



Sustainability Initiatives

Delivered by the Education & Community Climate Action Group

July 2023 – June 2024



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Foreword



Message from the Group Manager

This year's Key Achievements Report shows the progress we've made to help create a regenerative, sustainable Tāmaki Makaurau that is prepared for future climate impacts.

In the face of climate change and its cascading effects, our commitment to fostering sustainability and building climate resilience has never been more important.

Our initiatives and projects have amplified community-led climate action. From the Auckland Climate Grant to the Storm Response program, from Experience Centres to Schools and local board projects, each reflects our ethos of collaboration, innovation, and empowerment.

The Auckland Climate Grant distributed over \$360,000 to communities ready to take climate action. Demand for community funding far exceeded available resources, with requests totaling over \$2 million. Consequently, only one in six projects could be funded. Through projects like the e-bike trial initiative we can demonstrate the power of grassroots initiatives in driving change and fostering sustainable practices.

Similarly, the Storm Response programme has been established to support communities to build climate resilience across Tāmaki Makaurau. From wetland creation to māra kai (food garden) development, these initiatives demonstrate our commitment to empowering communities to adapt, thrive and be self-sufficient in the face of environmental challenges.

We have supported young people to lead climate action projects within their local communities through innovative programmes such as Mana Ora - Students Decarbonising Schools and continue to deliver experiential sustainability action programmes through Experience Centres that have reached over 21,000 young people and over 4,000 adults. Equipping and encouraging the next generation of environmental stewards to lead the charge into the future is a key pillar of our work.

In addition, our partnerships with organisations like Westpac, Bunnings and Vector, alongside initiatives like Trees for Survival, show the power of collaboration in driving positive change. Collectively, we have attracted \$700,000 funding from partnerships and non-rates revenue to deliver projects and more than 37,000 hours of volunteer work for climate projects this year.

As we celebrate these achievements, we also recognise the work that lies ahead. By continuing to work together, harnessing the collective wisdom and ingenuity of our communities, we can build a stronger future for generations to come.

I extend my deepest gratitude to all those who have contributed to these achievements – communities, partners, volunteers, our staff and council colleagues. Your dedication and passion inspire us to push the boundaries of what's possible and support our commitment to creating a more sustainable and resilient future for all.

Sincerely,

Sue Travaglia
Group Manager, Sustainability Initiatives

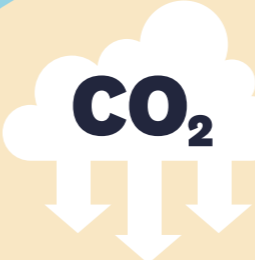
Group Achievements

\$700,000 funding from partnerships and non-rates revenue to deliver projects

\$1.4 million of local board projects delivered



Over **74,000** Aucklanders engaged in taking climate action



Over **6600** tonnes of CO₂ e-reduced

Over **100,000** people have now calculated their carbon footprint using FutureFit.nz
Over 10,000 achieved this year

90,000 trees planted by Trees for Survival

Over **5500** Aucklanders received home energy advice




61 community groups supported

65% of Auckland schools engaged in sustainability

143,000 tamariki and students in Enviroschools



Over **22,000** people visited our experience centres



7.1km of waterways planted by students in the Trees for Survival programme



Over **6700** bikes repaired at bike hubs

Delivering on Auckland Council's Strategic Priorities

1

Auckland Plan

We are committed to reducing emissions and ensuring we are resilient to the impacts of climate change.

2

Long Term Plan

Responding to climate change, Improving our water quality and natural environment, delivering for Māori designed with Māori.

3

Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan

Delivering on the Community priority of the plan through contributing to halving emissions by 2030 and net zero by 2050 and preparing Aucklanders for the impacts of climate change.

4

Environmental Services Business Plan

We deliver services to protect the natural environment and reduce the impacts of climate change to meet our legislative obligations under the Biosecurity Act, The Resource Management Act and national and regional plans and strategies, while empowering Māori and community-led action.

5

Education and Community Climate Action (E&CCA) Business Plan

We make sustainability action accessible and relevant for the diverse communities of Tāmaki Makaurau in partnership with Māori.

