



Pūtea Hapori Urupare Āhuarangi – Community Climate Response Fund

Projects Summary 2025-26

Front Cover Photo
Environment Network Manawatū: Community Gardening Working Bee

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	Marton		Whanganui	Taihape
	19 Hammon Street		181 Guyton Street	Woodville
	Taumarunui			116 Vogel Street
	34 Maata Street			
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Fund Overview

The *Pūtea Hapori Urupare Āhuarangi* | *Community Climate Response Fund* (the Fund), supporting grass and flax root climate action.

This is the fourth year Horizons have funded projects that respond to climate change. Over that time, we've funded 28 projects across the region. From backyards in Palmerston North to the back blocks of Raetihi, 10,000's of trees and plants are growing, hundreds of tummies filled with locally grown kai, dozens of houses made more energy-efficient through free expert advice, fixing bikes and appliances rather than dumping them— the list goes on. Projects have also brought people together under a common purpose, building connections, friendships and resilience.

Horizons congratulate all those who have been involved in these projects on their mahi and achievements. We hope that these projects will enthuse others to act now with our future and future generations in mind.

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



1 Heritage Food Crops Research Trust – Whanganui

Community Gifting for Health and Resilience - Awarded \$5278.28

This project aimed to strengthen local food resilience and community wellbeing by providing free, high-quality fruit trees, tomato plants, and seeds, increasing access to nutritious, locally grown kai. The project helped reduce reliance on imported food, lowered carbon emissions from transport, and empowered households, schools, and community groups to grow their own produce.

The team successfully propagated and distributed a substantial volume of plants and seedlings including 2,352 tomato plants and 687 fruit trees. Recipients of Monty's Surprise apple trees also received a tree-care brochure, supporting long-term success.

These outputs directly increased access to locally grown food and supported communities to establish or expand gardens. Beyond the immediate deliverables, the project strengthened relationships with growers, Māori collectives, and partner organisations, expanding its reach into new networks. Distributed trees and seeds will continue to provide long-term benefits through ongoing localised food production.

Volunteers contributed 6,467 hours in 2025, and thousands of individuals benefited from 16,505 seed packets and 130 bulk seed deliveries across Whanganui and the country. Partnerships with Persson's Nurseries, Shane's Greenhouses, Tahuri Whenua, and Te Kaahui o Rauru ensured wide distribution to marae, kura, kohanga, and community groups.

The project will continue to expand crop diversity, strengthen partnerships, and support knowledge-sharing to build long-term food resilience across the region.





2 Kahuterawa Valley Regeneration Club – Palmerston North

Plant my Berm - Awarded \$10,000

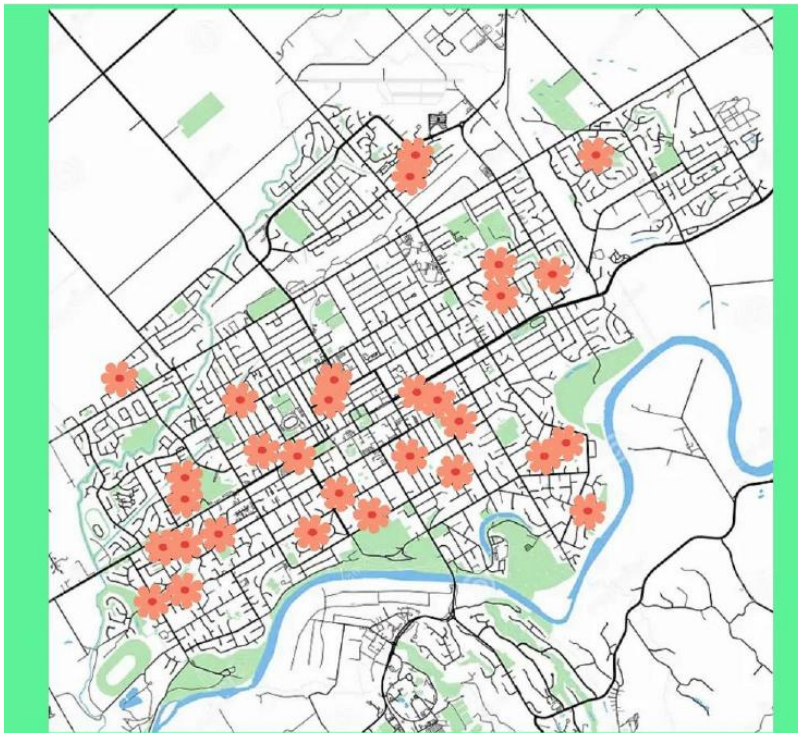
This project was created to provide free berm plantings across Palmerston North, supporting biodiversity, urban pollinator habitat, and stronger neighbourhood connections through attractive, low-maintenance green infrastructure.

Early momentum was strong, with high public interest, a substantial waitlist, and successful site assessments and customised garden designs demonstrating both demand and the effectiveness of the project model.

