



Sustainability Initiatives

Delivered by the Education & Community Climate Action Group

July 2022 - June 2023





Contents

Message from the Group Manager	4
Group Achievements	6
Strategic Priorities	8
Our Strategy	9
Our Focus Areas	10
Capability and Capacity Building	12
Sustainability Action and Experiential Learning	14
Māori-led and Community Partnerships	16
Innovation and Project Design	18
Building a Community Climate Network	20
Communication, Advocacy and Story-telling	24
Building a Resilient Future	26

Message from the Group Manager

I am delighted to introduce this year's key achievements for the financial year 2022/2023.

Our group is responsible for delivering programmes and projects to support the goals of Te Tāruke a Tāwhiri | Auckland's Climate Plan, and the Natural Environment Targeted rate (NETR) by empowering people to collectively create a regenerative, sustainable Tāmaki Makaurau.

Our work programme is driven by evidence and designed for impact. It involves providing tools, resources, and specialist advice to support Aucklanders to take action. Our mission is to make sustainability action accessible and relevant for the diverse communities of Tāmaki Makaurau in partnership with Māori, by delivering community-based initiatives that both reduce emissions and build resilience to climate impacts. It has been a challenging year for our region with recent extreme weather events. This has further highlighted the need to act quickly to support community groups to reduce emissions and build resilience so they are better placed to help the people in their communities. We are also hearing Aucklanders want us to do more in this space with nine out of ten believing council has a role to play in supporting climate mitigation and resilience efforts (IPSOS, 2022).

We've made valuable progress this year. Our work to support underserved communities is growing. 20 per cent of grant funding was allocated to support Māori, Pasifika, Asian and youth-led climate projects in their local community. An additional 790 west Auckland households received energy advice and resources to warm their homes and save money on their power bill, with co-funding provided by central government and community partners. Through generating \$300,000+ of non-rates revenue, we extended the reach of several initiatives taking them from localised pilots to region-wide projects, including starting Mana Ora, a youth-led climate action project funded by the Westpac NZ Government Innovation Fund.

A key focus for our team is to collaborate with others across council to deliver our work programme. I'd like to express our thanks to everyone who has contributed this year. We can all achieve so much more by working together. We value your ongoing support to deliver climate and environmental outcomes for Auckland. We trust you will enjoy reading about this year's achievements and encourage you to get in touch if you would like to learn more about our work or are interested in collaborating with us.



Sue Travaglia
Group Manager, Sustainability Initiatives

Group Achievements

Over **5,000** tonnes of CO₂e reduced

89,000 trees planted by Trees for Survival

Over **5,000** Aucklanders received home energy advice

Over **136,000** tamariki and students in Enviroschools

Over **15,000** students visited our experience centres

5,500 metres of waterways planted by students in the Trees for Survival programme

386 schools engaged in sustainable schools programmes

Over **6,000** bikes repaired at Bike Hubs

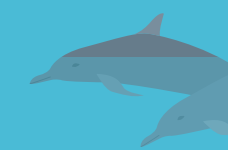
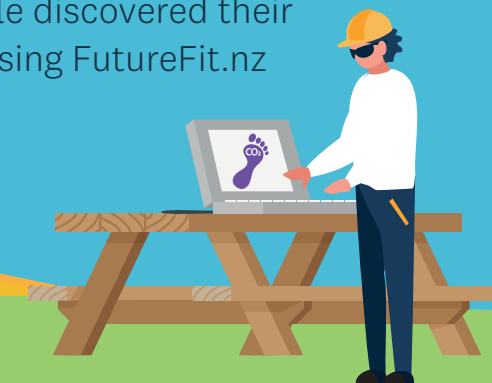
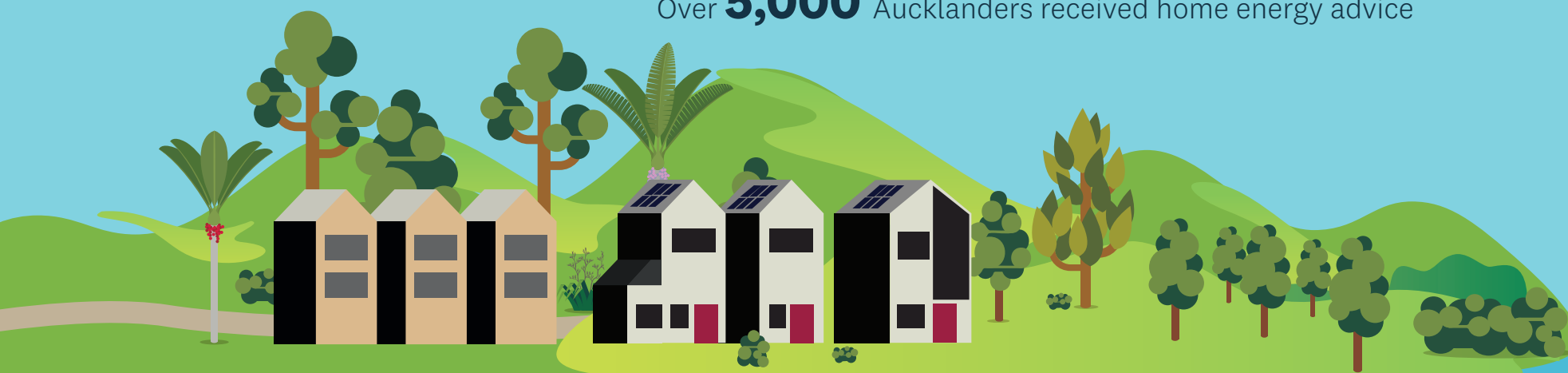
Over **63,000** Aucklanders engaged in taking climate action