6

Education and Community Climate Action (E&CCA) LTP Measures

- Number of Aucklanders engaged in lowering emissions
- Percentage of schools engaging in sustainability action programmes.
- Carbon emissions reduction (measured by CO2e avoided).

Our Strategy

We've made progress over the past year towards our goals, but we still have much work to do to create a regenerative, sustainable Tāmaki Makaurau. Auckland's emissions continue to rise at a rate that is inconsistent with our climate ambition.

To reduce emissions by 50% by 2030 we need to take more action, respond faster, and support the community to do the same.

Auckland's Annual Gross Emissions

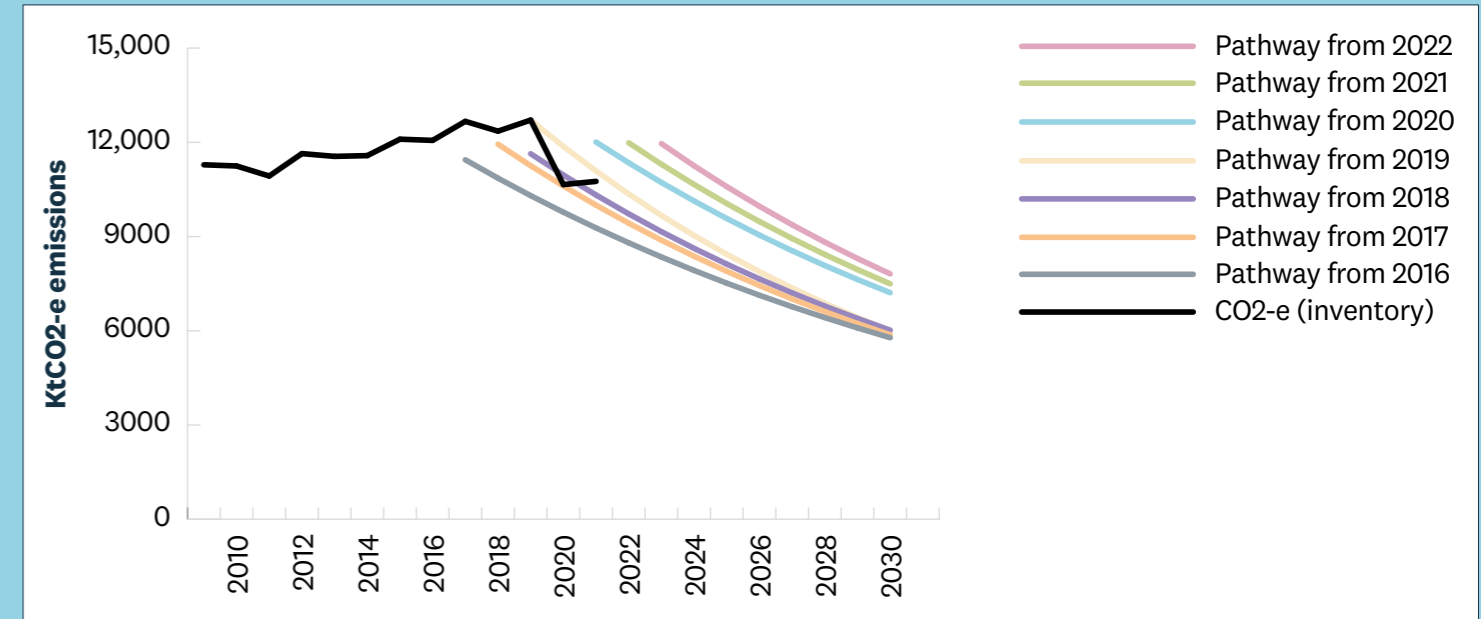


Figure: Comparison between this inventory (blue dot and line) and emissions data for decarbonisation pathway development (orange dot and line, and black dot). The large decrease seen in 2020 is likely due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Our Vision



