SLUI). SLUI is a farmer-led whole farm plan approach to resource conservation (soils, land, water and vegetation). Plans integrate both short and long-term farm business and environmental outcomes. Erosion control is mainly achieved through tree planting. Over 50,000 hectares of erosion mitigation work has been completed. Almost 2.5 million tonnes of CO₂e have been sequestered through trees planted as part of SLUI and over 19 million tonnes are predicted to be sequestered as trees mature. SLUI planting has also offered some protection for rural infrastructure like roads and power lines from slips. • Work with farmers to fence and plant riparian strips along waterways. This improves water quality and protects biodiversity. Shading provided by vegetation can reduce water temperature and inhibit aquatic pest plant growth. 	Both
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use expert opinion to understand the impact of climate change on freshwater quantity and quality, biodiversity and biosecurity, coastal and marine areas and natural hazards. • Collect reliable environmental data, conduct research to inform policy development and actions. • Provide monitoring information to the community and other agencies. 	Both
Strategic Management/ Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide proactive, coherent policy responses across the organisation on emerging and ongoing issues including climate change. • Engage with Government to advocate that national policy reflect local realities. • Provide technical and administrative support for the Climate Action Joint Committee. • Manage the use of natural resources and effects of development on freshwater, land, air and the coast, avoiding further risks from natural hazards, and supporting renewable energy generation. 	Both
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide public transport services across the region, including low-emissions services. • Undertake regional land transport planning. • Advocate to Government to improve passenger rail. 	Both

Horizons' Climate Action Projects and Activities

These are the specific climate change projects and work programmes we are doing or planning to do in the short term. They have been categorised into key focus areas.

Working with nature

Policy / Plan evaluation and development - Oranga Wai, Our Freshwater Future; implement Government reform to protect and enhance freshwater environments. Policy evaluation to enhance and protect ecosystem and indigenous biodiversity.

Mātauranga Māori/ science co-learning pilot - explore the feasibility of a co-learning pilot project between Horizons and tangata whenua.

Supporting good decisions

Regional Spatial Information Strategy - identify information requirements for climate resilient regional planning.

Climate Research Strategy - develop a framework to identify research needs to inform climate related research projects.

Spatial information tool requirements - identify tool requirements to provide adequate spatial information.

Future regional food security assessment - a holistic assessment of future regional food security requirements.

Biosecurity Climate Modelling - factor climate change effects on pest animals and plants into regional biosecurity planning.

Action plan implementation and impact monitoring - monitor and assess action implementation and the success and impact of actions.

Climate impact statements review - ensure reports to Council adequately detail climate related impacts.

Getting our house in order

Operational Emissions Reduction Plan - Horizons strategy and plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our operations.

Procurement Policy review - consider greenhouse gas emissions in procurement decisions.

New build 'green' considerations - where we can, include energy efficient measures and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in new builds.

Enabling staff to reduce their emissions footprint - through policy and programmes, encourage staff to reduce their emissions footprint at work and in their personal lives.

Future Fit Horizons - a realignment of organisational structure to make Horizons more nimble to respond to challenges like climate change.

Addressing known issues

Corporate climate change risk assessment - include climate change risks in Horizons' Risk Register to inform risk management decision making and meet financial disclosure requirements.

Key flood protection/ climate resilience projects - four key projects to increase flood protection in Palmerston North, Foxton, the Lower Rangitikei and Manawātū Rivers.

Promote Anzac Parade Early Warning system - ensure residents of this flood prone area are aware of and linked to early warning systems.

Regional Public Transport Plan implementation - increases public transport patronage and the number of zero-emission buses to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Extend the Unlimited Access Scheme - Promoting and extending the scheme to more organisations across the region will increase bus patronage and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport.

Inundation Modelling - consider both flood and storm water models to inform hazard mapping and spatial planning.

Climate change modelling in catchment management planning - integrate projected changes in rainfall patterns into catchment management.

Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan Review - considers the foreseeable impacts of Climate Change in emergency management planning.

Empowering communities

Living with uncertainty project - community lead climate adaptation planning for Tangimoana and Pūtiki.

First steps-community, iwi/hapū -led adaptation planning funding - seed funding to assess risk and explore climate adaptation options for communities and Iwi/Māori.

Joint Climate Change Communication Plan - Regional plan to inform and engage communities and individuals.

Climate action website update and emissions calculator - update climate change information on our website and include tools to encourage climate action.

