

Te Ara Urutau – Climate and Emergency Ready Fund

A journey to a resilient Tāmaki Makaurau

Frequently Asked Questions

General

1. How do I apply?

The application form and submission will be online, hosted via the website ‘SmartyGrants’. Once the fund is open for applications on 2 February 2026, we will provide links to the application form for *Te Ara Urutau – Climate and Emergency Ready Fund*.

2. What are the key dates for the fund?

Stage	Provisional Timeline
Application period opens	2 February 2026
Support available for applicants	Council staff will host a webinar on 5 February 2026 at 11:30am-12:30pm to give an overview of the grants available, application process and answer questions. Please register here for the webinar or contact us funding@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz for questions.
All applications due	8 March, 2026
Notice of decisions	By or before end of May 2026
Projects begin	Funding agreements anticipated to start by July 1, 2026, or sooner.

3. Is the fund only available in 2026 or is it a multi-year programme?

We anticipate this being an annual funding opportunity, but this is subject to funding availability.

4. What can be funded?

Communities and organisations can select up to two of the three following project categories to apply for. Please review the grant guidelines for full details and information.

1. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction *Maximum grant request: \$15,000*

Programmes and activities to build community understanding and participation in climate action to reduce high emitting behaviours.

2. Emergency Readiness and Response *Maximum grant request: \$15,000*

Projects, activities and resourcing to promote emergency readiness and community preparedness for emergencies (e.g. earthquake, flood, tsunami, volcano, storms and extreme weather events).

3. Climate Adaptation Planning and Implementation

3.1 Community-led **planning** and action projects to understand climate hazards (e.g. flooding, sea level rise, heat waves, drought, ocean acidification), risks they pose to community, and prioritise options and test actions to adapt to them *Maximum planning request: \$40,000*

3.2 **Implementation** funding for communities that have already developed a climate adaptation plan and/or have prioritised adaptation actions in a community process. *Maximum grant request: \$175,000 total for a two-year grant*

Please read the guidelines for full details and requirements, available [here](#).

5. Can I apply for more than one of these three categories?

Communities can apply for up to two categories of funding. This funding round is designed to support communities at any stage they are whether that be taking action to reduce carbon emissions, getting prepared for next emergency events, or planning for the long term through adaptation planning and implementation. This flexibility allows groups to focus on the areas that best match their priorities and stage of readiness.

6. Our community doesn't have an adaptation plan yet – can we still apply for Implementation funding?

Implementation funding (3.2) is designed for communities ready to deliver projects from an existing plan. If your community is still in the planning stage, Adaptation Planning funding (3.1) can help you build that plan while also supporting early actions or quick wins that strengthen community engagement and readiness for future implementation. See below sections for more information.

7. How do I apply for two categories?

The application form will enable you to apply for the following options:

1. Adaptation Planning (Category 3.1)
2. Greenhouse Gas Emissions reduction (1)
3. Emergency Readiness and Response (2)
4. Adaptation Implementation (3.2)
5. Adaptation Planning and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction (3.1 + 1)
6. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction and Emergency Readiness and Response (1+2)
7. Adaptation Planning and Emergency Readiness and Response (3.1 + 2)

The application form questions will be relevant to one or both categories chosen.

8. How do I determine the project budget?

Your budget should be based on the expenses you anticipate will be needed to make your project possible. Guidance such as [this](#) from Auckland Council can help you think through your budget.

Please be aware of the minimum (\$5,000) and maximum budgets outlined in the grant guidelines for each funding category. Applications will not be funded above the published maximum amounts. If you are applying for more than one category, you can combine the maximum budget amounts for your project. Please also note that reviewers will be looking at your entire application to ensure your budget matches the size and scale of your proposed outcomes.

9. How do I write a good application?

We anticipate the *Te Ara Urutau – Climate and Emergency Ready Fund* will be highly competitive, so preparing a strong application may require significant time and effort. We recommend you

download the application form early and answer each question with the assessment criteria in mind. Ensure your overall application incorporates all the information requested. Refer to the criteria that reviewers will use to review your application, listed in the “Assessment and funding decisions” section of the guidelines.

10. Are any supporting documents needed for our application?

The application form includes some questions for which documents can be uploaded if you have them. As part of the application process, a brief project plan and budget are included for all categories except for those just applying for the packages of emergency preparedness equipment and supplies.

11. Can I get help to fill out the funding form?

There will be an online webinar to provide an opportunity for questions. Date is Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 11:30am – 12:30pm register [here](#).

You can also email us if you have any questions at funding@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

12. I want to apply, but my group doesn't have a legal structure – what can I do?

You can apply through an umbrella organisation – a registered charity, trust, or incorporated society that agrees to receive and manage the grant on your behalf. They sign the funding agreement and are responsible for how the grant is spent.