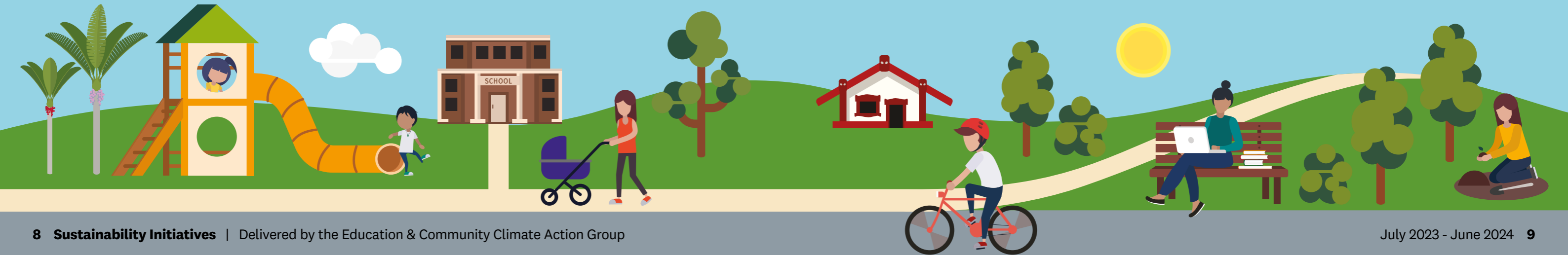
Climate Action Teams

The majority of people living in Auckland understand climate change and are taking effective action to reduce emissions for a regenerative, sustainable Tāmaki Makaurau.



Sustainable Schools Team

Young people and their whānau are hopeful and empowered to take action for a regenerative, sustainable Tāmaki Makaurau.



Our 2023 Focus Areas

1 Capability and Capacity Building	2 Sustainability Action and Experiential Learning	3 Māori-led and community partnerships
Build the capacity of community to empower collective action.	Scale and deliver programmes and projects that support people to take action in their communities.	Deliver projects which increase resilience of Māori and under-served communities to climate impacts.
Provide or help to find targeted support and funding to catalyse community action in high priority areas.	Support people across the region to connect to Te Taiao.	Enable Māori capacity to deliver projects that meet Māori aspirations for youth leadership and te taiao.
Provide training, professional development and events to build capacity.	Provide sustainability leadership opportunities for young people to lead and contribute to council sustainability projects.	Grow group capability in Te ao Māori.
Showcase best practice and innovation by schools, young people and other communities.		Prioritise the amplification and activation of Local Board projects that meet our mid-term goals.
Build capacity of E&CCA Group to support communities to reduce emissions.		Partner with business, government and community organisations. to scale or pilot innovative approaches to climate action.

4 Innovation and Project Design	5 Building a Community Climate Network	6 Communication, Advocacy, and Storytelling
Conduct research and development in identified high priority areas.	Support community groups to form a network to work together more effectively on climate change.	Develop and communicate accessible data and information for Aucklanders on the impact of climate change and effective actions they can take.
Scale and deliver successful pilots that address research and action gaps in Auckland and meet the needs of priority audiences.	Create a network of young people and supporting adult allies.	Co-create and share community visions of a sustainable and climate resilient future.
Integrate maximising co-benefits for resilience and a just transition into project design processes.	Strengthen relationships with Chief Sustainability Office (CSO), CCOs and other internal departments to provide effective support for community sustainability action across council and increase understanding of our groups' role.	Support advocacy for community and underserved groups within Council to drive systemic change.
Build capability in project design and incorporate into existing and future work.	Work with allies (including elected members) and build partnerships to support community climate action.	Contribute to a coordinated and connected Council climate comms campaign.



Auckland Climate Grant

Providing grants to amplify community-led climate action and strengthen community resilience to future climate impacts.



We allocated \$588,750 through the Auckland Climate Grant, with \$226,000 of that co-funded from budgets across the council group. This grant focuses on supporting projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and building community resilience to climate impacts, along with support for Māori-led responses to climate change.

Funding an e-bike trial by the Active Transport Trust was a key activity this year. With our support, the trust purchased a family sized e-Cargo bike for whānau to borrow, supporting those interested in switching journeys from a car to a cargo bike. The bike has been used by 139 whānau in the 12 months it has been available. Adult and child enjoyment from using an e-bike for the first time has been a project highlight and to date five whānau have gone on to purchase an e-bike as a result.

Storm Response projects

New Storm Response funding has successfully engaged communities in projects to build climate resilience.

This year we supported 11 community, 28 youth and two Māori-led marae-based projects to help high-risk communities and schools learn and take action to build climate resilience, following the severe weather events of early 2023.