Pūtea Hapori Urupare Āhuarangi, Community Climate Response Fund - Horizons fund community climate change related projects.





Information about our projects and activities

Joint Initiatives

Involve Horizons working and pooling resources with the region's city and district councils. All the region's councils will need to step up to implement these initiatives.

Long-term Plan Funding

Long-term Plan funding decisions must follow due process including public consultation. Horizons acknowledge the validity and importance of actions that will or are likely to require long-term plan funding, however final funding decisions for these activities need to be made through the 2024-34 Long-term Plan process. Actions that will or are likely to require 2024-34 Long-term Plan funding and thus consideration through that process are noted.

Dealing with Uncertainty

These may not be all the climate action Horizons need to take in the short term. Other action may be required as new opportunities or challenges arise. Any further action would need consideration and if implemented resourcing.

Some potential actions, such as the appropriate use of forestry are not included as other agencies have indicated they are doing work to meet our needs.

We will allow some contingency should additional resource be required.



Supporting good decisions

Project/Programme Name

Regional Spatial Information Strategy (Joint Initiative, Long-term Plan consideration)

Defines the data, information and knowledge requirements to inform future spatial plan change. The strategy would assess the adequacy and consistency of current spatial information and data and identify the level of detail required for spatial data across the region. It will guide spatial planning that allows for responsible, climate resilient regional development and land-use. It will inform a policy framework that accounts for spatially specific, climate modelled:

- Agricultural development
- Coastal processes/ management
- Urban land-use and land development
- Flood management and storm-water management
- Rural land-use
- Biodiversity and biosecurity
- Hazard exposure.

Timeframe:

2023-24

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Both

Project/Programme Name

Spatial information tool requirements

Investigate tool requirements to provide the type and detail of information to assess changing hazard profiles as well as other spatial information requirements across Horizons work streams.

Timeframe:

2023-24

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Both



Project/Programme Name

Climate Research Strategy and climate related research

Develop a strategy to identify research needs to bridge data, information and knowledge gaps to inform and prioritise future climate action. A research strategy will help Horizons consider and plan for climate change across work streams. The strategy will:

- Identify research priorities and projects for Horizons to bridge knowledge gaps to inform future climate action.
- Integrate national and regional climate change information to inform Horizons' research needs.

Horizons are currently researching or will conduct the following research:

- Develop a detailed method statement outlining how to improve our knowledge of the impact of climate change on water resources.
- Projections of the impacts of climate change on low river flows across the region.
- Climate modelling different emission scenarios to project the impact of climate change on the Sustainable Land-Use Initiative. This modelling will inform future requirements to meet the erosion control objectives of the programme.
- Scoping a framework to identify gravel attributes within the geomorphological context of catchments to identify how gravel can be managed at catchment scale considering the effects of climate change.

Timeframe:

2023

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Both

Project/Programme Name

Future regional food security assessment (Joint Initiative, Long-term Plan consideration)

Assess and model regional and localised food requirements accounting for climate change. This assessment would consider production, supply chains and future food security. Climate change impacts on mahinga kai would be considered along with food resilience in local or regional emergency events.

Timeframe:

2024-26

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Both

Project/Programme Name

Climate impact statements review

Review reports to Council to ensure that sufficient detail and assessment of climate change impacts of projects and programmes is provided.

Timeframe:

2023

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Both

Project/Programme Name

Biosecurity modelling (Long-term Plan consideration)

Consider how sleeper pest and invasive species will respond to a changing climate to assess the risk they pose to the environment and regional economy in the future. Modelling would inform regional biosecurity planning and the future review of the Regional Pest Management Plan.

Timeframe:

2024-27

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Adaptation

Project/Programme Name

Action plan implementation and impact monitoring (Joint Initiative, Long-term Plan consideration)

In conjunction with the region's councils, Horizons will monitor and assess implementation of the Manawatū-Whanganui Climate Change Action Plan / Mahere Hurihanga Āhuarangi Manawatū-Whanganui.

Timeframe:

2023 onwards

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Both



Addressing known issues



Project/Programme Name

Corporate climate change risk assessment (Long-term Plan consideration)

Assess climate change risks to Horizons operations and assets to ensure climate change risks are identified, quantified and mitigation measures are put in place where feasible. Climate related risks would then be included in Horizons Risk Register. This assessment will also consider acceptability of risk. It will also position Horizons for any future climate related risk disclosure requirements.

