

Climate Change Strategy

Implementation Plan

October 2015



greater WELLINGTON

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Te Pane Matua Taiao



Greater Wellington Regional Council

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This document accompanies the GWRC Climate Change Strategy.

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1. Policies

The Greater Wellington Regional Council Climate Change Strategy sets out eleven policies that each relate to one of three overarching objectives.

Overarching objectives		Policies
Mitigation	GWRC will act to reduce GHG emissions across all its areas of influence, including its own operations, helping to create the conditions for a smart, innovative, low-carbon regional economy	1.1 Seek to remove barriers to the use and development of renewable energy and improved energy efficiency in the region
		1.2 Promote and provide attractive and accessible low emission transport in our own fleet and in future public transport contracts
		1.3 Encourage cleaner production and disposal practices in business and agriculture
		1.4 Demonstrate a commitment to low emissions across all our corporate activities and investments
		1.5 Support and coordinate tree planting and ecological restoration projects and protect carbon sinks from the impacts of invasive species
Adaptation	Risks from climate change-related impacts are managed and resilience is increased through consistent adaptation planning based on best scientific information	2.1 Consider the effects of climate change as an integral part of planning and decision-making
		2.2 Increase long-term adaptive capacity through the use of adaptive planning tools and techniques
		2.3 Identify key climate change information requirements
		2.4 Implement planning and policy measures that increase long-term resilience to climate change impacts
Engagement and Awareness	Community awareness of climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions increases and organisations and individuals know what they can do to improve the long term resilience and sustainability of the region.	3.1 Share knowledge
		3.2 Advocate, empower and collaborate

2. Actions

Strategic Planning will facilitate actions with the relevant lead departments

Policies	Actions 2015-2017	Examples/ modes of delivery	Status of Action	Lead departments	
1.1 Seek to remove barriers to the use and development of renewable energy and improved energy efficiency in the region	1.1.A	Partner with other councils and agencies to support community-driven innovations in renewable energy	Scale up Smart Energy Challenge	Not yet started	
	1.1.B	Give particular regard to the benefits from renewable energy when considering resource consents and notices of requirement, and when making a change, variation or conducting a review of the regional plan	Resource Consents Process	Underway and ongoing	Environmental Policy, Environmental Regulation
	1.1.C	Develop a framework to support and promote renewable energy generation, energy efficiency measures, and a secure and resilient transmission and distribution via the Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plan	Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plan	Underway	Environmental Policy
	1.1.D	Improve household energy efficiency through providing a rating framework such as the Warm Greater Wellington home insulation scheme	Warm Greater Wellington home insulation scheme	Underway and ongoing	Finance
	1.1.E	Explore opportunities for renewable energy generation and storage in the Wellington region		Underway	Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) office
1.2 Promote and provide attractive and accessible low emission transport in our own fleet and in future public transport contracts	1.2.A	Encourage active travel (e.g. walking, cycling, scootering) through school and workplace travel programmes	Active a2b, Spring to the Streets, Movin' March, Go by Bike Day, Walk to Work Day	Underway and ongoing	Sustainable Transport
	1.2.B	Support carpool and carshare initiatives	Let's Carpool	Underway and ongoing	Sustainable Transport
	1.2.C	Increase public transport patronage through improvements to the regional passenger transport network	Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan	Underway and ongoing	Public Transport
	1.2.D	Investigate use of sustainable (low carbon) fuel sources for passenger services		Underway and ongoing	Public Transport
	1.2.E	Work towards full electrification of the regional bus fleet		Underway	Public Transport
	1.2.F	Advocate for land use development that is well-integrated with transport infrastructure and supports a compact, well-designed and sustainable regional form		Underway	Corporate Planning, Environmental Policy

Policies	Actions 2015-2017	Examples/ modes of delivery	Status of Action	Lead departments	
1.3 Encourage cleaner production and disposal practices in business and agriculture	1.3.A	Work with businesses to improve energy efficiency and reduce environmental impact	Take Charge Business Pollution Prvntn prgrm	Underway and ongoing	Environmental Regulation
	1.3.B	Promote agricultural efficiency measures by working with farmers		Underway and ongoing	Land Mgmt
	1.3.C	Work through the Regional Waste Forum to continually improve waste practices and increase recycling	Regional Waste Forum	Underway and ongoing	
1.4 Demonstrate a commitment to low emissions across all our corporate activities and investments	1.4.A	Implement actions in the GWRC Corporate Sustainability Action Plan relating to council buildings and installations, employee travel, waste and resources, and policies and procurement	GWRC Corporate Sustainability Action Plan	Underway and ongoing	Corporate Planning
	1.4.B	Develop emissions reductions targets using the 2014/15 GWRC carbon inventory as a baseline. Measure and report future emissions increases or decreases.	GWRC Corporate Sustainability Action Plan	Underway and ongoing	Corporate Planning
	1.4.C	Divest the council from any direct investment in fossil fuel extraction industries and investigate existing non direct investment with a view to preventing future investment where practical.		Not yet started	Finance
1.5 Support and coordinate tree planting and ecological restoration projects and protect carbon sinks from the impacts of invasive species	1.5.A	Support provision of legal protection of forest land which can sequester carbon and safeguard natural ecosystems against development		Underway and ongoing	Biodiversity
	1.5.B	Maintain Regional park and forest land in covenant for at least 50 years as part of the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative	Permanent Forest Sink Initiative	Completed	Parks
	1.5.C	Advocate and provide incentives for tree planting and promote restoration of wetlands	Wlghtn Region Erosion Control Initiative, Afforestation Grant Scheme	Underway and ongoing	Land Mgmt
	1.5.D	Consider policy 1.5 when implementing Sustainable Land Use and Soil Conservation Plans		Underway and ongoing	Land Mgmt
	1.5.E	Protect native forest and vegetation by maintaining large scale pest animal management programmes	Regional Pest Management Strategy	Underway and ongoing	Biosecurity
	1.5.F	Work with community groups to facilitate and support tree planting and ecological restoration activities		Underway and ongoing	Biodiversity, Parks