Umbrella organisations may charge a small admin fee that you will need to include in your budget. It's your responsibility to find one, but if you need help, please contact us – we may know of groups that could assist.

13. How many times can my group apply?

Each organisation can submit one application, covering up to two eligible funding categories (see Question 5). However, your group can still partner with other organisations on as many applications as you like, if another group is the lead applicant. Partnerships are highly encouraged. Groups serving as an umbrella organisation can submit multiple applications serving in that role, including one for their organisation.

14. Who decides which projects are funded?

Delegates from across Council will assess the applications against the assessment criteria listed in the guidelines. All assessors will be asked to declare a conflict of interest with any applications they will make decisions or recommendations for. After decisions have been made, a summary of successful applicants will be posted in a public forum (i.e. website).

15. Do I need to complete a Disclosure of Interest

All applicants must disclose if an Auckland Council councillor, local board member or council employee has any interest or involvement in the activity for which they are seeking a grant. You will be asked these questions in the application form.

Receiving Grants

16. Where does the funding for these grants come from?

Auckland Council is combining multiple sources within its budget to make these grants possible, including investments from the Storm Response Fund and Auckland's Long Term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP).

17. How will the funds be transferred to successful applicants?

Funds will need to be paid to an organisation that is incorporated and meets the eligibility criteria. We will create a funding agreement for the organisation to accept and pay directly to their bank accounts via a Purchase Order. This is the same for Umbrella organisations.

18. Can it be paid into a personal or business bank account to be used on behalf of residents and communities?

No, only bank accounts held by Incorporated Societies or Charitable Trusts. If your group is not affiliated as an Incorporated Society or Charitable Trust you will need to find an organisation that is willing to 'umbrella' the application and funding on your behalf (see Question 12 above for what is an umbrella organisation).

19. Does the grant include GST?

No. Council funded grants are not subject to GST, however, any costs associated with the grant that have GST added, can be claimed back through GST returns if your organisation is registered for GST.

20. Does accepting funding require reporting?

All reporting requirements will be outlined in the funding agreement and will include at least a final report i.e., to show that the funding has been used for the purpose intended in the funding application.

If your application is successful and includes the development of resources for your community, and could benefit other groups in Tāmaki Makaurau, we will discuss with you how these might be made available on our website for others to use (with appropriate acknowledgements) or for Council to use.

Eligible Project Categories

21. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction:**21.1 How does the Te Ara Urutau – Climate and Emergency Ready Fund relate to the Auckland Climate Grants?**

The Te Ara Urutau – Climate and Emergency Ready Fund 2025/26 is inclusive of the Auckland Climate Grants Response round. Funding earmarked for Auckland Climate Grants response grants this fiscal year (2025/26) will be given to successful organisations applying to this Te Ara Urutau – Climate and Emergency Ready Fund. The Auckland Climate Grant has already given out its Strategic grant round this year.

21.2 Do we need to measure emissions reductions from our project?

Yes, however how you do this can vary depending on the project. Projects with physical improvements for example switching from a diesel generator to solar energy would need to provide information on reduced energy use. Other projects focused on reducing emissions through behaviour change would need to complete project reporting on the type of emissions reduction activity their project supports and the number of people who participated in the project.

21.3 What is the difference between climate adaptation and emissions reduction?

- i. **Emissions reduction:** Taking action to slow down climate change by cutting greenhouse gas emissions and protecting natural systems that absorb carbon. In Auckland, the biggest

opportunities for community-led actions to reduce emissions are in creating low-carbon transport options, food and energy.

- ii. **Adaptation:** Getting ready for the changes we're already seeing in our weather and environment – like heavier rain, hotter days, or rising seas – by finding smart, practical ways to live well despite them.

21.4 What types of activities can reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

In Aotearoa, household consumption of goods and services are producing 71 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions. Reducing consumption emissions through empowering Aucklanders to make changes at the individual and community level is a key strategy to reduce Auckland's overall emissions profile. The areas of highest emissions and greatest opportunity for reduction by communities are transport, food and energy (household utilities). For more details, visit the [Live Lightly website](#).

21.5 How can I get more information to develop my emissions reduction project?

To see previous recipients funded to reduce emissions through past Auckland Climate Grant rounds, visit the [Live Lightly website](#). To get advice on your emissions reduction project, you can also email hello@livelightly.nz.

22. Emergency Readiness and Response

22.1 What is emergency readiness?

The New Zealand integrated approach to civil defence emergency management can be described by the four areas of activity, known as the '4 Rs' - Reduction, readiness, response and recovery. Readiness refers to the steps you take to make sure you and your community are safe before, during and after an emergency or natural disaster.