Timeframe:

2023-25

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Both

Project/Programme Name

Key flood protection/climate resilience projects

Te Awahou Foxton, Lower Manawatū Scheme, Palmerston North and the Lower Rangitīkei flood protection projects will increase the climate resilience for these communities.

Nature based interventions are being incorporated where it is practical to do so. For example, the Rangitīkei project involves a naturalised channel management approach that includes creating a mobility corridor to facilitate normal dynamic river change and planting native trees to establish a riparian corridor.

Timeframe:

Ongoing- 2024

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Adaptation

Project/Programme Name

Promote early warning systems and assess evacuation protocols for flood prone areas of Anzac Parade

As per recommendation from the Anzac Parade Resilience Building Project, promote early warning systems and assess evacuation protocols for residents of Anzac Parade Whanganui, in the flood prone area.

Timeframe:

2023

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Adaptation

Project/Programme Name

Regional Public transport Plan 2022-32 implementation (Joint Initiative, Long-term Plan consideration)

Public transport has an important role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This plan, developed by the Passenger Transport Committee and endorsed by Horizons Council includes actions to improve the coverage, frequency and convenience of public transport and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the bus fleet.

Timeframe:

Ongoing

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Mitigation

Project/Programme Name

Extend the Unlimited Access Scheme

The Unlimited Access Scheme provides free bus travel for staff or students of participating organisations. It is a key tool to increase public transport patronage and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport. Horizons intend to extend the scheme to realise its emission and congestion reduction benefits. We will advocate to large businesses and central and local government agencies to join the scheme. Horizons have conducted an in-house trial of the Unlimited Access Scheme, providing staff free travel on the public transport bus network. Data gathered from that trial will be used to promote extending the scheme to other organisations.

Timeframe:

2023-27

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Mitigation

Project/Programme Name

Inundation Modelling (Joint Initiative, Long-term Plan consideration)

Consider both instream flood and storm-water drainage information at a local level, including climate modelling, to inform planning, development and adaptive measures with a focus on urban areas and potential growth areas. Horizons will continue to work with city and district councils to improve our understanding of the relationship between flood and storm-water when modelling flood impacts.

Timeframe:

Ongoing

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Adaptation



Project/Programme Name

Climate change modelling in catchment management planning (Long-term Plan consideration)

Horizons will continue to integrate up to date projected changes in rainfall patterns as the climate changes (drought and flood risk) into catchment management planning.

Timeframe:

Ongoing

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Adaptation

Project/Programme Name

Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan Review

Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan's review considers the foreseeable impacts of climate change. The plan aims where possible, to reduce the risks of hazards to acceptable levels and informing communities of the hazard-scape.

Timeframe:

2023

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Adaptation



Working with nature

Project/Programme Name

Policy evaluation and development. (Long-term Plan consideration)

Oranga Wai, Our Freshwater Future

Improving water quality, protecting and enhancing freshwater environments will enhance environmental resilience as the climate changes. Oranga Wai | Our Freshwater Future is how Horizons chose to represent all of the policy and regulation streams included in the Government's Essential Freshwater package, announced in 2020. This package aims to prevent further damage to waterways, lakes and streams, improving water quality, and bringing water bodies and ecosystems to a healthy state.

Oranga Wai | Our Freshwater Future involves updating the One Plan, the document that determines resource management for the region, to meet the requirements of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM). Climate change considerations are:

- That freshwater is managed as part of New Zealand's integrated response to climate change.
- The foreseeable impacts of climate change are considered in the development of rules and limits on resource use.
- Reporting on the foreseeable impacts of climate change on freshwater every 5-years in State of the Environment reporting.

Timeframe:

Ongoing - 2026

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Adaptation

Policy evaluation to enhance and protect ecosystem and indigenous biodiversity (Joint Initiative)

Assess the effectiveness of current policy and rules and identify resource and information requirements for future policy work to support ecosystem health and connectivity to enhance and protect indigenous biodiversity in the face of a changing climate. The evaluation will assist future implementation of the proposed National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity, should that be adopted by Government, including preparation for future plan change.

Timeframe:

2024-25

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Both

Project/Programme Name

Mātauranga Māori/science co-learning pilot project/ feasibility assessment.

Timeframe:

2023

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Both

Explore how Horizons can work with Iwi partners to respond to climate change and include mātauranga Māori into our climate change response. To achieve this, we need to know how to appropriately hold and use mātauranga Māori we are gifted. We can only do that working with Iwi. To begin this journey in the climate change workspace, we will explore the feasibility of a pilot project. We need a willing Iwi/Māori partner. If feasibility assessment proves successful, Horizons will embark on a pilot project.