Progress was temporarily paused due to unforeseen personal circumstances affecting the delivery of the project. Once implementation resumed, six berm gardens were installed in a short period, all of which are thriving with no plant losses or maintenance issues. A subsequent request from Palmerston North City Council to pause further installations while operational matters were resolved prevented continuation within the funding timeframe, resulting in an underspend. Unexpected underground service-location fees required by Chorus also increased costs though these were covered by the Kahuterawa Valley Regeneration Club.

Despite these challenges, community engagement remained strong. Six landowners hosted berm plantings, supported by around 20 volunteers, while more than 65 additional residents applied to participate, creating a significant waitlist. There has been support from local business including discounted mulch from The Landscape Supply Yard, which has further strengthened community ownership and demonstrated the project's potential as a scalable, community-led model.

The completed berms will continue to be maintained by participating residents, with periodic check-ups from the project team. Looking ahead, the team plans to revise the delivery model to meet new council requirements, incorporate lessons learned, and ensure future expansion is practical, financially sustainable, and aligned with the project's original vision.



Locations of berms throughout Palmerston North

3 Tararua REAP – Dannevirke

Community Garden - Awarded \$7,500

Funding provided development and expansion of the Dannevirke Community Garden, aligned with the organisation's SMART climate objectives of strengthening community resilience, reducing emissions through local food production, improving soil health and promoting sustainable water use.

A key achievement was fully fencing the garden, creating a safe and secure space for learning, food production, and emergency-ready growing capacity. This work was completed with major in-kind support from Owens Fencing, whose donated labour allowed the project to deliver a high-quality fence well within budget.

The team invested in soil nutrients and amendments to improve soil structure, fertility, and long-term carbon sequestration. This supported the establishment of the garden's starter orchard, including Blueberry Lane, now home to more than 45 blueberry plants. These perennials will act as breeding stock for future orchard expansion.

Project management funding ensured strong coordination, volunteer engagement, and essential administrative work, including formally establishing Our Place Dannevirke Inc, the incorporated society now overseeing the garden's long-term governance.

The project delivered significant community benefits including, a new outdoor learning space, increased engagement, access to fresh produce, and a safe, beautiful environment supporting wellbeing. More than 150 people participated through working bees, learning activities, and community events. Partnerships with local groups, iwi, schools, and businesses strengthened social connection and climate-positive community development.

Looking ahead, the garden will expand Blueberry Lane, increase composting capacity, develop sustainable water-use systems, and build a multipurpose pole shed to support storage, processing, education, and volunteer shelter and ensuring long-term resilience for the Dannevirke community.



4 The Eco School – Whanganui

Resilient Households - Awarded \$4,200

This project focused on strengthening household resilience in Whanganui by supporting energy efficiency and backyard food production. Community engagement remained strong throughout the year, with even greater interest than usual as inflation and cost-of-living pressures encouraged residents to seek practical ways to reduce expenses and improve self-sufficiency. Those who participated showed a clear desire to learn about energy resilience and food security.

The project delivered 20 home assessments that directly supported around 30 residents, with an additional 30 people benefiting indirectly through shared households. Each assessment provided tailored advice on insulation, heating efficiency, moisture management, and opportunities for home-scale food production

Alongside the assessments, a series of community workshops engaged approximately 70 participants, offering practical guidance on sustainable living, energy savings, and growing nutritious kai at home. Coverage in the River City Press extended the reach of these workshops even further, ensuring that many more households were exposed to the project's key messages and tools for resilience.

The strong demand for both assessments and workshops demonstrates the community's appetite for practical, climate-positive solutions that reduce household costs and improve wellbeing.

Free Workshops on healthy food and homes

Whanganui's Eco School, which provides ways to achieve low cost and high performance solutions to issues of energy, food and sustainability, is hosting a workshop series starting later this month.

The school, based at Kaitiaki Farm on No. 2 Line, has partnered with the Whanganui Learning Centre and Horizons Regional Council to host the free workshops focusing on household resilience, including growing healthy food and creating a healthy home.

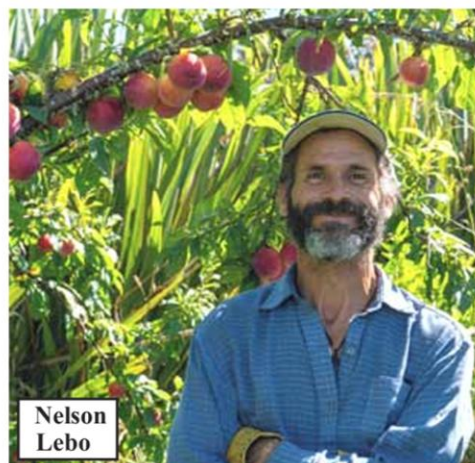
The workshops are:

October 22, 5pm-6pm: Fruit tree care and pruning -- Whanganui Learning Centre.

November 30, 10.30am-12pm: Growing great garlic, terrific tomatoes and perfect pumpkins -- Kaitiaki Farm.

February 8, 10.30am-12pm: Building beautiful garden beds -- Kaitiaki Farm.