Through participating in a range of upskilling and practical projects, these communities have built capability and social capital and developed knowledge and experience of how to build flood resilience, food security or energy resilience in their community.

Projects funded included:

- installing solar batteries to develop an off-grid community centre to build energy resilience
- wetland creation and tree planting activities with community groups to build flood resilience
- establishment of māra kai (food gardens) and improvements to the drainage of established food gardens to grow kai and provide storage for ongoing food security and resilience.



11,900
people
engaged



\$588,000
total funds distributed
via Auckland Climate
Grant and co-funding
across the council group



32
projects
supported



28%
of funding to
underserved
groups



\$480,000
distributed
to community
and school
climate resilience
projects



4280
people
engaged



40
community
groups
engaged



7500
volunteer hours
from Matuku
Reserve Trust
project

Experience Centres

Students at our Experience Centres are learning about building flood resilience and how to adapt to the impacts of a changing climate.

Students explore how urban planning and sustainable design can mitigate flooding, improve water quality, and enhance biodiversity through the spongy city programme being piloted at the Botanic Gardens. The programme showcases the Botanic Gardens' sustainable stormwater management features including permeable pavements, rain gardens, bioswales, and constructed wetlands.



Local board projects

E&CCA works with Auckland's local boards to give quality advice on sustainability and climate action initiatives led by our community partners and schools.

This year, we supported 56 local board work programmes across Auckland that delivered sustainability and climate outcomes for communities.

In Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, funding from the local board has supported schools and communities to connect to nature and increased awareness of climate change. Kingsford Primary School has developed school gardens, kitchen resources and composting facilities, providing experiential learning focused on food production and strengthening links between what we eat and where it comes from. Otahuhu College has been supported with māra kai (food gardens) development. The gardens are a focal point for the wider community and other schools, offering hands-on learning, access to culturally relevant food crops, connection to nature, and a school hangi pit. Both examples demonstrate how schools can be learning hubs for the whole community.



\$127,000
annual revenue



21,800
young people
engaged



4400
adults engaged



\$1.4 million
of investment from
local boards for climate
and sustainability
projects in the local
communities



56
local board
funded work
programmes

Mātātahi Taiao & Resilient Marae

Mātātahi Taiao and Resilient Marae are a kaupapa Māori approach to support mātātahi (young people) and marae to design and deliver their taiao (environmental) plan.

Mātātahi Taiao and Resilient Marae are Māori-led projects funded through Te Tāruke ā Tāwhiri to meet the needs and aspirations of iwi mana whenua, marae and Mātātahi Māori to deliver their taiao plan towards climate resilience.

This year we supported seven iwi mana whenua marae and one mataawaka marae to design and deliver their taiao plans. They focused on wai (coastal adaptation planning) and repo (swamp) restoration, māhinga kai (food), whenua (infrastructure, energy resilience), mātauranga and whare (capability building and employing whānau to deliver on their marae taiao plan).



Bunnings partnership

Children learning to build a solid future through the Sustainable Schools and Bunnings collaboration.

The Sustainable Schools team and Bunnings have supported over 20 schools in the past year to inspire their climate action journey.

School activities have brought together the Sustainable Schools kaupapa and the DIY prowess of Bunnings to design and build kai (food) gardens, orchards, composting systems and more. Bunnings generously donated product and staff time to these activities. This collaboration demonstrates how corporate investment can help empower students and their community, enabling better outcomes for climate and nature.



8 iwi mana whenua represented across both projects



17 mātātahi engaged



8 marae engaged



20 projects implemented



580+ hours contributed from Bunnings staff



20+ schools supported



Over \$30,000 of product gifted

Puhinui Schools and mana whenua collaboration

Iwi partnership with schools is realising mana whenua aspirations for the regeneration of Te Puhinui (the Puhinui Stream).

Ōtara Papatoetoe Enviroschools is a group of people moving together in a long-standing programme to create sustainable communities. They are partnering with Eke Panuku, Sustainable Schools, and mana whenua Ngāti Te Ata Waiohū to help regenerate the Puhinui catchment.

Through ongoing hīkoi (journeys) and hui (meetings) clusters, schools and iwi are developing a respectful collaboration involving planning, taking action, and sharing knowledge.