12,000 people discovered their carbon footprint using FutureFit.nz

76 community groups supported

\$315,000 non-rates revenue generated

\$1.6 million of local board projects delivered

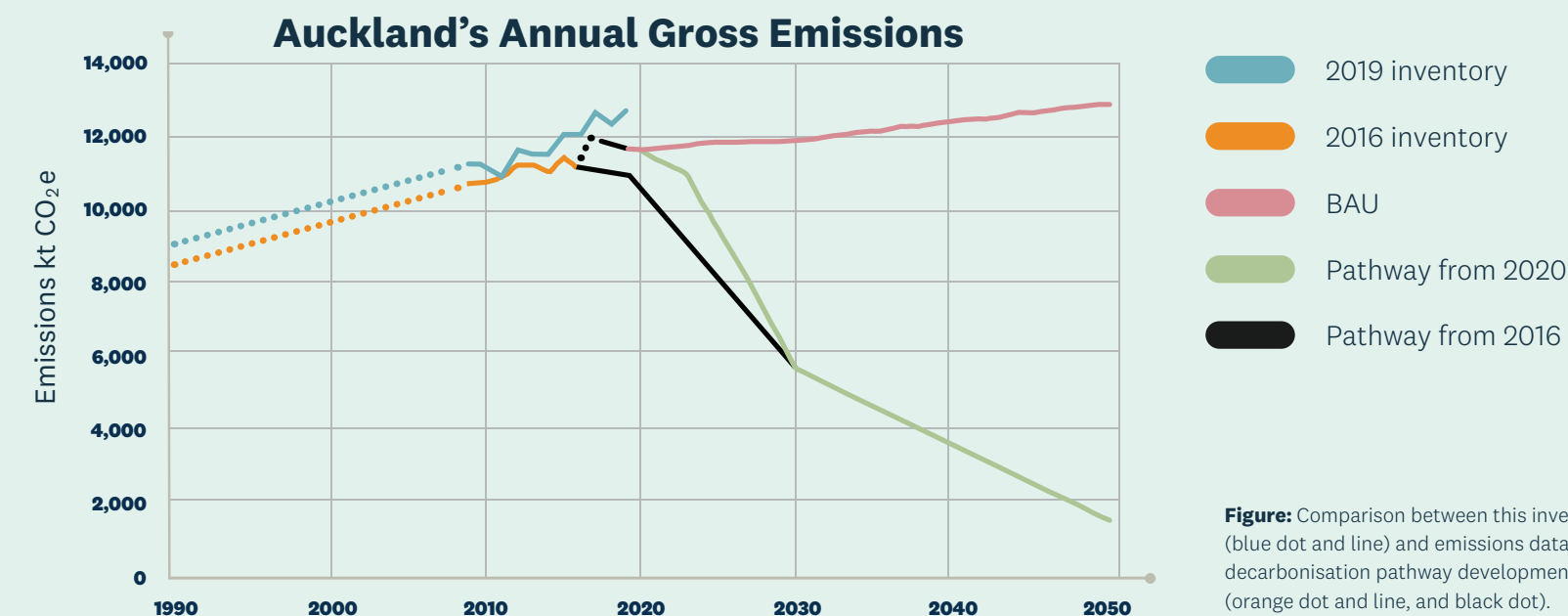


Delivering on Auckland Council's Strategic Priorities


- 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 Environmental Services Business Plan**
 Environmental Services delivers a programme of work that responds to legislative requirements and a number of regional strategies that aim to protect the values of Auckland's natural environment and support Aucklanders to reduce their carbon emissions and build resilience to climate impacts, while honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- 4 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.
- 5 Education and Community Climate Action (E&CCA) LTP Measures**
 - Number of Aucklanders engaged in living low-carbon lifestyles
 - Percentage of schools engaged in sustainability education programmes

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.



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.

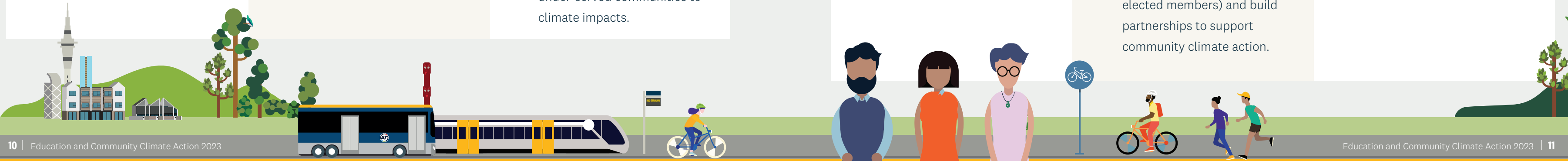


Sustainable Schools Team
Young people and their whānau are hopeful and empowered to take action for a regenerative, sustainable Tāmaki Makaurau.



Our 2023 Focus Areas

1 Capability and Capacity Building	2 Sustainability Action and Experiential Learning	3 Māori-led and community partnerships	4 Innovation and Project Design	5 Building a Community Climate Network	6 Communication, Advocacy, and Storytelling
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Showcase best practice and innovation by schools, young people and other communities. ➤ Provide or help to find targeted support and funding to catalyse community action in high priority areas. ➤ Provide training, professional development and events to build capacity. ➤ Build the capacity of community to empower collective action. ➤ Build capacity of E&CCA Group to support communities to reduce emissions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support people across the region to connect to Te Taiao. ➤ Scale and deliver programmes and projects that support people to take action in their communities. ➤ Provide sustainability leadership opportunities for young people to lead and contribute to council sustainability projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Grow group capability in Te ao Māori. ➤ Enable Māori capacity to deliver projects that meet Māori aspirations for youth leadership and climate resilience. ➤ Prioritise the amplification and activation of Local Board projects that meet our mid-term goals. ➤ Partner with business, government and community organisations. to scale or pilot innovative approaches to climate action. ➤ Deliver projects which increase resilience of Māori and under-served communities to climate impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct research and development in identified high priority areas. ➤ Scale and deliver successful pilots that address research and action gaps in Auckland and meet the needs of priority audiences. ➤ Integrate maximising co-benefits for resilience and a just transition into project design processes. ➤ Build capability in project design and incorporate into existing and future work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support community groups to form a network to work together more effectively on climate change. ➤ Create a network of young people and supporting adult allies. ➤ 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. ➤ Work with allies (including elected members) and build partnerships to support community climate action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop and communicate accessible data and information for Aucklanders on the impact of climate change and effective actions they can take. ➤ Co-create and share community visions of a sustainable and climate resilient future. ➤ Support advocacy for community and underserved groups within Council to drive systemic change. ➤ Contribute to a coordinated and connected Council climate comms campaigns.



Auckland Climate Grant

Providing targeted grants to accelerate community action in high priority areas.

The Auckland Climate Grant funds projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, build community resilience to climate impacts, and support Māori-led responses to climate change. Grant programme priorities for 2022/2023 were transport, food, energy and Māori-led projects. The grant also aimed to support more applications from historically under-served groups.

One of the projects funded was an urban gardening initiative, Whenua Warrior. With support from our grant and partners, Whenua Warrior created 600 gardens and empowered 600 families to begin their gardening journey. Over 12,000 edible seedlings were planted, four staff from south Auckland were hired, and they won 'New Zealand Gardener of the Year' award and a local hero award.



Youth Sustainability Action

Building capability and capacity within communities to empower collective action on climate change.