Getting our house in order

Project/Programme Name

Operational Emissions Reduction Plan (Long-term Plan consideration)

Defines Horizons' short-term emission reduction pathway to reduce gross greenhouse gas emissions and progress towards our organisation's greenhouse gas emission reduction target. Horizons' main source of emissions is petrol and diesel vehicles. The plan will be reviewed regularly to consider new technology and innovation as they become available, such as low emission 4WD Utes that are not currently available.

A 2023 feasibility study is underway to assess the cost and practicality of a fast track low emission vehicle replacement of existing vehicles where suitable replacements currently exist.

Timeframe:

Ongoing

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Mitigation

Project/Programme Name

Procurement Policy review

Consider how our procurement can support low emission, sustainable purchasing decisions for products, services and contracts.

Timeframe:

2023-24

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Mitigation

Project/Programme Name

New build 'green' considerations

Consider how to incorporate energy efficiency and broader 'green build' aspects into new builds at the planning stage. Considering financial, environmental and climate related benefits for new buildings Horizons build.

Timeframe:

Ongoing

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Mitigation

Project/Programme Name

Future Fit Horizons (Long-term Plan consideration)

Realigning Horizons organisational structure to integrate work programmes into catchment scale delivery and to embed mātauranga Māori into Horizons work. Positioning Horizons to respond to climate change has been a key consideration to create an organisational structure that is nimble and adaptive to meet challenges including climate change.

Timeframe:

Ongoing 2024

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Both

Project/Programme Name

Enabling staff to reduce their emissions footprint

Encourage Horizons staff involvement in climate action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions:

- Encourage emission reducing transport choices such as ride share commuting.
- Encourage staff initiated climate action through the staff sustainability group.
- Promote Horizons' Lifestyle Guide so that it is being consistently applied across Horizons. Where business requirements allow, Horizons Lifestyle Guide allows staff flexibility in hours and where they work. That flexibility can lead to reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Timeframe:

2023-24

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Mitigation



Empowering communities

Project/Programme Name

Living with uncertainty project (Joint Initiative, Long-term Plan consideration)

Horizons, Manawatū and Whanganui District Councils are supporting Massey University work with Pūtiki and Tangimoana to develop community led climate adaptation plans. Both communities are at risk due to the impacts of climate change. This process aims to engage and empower those communities to create practical and enduring climate adaption solutions. Learnings from this project are intended to be used to assist other at risk communities in the future. If identified in time, key adaption options for these communities will be considered in the long-term plan process.

Timeframe:

2022-24

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Adaptation

Project/Programme Name

Joint Climate Change Communication Plan (Joint Initiative)

Horizons will work with the region's city and district councils to promote key climate messages that encourage positive climate response behaviour and engage communities in climate action. We will develop a communication plan that can be customised and used by other councils.

Timeframe:

2023

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Both

Project/Programme Name

Climate action website update and emissions calculator

Update Horizons climate action information on our website and include Future Fit as an emission reduction tool that both allows people and groups to measure their greenhouse gas emissions and provides practical ways for them to reduce emissions.

Timeframe:

2023

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Mitigation

Project/Programme Name

First steps-community, iwi/hapū led adaptation planning funding

Support community and iwi/hapū led adaptation planning by providing seed funding to assess risk and explore climate adaptation options. To help communities identify and understand the risks they face, and explore and identify options for reducing vulnerability through dynamic adaptive pathways planning. To maximise the benefits of adaptive planning, further resources and information need to be available to guide adaptive planning:

- Learnings from the living with uncertainty project to provide a framework and guidance for other at risk communities.
- Clear regulatory direction from Government for adaptive pathways for at risk communities including managed retreat.

Once this information is available, Horizons will resource seed funding for dynamic adaptive pathway planning in the region for communities at risk due to climate change.

Timeframe:

2024-26

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Adaptation

Project/Programme Name

Pūtea Hapori Urupare Āhuarangi-Community Climate Response Fund

The 2022 launched Pūtea Hapori Urupare Āhuarangi-Community Climate Response Fund provides contestable funding for community projects that build resilience to climate change or support the transition to carbon neutrality.

Timeframe:

Ongoing

Adaptation/Mitigation:

Both





Climate Change
IN OUR REGION



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