22.2 What are some simple messages about readiness we can share with community?

Here are some key messages Auckland Council would like communities to know about:

[Get Home Ready](#)

[Get Community Ready](#)

[Get Work Ready](#)

[Get Kids Ready](#)

22.3 What kinds of emergencies do people need to prepare for?

Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland faces various hazards that can strike at any time, or with limited warning. While natural hazards like floods and severe weather are more frequent, others such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions occur less often but could result in major impacts. All these hazards can affect you, your property, and your community. For further information visit: <https://www.aucklandemergencymanagement.govt.nz/hazards/>

22.4 What is a community emergency hub or network?

Community Emergency Hubs are places where the community can come together after an emergency. They act as meeting points where people can support each other, share resources, and talk.

Unlike Civil Defence Centres, that are run by official agencies, Community Emergency Hubs are managed by the community itself. These hubs empower locals to take charge of their immediate needs and help one another.

All existing official Community Emergency Hubs and Networks formal are listed in the relevant [Local Board Emergency Readiness and Response Plan](#).

Key roles of Community Emergency Hubs include:

- **Information sharing:** After an emergency, communication lines may be down or unreliable. Emergency Hubs are a place to gather and share information about what's happening, what resources are available, and where to find help. It's also a place for emergency services to pass on important updates once they arrive.
- **Coordinating help and resources:** Hubs allow the community to share resources such as food, water, and medical supplies. They provide an organised way to identify who needs help and who can offer it, ensuring that support reaches those who need it the most.
- **Supporting one another:** Emergencies can be stressful. Hubs are places where people can check in on each other and offer emotional support, creating a sense of community during difficult times.

22.5 Where can I find my local board emergency readiness and response plan?

On the AEM website, here: [Local Board Emergency Readiness and Response Plan](#)

22.6 How do we become a community or marae emergency hub?

For further information about becoming a community or marae emergency hub please contact the Community Planning and Readiness Team at aeminfo@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

22.7 What is in the equipment packages that I can order for community or marae emergency hubs?

Packages that marae and community emergency hubs can select from are listed [here](#). Equipment and supplies are only for Community Emergency Hubs or Networks and Marae that are listed in the Local Board Emergency Readiness and Response Plans.

22.8 Can equipment costs such as servicing and operational costs be applied for?

Community Groups that were provided with equipment by AEM or the Recovery Office in previous years can apply for support with costs incurred to service and operate certain items such as Starlink and Generators. If you are one of these organisations, you can add your requested amounts into the budget on the application form.

22.9 How can I contact Auckland Emergency Management and where can I find more information?

More information can be found on the Auckland Emergency Management Website www.aucklandemergencymanagement.govt.nz

If you would like to contact Auckland Emergency Management, please call 0800 22 22 00 or aeminfo@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

23. Climate Adaptation Planning and Implementation

23.1 What is climate adaptation planning?

There are many ways to plan for your local hazards and adapt to climate change! While there is no one-size-fits-all approach, it comes down to three basic steps:

(1) **Understand Climate Change & You:**

Take time to understand and discuss how climate change might affect your community most (increasing floods, heat waves, sea level rise, wildfire, etc.). Engage as many diverse voices as you can!

(2) **Know your Risks:** Discuss with your community how these impacts might put the people, places or taonga you care most about at risk, and ways they can be protected.

(3) **Plan, Do and Review:** Outline and prioritise actions your community can work together to take now and into the future to future-proof your community



See question 21.3 for the difference between climate adaptation and emissions reduction.

23.2 What type of adaptation plan makes us eligible for the implementation funding?

Plans can take many forms, and there is no one-size-fits-all! Implementation funding is for communities that have already completed some type of community-based adaptation planning process and have actions they will implement. Reviewers will be looking to ensure your “plan” includes some specific actions focused on preventing or reducing risk to climate change impacts and hazards in your locality (i.e. increased flooding, sea level rise, heat waves, drought, ocean acidification).

Plans you submit may include a climate plan or local adaptation plan, Local Board Climate Action Plans, recovery plan, Taiao Plans, Marae Development Plans, or a broader community, facility or organisational plans or strategy.

23.3 Our community doesn’t have an adaptation plan yet – can we still apply for Implementation funding?

No, implementation funding (3.2) is designed for communities ready to deliver projects from an existing plan. If your community is still in the planning stage, Adaptation Planning funding (3.1) can help you build that plan while also supporting early actions or piloting projects that strengthen community engagement and readiness for future implementation.

23.4 What if my community wants to include more than just adapting to climate in our planning process, i.e. to reduce emissions, prepare for disasters?

That’s great! To maximise access to this limited funding, however, all applicants are required to apply for one or a maximum of two project categories. Even if you feel your work will have aspects of all three categories, please select just the top two that best align with your proposed project.