Over 700 teachers and community members attended capability building workshops about how to support young people to take sustainability action. Workshops increased the focus on resilience with themes such as regeneration of biodiversity, growing food, water quality monitoring, and Te Ao Māori. Capacity building activities empowered youth to address climate change concerns and make a positive impact in their community.



Experience Centres

Connecting young people to Te Taiao through programmes run at experience centres.

A visit to Arataki Experience Centre provided Henderson Valley School with an opportunity to understand the cultural narrative behind their schools' pepeha. Through learning local pūrākau and hands-on experiences in their local environment, the children and staff increased their understanding of mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge). The school actively shared the knowledge gained with whānau and their wider community.



347

children from Henderson Valley School connected to their pepeha through pūrākau.



15,196

young people have attended one of our five experience centres.



169

school communities have attended at least one of our five experience centres.



”

This learning experience was exactly what we hoped for in terms of links to our local area and building local knowledge. Very knowledgeable (educators) and able to relate to students.

- Cory Sullings, Henderson Valley School

Bike Hubs

Supporting communities to travel sustainably by providing affordable bike repairs and second-hand bikes.

The community climate action team supported seven bike hubs through local board funding spread across Waiheke, Glen Innes, Henderson, Māngere, New Lynn and Sandringham. The bike hubs aim to provide affordable and accessible transportation options to the community, contributing to low carbon mobility and reducing reliance on petrol vehicles.

Māngere Bike Hub

Early 2023 witnessed severe weather conditions and extensive flooding. The Triple Teez team, operators of the Māngere Bike Hub, played a crucial role in assisting their community. Many households lost vehicles in the flood resulting in a surge in requests for bicycles as an alternative mode of transport. The team successfully serviced over 30 donated bikes and distributed them in the community. They also assisted with tyre replacements, chain repairs, brake and wheel fixes and were quick to support volunteer efforts at flood support centres.



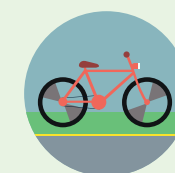
6,077

repaired bikes across Auckland



15,764

visitors received advice



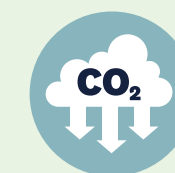
958

bikes distributed to community



2,249

volunteer hours supported



1,033

tonnes of CO₂e reduced



Healthy, Energy Efficient Homes

Support whānau to create healthy, energy efficient homes and save on power bills.

In partnership with community organisations and government we supported over 1600 Auckland households to improve their energy efficiency, occupant health and reduce energy bills. Eighty percent of households supported were low income whanau, estimated to each save around \$600 per year on their energy bills. Partners included Habitat for Humanity, Vision West, Ecobulb Ltd and the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment.



1,600

Homes assessed



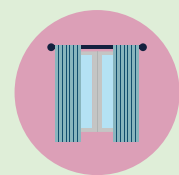
11,643

LED light bulbs installed



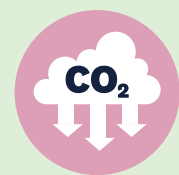
883

energy and water efficient shower-heads installed



6,846

curtains provided



259

tonnes of CO₂e reduced



Rangatahi Māori-led Climate Action

Partnering to create innovative approaches for rangatahi Māori to take climate action.

Te Aho Tū Roa

Nāku te rourou, nāu te rourou ka ora ai te iwi. A collaboration with Te Mauri Tau to deliver Te Aho Tū Roa, he kaupapa reo Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau focused on enhancing the mauri of taiao through locally relevant action projects including maara kai, puna (freshwater spring) regeneration and kaitiakitanga days.



1,189

Ngā taangata i uru atu ki roto i ngaa kaupapa i tautokona, i aarahina e Te Aho Tū Roa. Participants in kaupapa or supported by Te Aho Tū Roa.



24

Ngā hononga i whiria ki roopu kē atu mō ngaa kaupapa i tutuki. Partnerships to achieve successful outcomes.



27

Ngā kaupapa i arahina, i tautokona. Events, workshops, projects led and supported.



13

Ngā Kura Kaupapa Māori, Wharekura, Rūmaki Reo, Kohanga Reo i arahina, i tautokona. Education environments delivered in Māori language where the philosophy and practice reflect Māori values and world views.