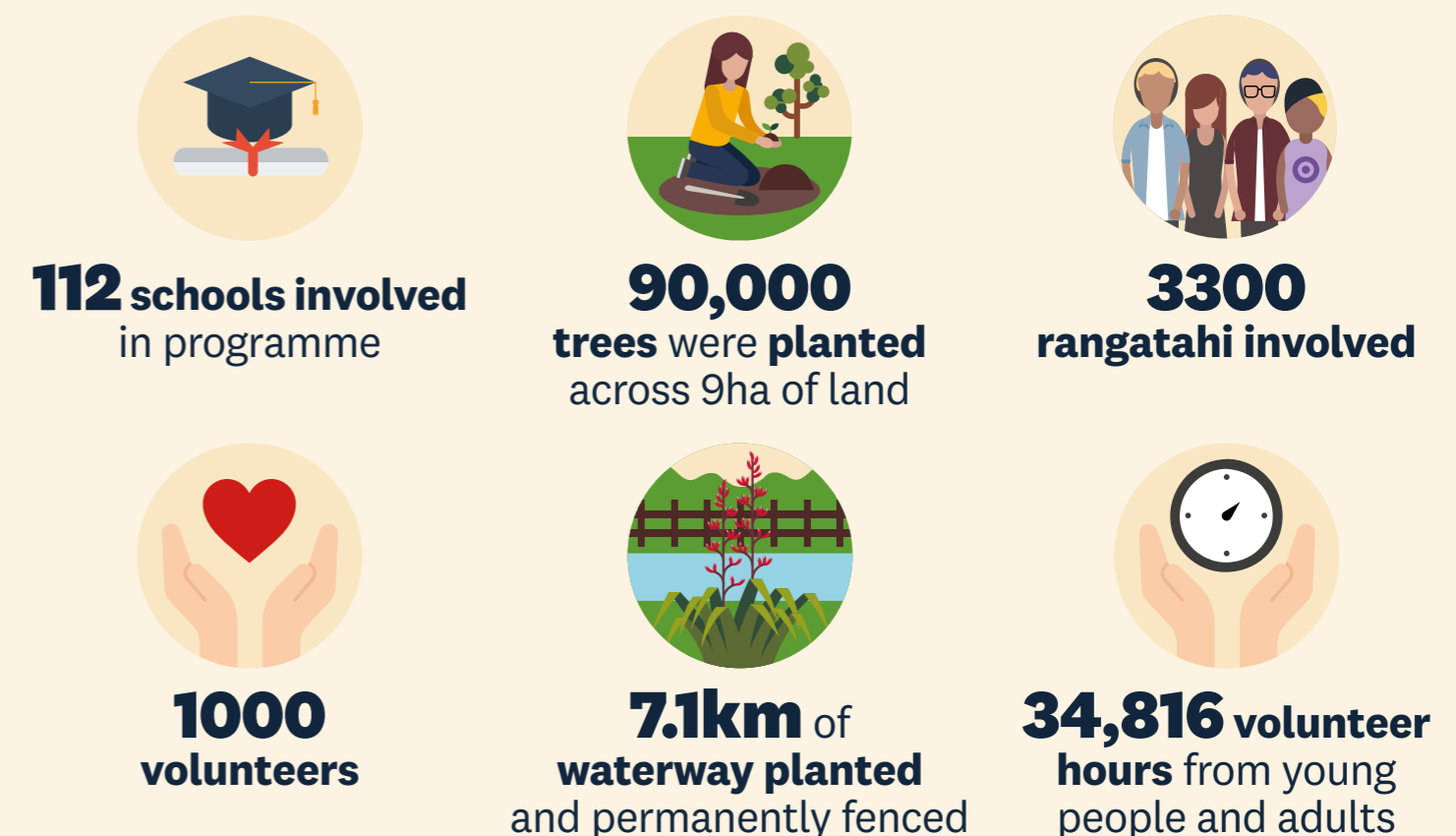
Trees for Survival

Trees for Survival empowers rangatangi (children) to make a positive difference to te taiao (the environment) through nurturing, growing and planting native plants, enabling restoration and creating a legacy for future generations.

Auckland Council has partnered for 33 years with the Trees for Survival Charitable Trust to support schools grow and plant native trees in the community. Schools receive up to 1000 eco-sourced seedlings, which they care for in a school shade house until ready for planting with the children and community on private land.



