

Environmental Sustainability



To help lower future rates and keep services sustainable, Council is reviewing whether services should stay the same, change, be reduced or stop.

Council's work on climate change and environmental responsibility includes tracking emissions, developing climate strategy, and helping reduce our environmental impact and prepare for climate risks.

Why is Council involved?

Council needs to understand and respond to climate risks so that infrastructure, services, and communities stay resilient over the long term. This work also makes sure environmental considerations are factored into planning and decision-making. This will help council to make informed, evidence-based decisions and weigh up costs of any future actions against any potential risks.

Without this work, Council would be less prepared for future environmental challenges and may face higher costs over time. In many cases, the cost of doing nothing is likely to be greater than investing early to understand and manage risks.

What we want to know

Some of Council's environmental sustainability work is required by law, to support planning, reporting, or existing bylaws. With climate change affecting our district more often and more severely, this activity also gives Council the strategic advice and evidence needed to plan and respond effectively.

However, some of this work is not required by law. Current work includes:

- Developing climate change and sustainability strategies and policies
- Measuring and reporting Council's greenhouse gas emissions
- Providing environmental advice on Council projects, planning, and decisions
- Working with other councils on regional climate change planning

We want to know what level of environmental sustainability work Council should provide.

Who benefits and how is it funded?

This activity is currently funded through a targeted rate across the district because the benefits are shared by all current and future ratepayers.

Climate change and sustainability strategy and policy

1. Should Council continue developing climate change and sustainability strategies and policies?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐

Carbon emissions tracking

2. Should Council continue measuring and reporting its greenhouse gas emissions?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐

Environmental advice

3. Should Council continue providing environmental advice to help guide projects, planning and decision-making?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐



Regional collaboration

4. Should Council continue working with other councils on regional climate change planning and initiatives?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐

Funding for emergencies

Many councils have established a disaster reserve fund, which is rates money set aside, to help repair Council infrastructure after natural disasters. This can reduce the need for large rates increases after a disaster by spreading recovery costs over time.

5. Should Council investigate establishing a disaster reserve or other options to spread the costs of emergencies over many years?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐

Other feedback

6. Do you have any other feedback about Environmental Sustainability?

7. Where do you live?

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ☐ Taumarunui | ☐ Ohura | ☐ Ongarue |
| ☐ Owhango | ☐ Waimarino | ☐ Rangataua |
| ☐ Ohakune | ☐ Raetihi | ☐ Waiouru |
| ☐ Other | | |