Mātātahi Taiao

A roopu of 17 rangatahi Māori has been established to develop Māori-led climate action projects, based on four key priorities identified by rangatahi Māori: wai, whenua, kai and whare. The rangatahi have participated in a series of wānanga, to build whanaungatanga and have contributed to a pae tata (near term) work programme. Two pilot projects, involving repo (wetland) restoration and food production by local iwi, are now in the delivery phase.



17

Rangatahi recruited for the kaupapa who whakapapa to 8 mana whenua iwi and to 25 mātāwaka iwi/hapū.

Different Dinners

Different Dinners – an innovative project to support more sustainable food choices.

In response to questions from community groups, we partnered with the Research & Evaluation Unit (RIMU) to explore ways to support climate-friendly dinners. Several interventions were designed to address barriers like the perception plant-based food is not tasty, is not easy to make and is unfamiliar.

The results were positive and demonstrated many Aucklanders are willing to try eating less meat. All interventions were successful, whether it was providing recipe ideas and meal planning prompts, My Plant-Power food boxes, sending text reminders or encouraging people to make a commitment and a plan. The results will be used to support community-led climate action.



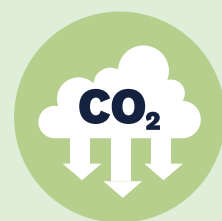
1.4 - 2.8

plant-based meals increased per week per household



732

voluntary participants



176

tonnes of CO₂e reduced - that's equivalent to planting 2,000 pine trees



Consumption Emissions

Development of spend-based emission factors and school emission reductions.

Development of spend-based emission factors enabled a better understanding of the biggest emission impact areas such as housing, food and transport. This can help inform relevant climate action activities for schools and communities.

Through our Sustainable Schools programme, students are taking action to reduce emissions by holding clothes swaps, creating community gardens, changing fuel source for heating, reducing vehicle use, and holding repair workshops. This understanding also supports students in career decisions by exposing them to different emission reduction pathways.



Auckland household emissions are around 15 per cent higher than the average New Zealand household.



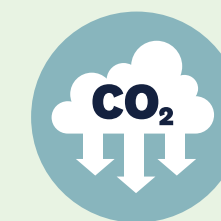
500

students involved in sustainability challenges



88

Enviroschools fostered a sustainable community



5,351

tonnes of CO₂e reduced



Eco-Neighbourhoods

Locals build resilience and reduce emissions through Eco-Neighbourhoods groups.

373 households across four local board areas were involved in active groups working on community resilience and sustainability initiatives. Several groups engaged in actions promoting flood resilience, like installing rainwater tanks or planting. Several groups responded to recent weather events by removing microplastics from streams and beaches.



48
groups



373
households



118
events



6,000
volunteer hours



250
bikes repaired



The Friends of Molley Green Reserve are running a successful community garden. This winter they harvested kūmara and yacon for neighbours to share, contributing to community connection and food resilience.

Enviroschools

Enviroschools as community hubs for climate action: Ope model - a group of people moving together.

305 Enviroschools in Tāmaki Makaurau engaged 136,200 tamariki and students in action for the environment. Young people were involved in a range of climate mitigation and adaptation projects to develop skills to share with whanau and households, creating ripples of awareness and action throughout their communities.

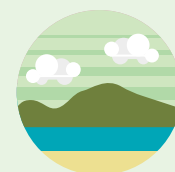
Enviroschools projects were collaborative and offered employment opportunities with local community action groups and sustainability education providers. Enviroschools in partnership with WINZ offered 30 weeks of fixed term employment and trained Enviroschools Learning Aides as part of the “return to the workforce” programme.



100% of Enviroschools took action on **waste minimisation**



97% of Enviroschools took action on **food production**



92% of Enviroschools took action on **regenerating the whenua**



83% of Enviroschools took action on **water health and conservation**



67% of Enviroschools involved in **energy conservation** and **sustainable transport** actions



16 local solo parent beneficiaries trained as **Enviroschools Learning Aides**





Youth Climate Catalysts

Building the capability and capacity of future youth climate leaders.

This project supported the development of youth climate advocates and leaders. Three young people were employed as youth climate catalysts. Through the project they were involved in a range of activities targeting youth such as taking part in the Social Innovation NZ Conference, planning to set up a bike hub in the university precinct and attending and moderating a session at the C40 World Mayors Summit.

One of the youth catalysts, Dylan Chand, went on to organise and run the Youth Climate Action Conference using money awarded to him through the Auckland Climate Grant. This two-day event included workshops, talks and panel discussions aimed at equipping young people with the tools and knowledge to be future climate leaders.