For the 2024 planting season:



Different Dinners and Climate Action Catalysts Network Project

Building the capability and capacity of our community partners Eco-hubs, through an innovative project to support more sustainable and climate-friendly food choices.

The Different Dinners with Ecohubs initiative was aimed at building on the successful results of our Different Dinner Trial and identifying ways to scale the kaupapa so that it responds to the needs of Auckland's diverse communities.

The Beautification Trust, EcoMatters Environment Trust, Kaipātiki Project, and Waiheke Resources Trust delivered the projects. These organisations ran various activations

such as local, plant-based cooking classes, recipe packs, plant-based food boxes and WhatsApp groups.

Community demand to participate was high and feedback has been encouraging. The Kaipātiki project has completed a follow-up evaluation survey which shows a significant increase in households eating more plant-based dinners. Follow-up surveys from other Ecohubs are underway.



Mana Ora: Students Decarbonising Schools

Mana Ora: Students Decarbonising Schools inspired over 6000 young people to design and deliver innovative solutions to address climate issues relevant to them, identifying the important contribution they make in creating a positive and hopeful future.

Students were upskilled in making decisions, managing a budget, and working with partners including Geological and Nuclear Sciences Limited, Auckland Transport, and community experts on activities to reduce greenhouse gasses and engage their wider community in contributing to a sustainable future.

Eighteen projects addressed sustainable transport, energy efficiency, community engagement, food resilience, regeneration of native areas, and waste recovery. Feedback identified that participation of students in these projects increased their resilience.

This project was enabled by the Westpac NZ Government Innovation Fund and Ministry for the Environment.



4 Ecohubs participated



400 Aucklanders engaged



25 events or workshops were held



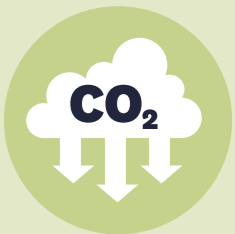
Over **6700** young people engaged



18 climate action projects supported



Over **20** partnerships developed



105 CO₂-e emissions reduced

Community Climate Action Network (CCAN)

Developing an organised community network to increase climate action and enhance coordination of activities across Auckland.

Auckland Council and E&CCA have helped bring Auckland’s extensive and diverse range of community climate action groups together into an organised network.

E&CCA funding and support has helped to set up a steering group, develop a strategy, create branding, and roll out a newsletter while regular networking events are bringing groups together and helping to deliver their plans and promote the kaupapa of “supercharging collective climate action.”



28
community
groups involved



13
meetings/events
held

Rangatahi Environmental Action Leaders

Empowering secondary schools’ students to take action towards a more sustainable and regenerative future.

Rangatahi Environmental Action Leaders (REAL) is a programme helping young Aucklanders become leaders in sustainability. It encourages around 50 students from across Auckland to act on causes meaningful to them by developing their skills and knowledge and supporting them in creating action plans for sustainable change in their schools and communities.

This year, a three-day wānanga (meeting) about sustainability issues in the Manukau Harbour enabled open discussion between students and mana whenua to learn and plan actions for the Manukau.



46
secondary
student
participants



21
schools
involved
from 15 local
boards



13
returning
leaders



8
partners
involved

Demonstration Climate Action Sites

Showcasing climate initiatives to encourage Aucklanders to take positive action.

This project highlights some of Auckland Council’s climate initiatives, linking them to actions people can take in their own home. The new climate action trail at the Botanic Garden is a great example. Each stop shows

a different intervention, such as switching to electric tools, and relating that to changes people could make in their own homes to reduce emissions.