March 26, 5.30pm-7pm: Best strategies for eco-renovation and retrofit -- Whanganui Learning Centre.



Nelson
Lebo

April 26, 10am-12pm: Permaculture in small medium and large spaces -- Kaitiaki Farm.

For more information go to: theecoschool@gmail.com or call 027 468 7337.

5 Environment Network Manawatū-

Manawatū River Catchment

Community Kai Support- Awarded \$10,000

What does climate resilience look like when it's grounded into everyday life? Across Palmerston North, Foxton Beach and the wider Manawatū, Environment Network Manawatū used funding to deepen practical food resilience work already happening through community gardens, Māra Kai, Pātaka Kai, food hubs and local networks. Rather than treating climate action as something separate from people's daily needs, the project connected climate response directly with access to fresh food, opportunities to learn, stronger neighbourhood relationships, reduced organic waste, and more productive green spaces.

23 community gardening workshops were delivered across a range of local settings, including Te Raki Pae Ora at North Street, Brentwood Ave Apartment Community Gardens, Jireh Food Hub, Te Whare Koha, Foxton Beach Community Garden and Roslyn Community Garden. These workshops gave residents, volunteers, garden coordinators and community members practical, hands-on experience in food growing and garden maintenance. Activities included propagating strawberries, planting seasonal vegetables, caring for tomatoes, building bamboo trellis from locally sourced materials, identifying weeds, tying knots, pruning fruit trees, maintaining shared beds and learning how to keep productive gardens healthy over time. This kind of practical learning builds confidence independence, while also contributing directly to lower-emissions local food systems by reducing food miles, supporting local growing, diverting organic matter from landfill, reducing reliance on commercially produced soil inputs, and helping communities prepare for the impacts of a changing climate.

The Manawatū Community Gardening Network also provided an important layer of support around these local projects. This network effect is significant: the wider Manawatū Food Action Network now includes 117 associated groups, a food-related email list of 497 contacts, and a Facebook audience of 2,398 followers, with some posts reaching 6,400 views. Hundreds more people are expected to be reached through the 22 groups supported by food sovereignty funding, and thousands benefit indirectly through stronger māra kai, active pātaka kai, Ora Kōnnect-led activity and increased local food productivity across the rohe.



6 Wildlife Foxton Trust-Horowhenua

Expanding Recycling for Climate Resilience- Awarded \$2,749

Small urban centres often do not have the variety of recycling options available in cities and larger towns. This funding allowed Wildlife Foxton Trust to pilot broader recycling opportunities to the Foxton Community, to increase awareness of what can be recycled, reduce items ending up in landfill and to look to increase the long-term recycling opportunities available in Foxton.

Recycling covered a wide range of goods, blister packs, soft plastics, razors and batteries to name just a few. The success of this recycling initiative has led to funding being secured from Horowhenua District Council's Waste Minimisation Fund for ongoing recycling for soft plastics, blister packs and batteries, the most popular items to recycle.

Not only did this project raise awareness and provide more recycling opportunities for the Foxton Community, new volunteers came on board and more residents are aware of broader work of Wildlife Foxton Trust through recycling.

Let's celebrate Recycling!



Wildlife Foxton is proud to be participating in a new initiative promoting options for non-kerbside recycling. We encourage residents and ratepayers to be more sustainable. Come in and learn about all the exciting options available at Wildlife Foxton Trust in the Foxton Beach Senior Citizens Hall, 207 Seabury Avenue. Open Mon, Wed, & Thurs. 9 – 12

Terracycle boxes for:

- Blister packs;
- Soft packaging;
- Shipping materials;
- Pens, pens & markers!

Recycling Buckets for:

- Dish and Air Care products; Razor products;
- NESCAFÉ Dolce Gusto Capsules;
- Hair Care Aerosol products;
- Hair Care & Colour products;
- Soft plastic Food Storage products;
- Colgate Oral Care products; Household Batteries

Reduce Recycle Reuse



Recycle the unrecyclable

We thank the following organisations for grant funding support:
And supporting Recycling Week 2025!



Environmental Network Manawātū:
Small Grants Environment Initiatives Fund 2025/6



Horizons Regional Council:
Pūtea Hapori Urupare Ahuarangi – Community Climate Response Fund



50threclaim
Serious About Recycling

7 Ngapera-Kehu Ahu Whenua Trust- Whanganui District

Improving the awa and whenua biodiversity- Awarded \$4864.50
2025/26 (two year project)

Climate action often involves co-benefits. For Nga Pera Ahu Whenua Trust, replanting a steep hillside behind papakainga aims to enhance biodiversity and improve water quality by limiting sediment getting into the awa whilst also stabilising the slope to minimise the risk of a slip threatening papakainga housing.

Year one of this two year project is complete. Over 1100 natives have been planted following site preparation. The QEII national Trust are also assisting monitoring lizards in a converted area of whenua. This monitoring will be expanded once planted natives become established.

A further 1000 native trees are planned to be planted in 2026-27. Once established, slip risk on the whenua will be minimised and a biodiversity corridor will enhance the growth of native flora and fauna.





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