Dylan began his sustainability journey through our Sustainable Schools Youth Sustainability Programme at Avondale College and forged a pathway to a career in sustainability.



500

people **engaged** through youth catalyst projects



394

university students signed up to FutureFit



375

trees **planted** in Ātiu Creek Regional Park



300

people **involved** in the Youth Climate Action Conference



FutureFit

Communicating which actions make the biggest difference for reducing personal carbon emissions.

FutureFit makes it easy for Aucklanders to calculate their carbon footprint and see where their carbon emissions come from. It provides a personalised list of actions people can take to reduce their emissions and tracks their progress over time.

FutureFit has been successful for several years and last year over 12,000 people completed the survey to find their carbon footprint. Our 'FutureFit in Business' package has been updated to provide support for small and medium sized organisations to help their staff reduce their personal emissions. Last year Spark and ASB came on board and more recently, Chorus. This package creates revenue for Auckland Council. There is also a 'FutureFit Council' package available to other councils across New Zealand that also generates revenue. 21 councils have signed up in the past year.



FutureFit generated a lot of debate among our people, which was a great way to get them engaged and interested in sustainability and climate change.

TOM NEWITT - SUSTAINABILITY LEAD

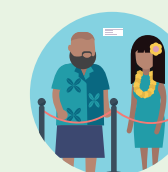


Pacific Vision Aotearoa

Creating a shared community vision of the impacts of climate change for the Pacific community.

Pacific Vision Aotearoa (PVA) was engaged to communicate the complexities of climate change to diverse communities consisting of people from many different nations, speaking various languages, some of which do not have a word for climate change. PVA focused on co-creating a shared community led vision of the Pacific experience of climate change.

A key part of this was the Pacific Climate Justice Exhibition, an event designed to capture Pacific voices of all ages using a variety of mediums, to express how they feel about climate change. The event ran for a month and drew a wide range of participants from across the Pacific community with students, dance groups, artists, story tellers, Pacific organisations, and community leaders all taking part.



268 people attended the opening night of the **Pacific Climate Justice Exhibition**



40+ organisations engaged by the **Pacific Catalysts**



Presented at **C40 World Mayors Summit**



Projects in Progress

This year we started some key initiatives and built on existing programs.



Community Climate Action Network (CCAN)

Community-led collective climate action. Over 40 representatives from a range of community organisations attended a hui and expressed a desire to work more collectively on climate action. A steering group was formed to drive the conversation - the Community Climate Action Network (CCAN). While still in its early stages, the network aims to provide a space for all interested community organisations to share knowledge, experiences, successes and develop new ideas and projects to take collective climate action.



Live Lightly

Supported 13,000 Aucklanders to take action and create a low-carbon, climate resilient future through providing digital resources and inspirational case studies relevant for individuals, community groups and schools. Key topics of interest this year were food, transport and energy. As extreme weather events have become more common, Live Lightly has supported the community, providing reliable information to help them prepare and build resilience. Future focus will be engaging our more diverse communities and exploring how to best support them with culturally responsive resources.

Projects	Description
<p>Mana Ora</p> <p><i>\$190K non-rates revenue</i></p>	<p>Mana Ora – Students decarbonising schools’ project is a partnership with the Westpac NZ Government Innovation fund and the and the Ministry for the Environment. The project supports Māori and English medium schools and early childhood centres to develop and implement meaningful climate action to build hope and demonstrate collective action.</p>
<p>Environmental DNA of waterways</p>	<p>Sustainable Schools are utilising new and innovative monitoring tools like eDNA to engage young people in using science to inform best practice in environmental regeneration.</p>
<p>Sustainable careers</p>	<p>The Enviroschools Sustainability Career Pathway Pilot Project provided job experience and mentorship for Māori and Pasifika rangatahi in sustainability-related careers. The evaluation has highlighted the importance of Auckland Council having an ongoing role in enabling young people to explore high quality green jobs as a vital career option.</p>
<p>Resilience kia rite kia mau project with Auckland Emergency Management</p>	<p>Kia rite kia mau - The Climate Preparedness and Resilience for School Communities pilot project aims to support our young people in preparing for future emergencies. It is being implemented in the Waitemata Local Board area, in partnership with the Resilience team and will subsequently expand across Tāmaki Makaurau.</p>