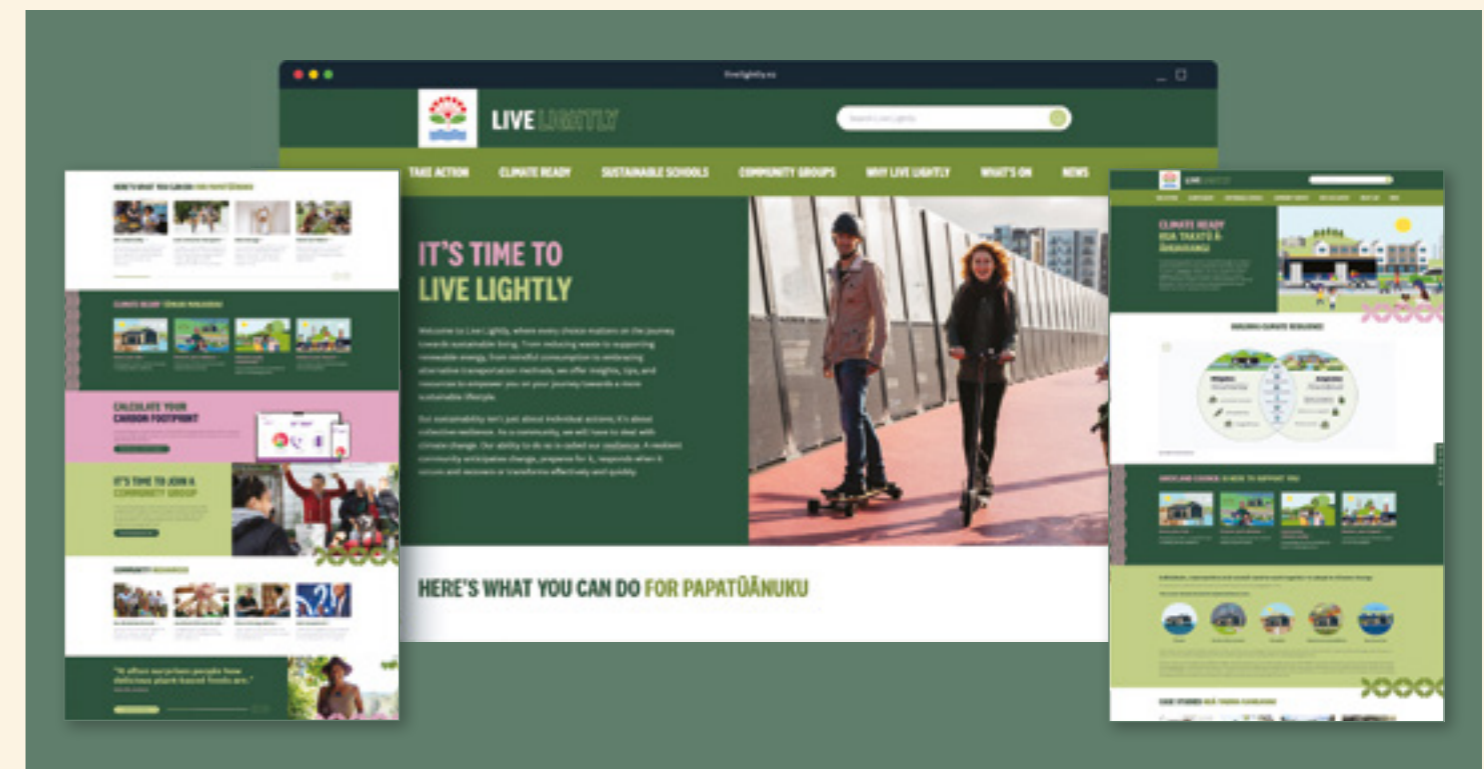


Live Lightly Digital Hub

The Live Lightly digital hub is a vital resource for promoting climate mitigation, resilience and adaptation, fostering sustainable community engagement, and driving meaningful climate action.

Live Lightly helps Aucklanders reduce emissions and become more resilient to climate change. It fosters informed and sustainable lifestyles by providing comprehensive climate action and resilience resources. The recent addition of an interactive community map

now enables users to connect with like-minded people and groups based on shared interests and location. This strengthens community bonds and facilitates collaborative efforts in tackling climate challenges.



2
demonstration
sites created



114,200 people
annually expected to be
reached through these sites



Developed an
interactive map
for sustainable
communities



Created **climate
resilience content**
for Tāmaki Makaurau



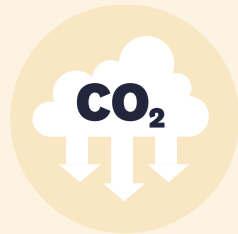
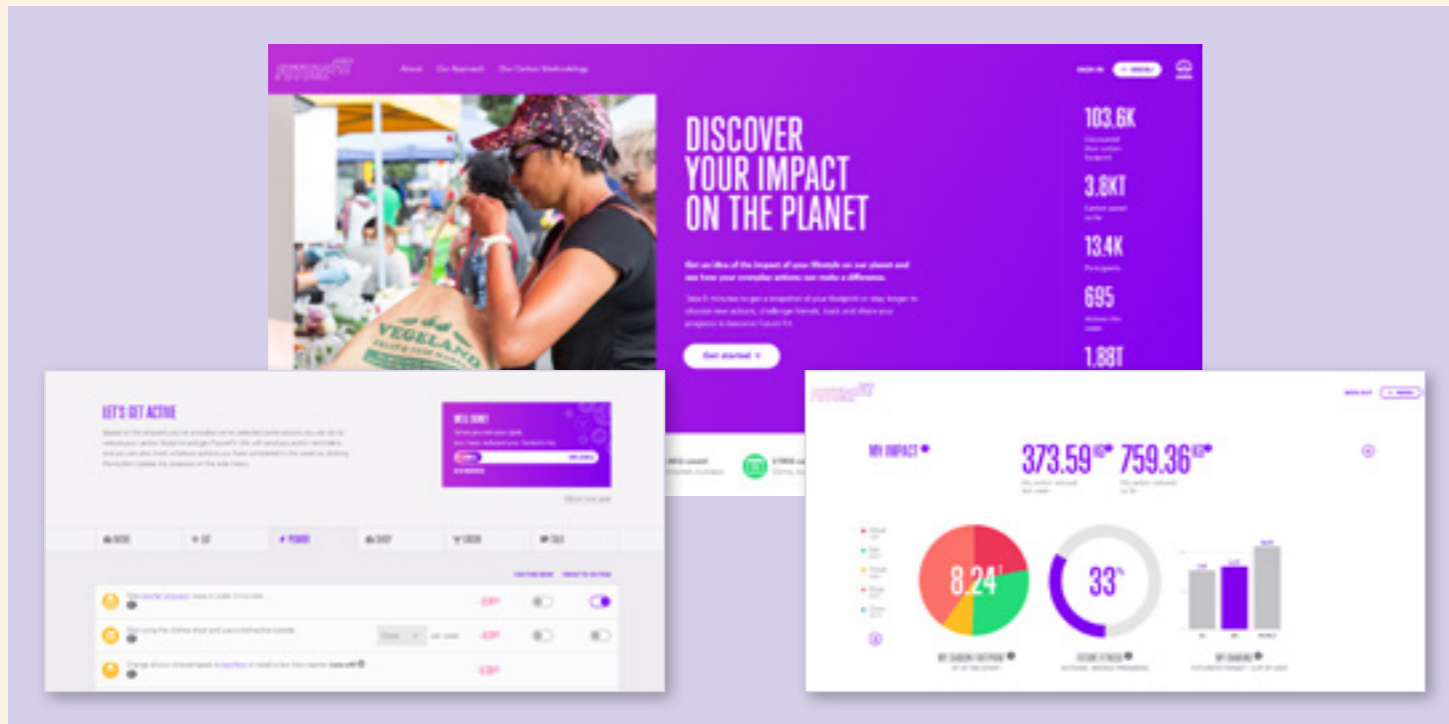
Website refresh
to improve user
experience and
information sourcing

FutureFit

Collective action on climate change is demonstrated through FutureFit, an engaging tool to help support and create engaged citizens who can contribute to large-scale social change.

FutureFit helps educate Aucklanders about meaningful climate action by enabling them to calculate their carbon footprint and pledge to take actions to reduce it. The tool has been effective, engaging over 13,000 Aucklanders last year. Together, users reported reducing over 500 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to Auckland’s goal of halving emissions by 2030 and achieving net zero by 2050. FutureFit not only

provides personalised emissions reduction plans, but also supports users to take further collective action, such as joining community groups or setting up eco-neighbourhoods. Businesses and other councils across New Zealand can use FutureFit to engage their staff to take climate action, generating non rates revenue for Council.



550 tonnes of CO₂e reduced



\$36,000 non-rates revenue



25 Businesses and Councils across New Zealand using FutureFit



10,400 people found out their carbon footprint





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