Policies	Actions 2015-2017	Examples/ modes of delivery	Status of Action	Lead departments	
2.1 Consider the effects of climate change as an integral part of planning and decision-making	2.1.A	Develop a policy of assessing possible climate change implications of all projects/ proposals in council papers, reports and project plans		Not yet started	Democratic Services
	2.1.B	Fully consider the effects of climate change when assessing resource consent applications and notices of requirement		Underway	Environmental Regulation
	2.1.C	Where possible incorporate the aims, objectives and actions identified in this Strategy into regulatory and planning processes		Underway	Environmental Policy, Environmental Regulation, Corporate Planning
	2.1.D	Assess whether climate change implications have been adequately considered when reviewing existing policies		Not yet started	All departments
	2.1.E	For each activity or hazard being considered, identify whether it is vulnerable to climate change, what the relevant climate factors are and, if appropriate, evaluate risks and priorities and weigh these against other risks and opportunities		Underway	Flood Protection, Public Transport, Environmental Science
	2.1.F	Identify climate change risks to GWRC's functions and services and their estimated consequences and costs, as well as actions to mitigate each risk in GWRC's Risk Register		Not yet started	
2.2 Increase long-term adaptive capacity through the use of adaptive planning tools and techniques	2.2.A	Construct adaptation pathways maps in order to contrast and compare different flood management options in the region		Underway	Flood Protection
	2.2.B	Use adaptive planning concepts to understand and evaluate the potential long-term consequences of different policy actions	Sustainable Delta Game workshops	Underway	
	2.2.C	Support research into new technologies and new methods of adaptation to minimise risks from a changing climate		Not yet started	

Policies	Actions 2015-2017	Examples/ modes of delivery	Status of Action	Lead departments	
2.3 Identify key information requirements relating to climate change effects	2.3.A	Obtain up to date projections of climate change effects downscaled to the regional, catchment and local area level and apply this information consistently across all climate- relevant council plans and operations*		Underway	Environmental Science
	2.3.B	Provide sound technical input on the likely impact of localised climate change effects on regional resources, meteorological hazards and ecosystems to improve the overall robustness and adaptability of policy and operational approaches		Underway	Environmental Science
	2.3.C	Develop an ongoing environmental monitoring programme that can be sustained over the long term to help assess regional climate change threats and vulnerabilities	E.g. Driver-Pressure- State- Impacts- Response (DPSIR) model to provide context for climate change threats	Not yet started	Environmental Science, Biodiversity
2.4 Implement planning and policy measures that increase long-term resilience to climate change impacts	2.4.A	Integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation into regional spatial planning, including public investment and the management of private development		Not yet started	
	2.4.B	Ensure that climate change is a prominent feature in the development of the Regional Natural Hazards Strategy	Regional Natural Hazards Strategy	Underway	Environmental Policy
	2.4.C	Map the major watercourses / floodplains in the region with allowances for climate change based on the best available data		Underway	Flood Protection
	2.4.D	Undertake modelling to assess potential effects of sea level rise on freshwater abstraction **	Sustainable Yield Modelling for Waiwhetu Aquifer	Underway and ongoing	Wellington Water, Environmental Science
	2.4.E	Assess future water storage requirements for Wellington region's water supply in the context of projected climate change effects **		Underway	Wellington Water, Environmental Science

Policies	Actions 2015-2017		Examples/ modes of delivery	Status of Action	Lead departments
3.1 Share knowledge	3.1.A	Participate in national and international forums where there are opportunities to connect with other local government organisations so that experiences and learnings can be shared	Climate Change Impacts and Implications Research Programme (MBIE), Transforming Cities Thematic Research Initiative (University of Auckland), ICLEI	Underway and ongoing	Multiple departments
	3.1.B	Identify successful local government examples of adaptation actions and evaluate their suitability for addressing climate risks in the Wellington region		Underway and ongoing	
	3.1.C	Commission, facilitate or otherwise support region-specific research into climate change impacts and implications where it relates to council roles and functions and where knowledge gaps exist, and make this information widely available		Underway and ongoing	Multiple departments
	3.1.D	Publicise and celebrate climate change and resilience success stories in the region to inspire positive behaviour change		Underway and ongoing	Comms.
	3.1.E	Regularly measure and publish up to date information on greenhouse gas emissions in the Wellington region.	Victoria University of Wellington Summer Scholar Research Programme, Worcester Polytechnic (USA) Interactive Qualifying Project	Underway and ongoing	Flood Protection, Public Transport, Environmental Science
	3.1.F	Develop an online platform to serve as an information repository and a means to connect with others on climate change responses regionally and nationally		Not yet started	

Policies	Actions 2015-2017	Examples/ modes of delivery	Status of Action	Lead departments	
3.2 Advocate, empower and collaborate	3.2.A	Encourage and support communities and individuals to make their own contributions to combating climate change	Competitions, open days, GWRC-led projects, and social support tools	Underway and ongoing	Multiple depts.
	3.2.B	Strengthen ties with the insurance sector to help improve the market penetration of natural disaster insurance and realise the potential of insurance pricing and other financial products for risk-awareness, prevention and mitigation and for long-term resilience in infrastructure investment and business decisions		Not yet started	Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) office
	3.2.C	Advocate for stronger measures to address climate change drivers and impacts with central government and other relevant parties		Underway and ongoing	Executive Leadership Team, Councillors
	3.2.D	Engage university students in climate change projects through sponsoring student study programmes and internships. Involve schools in climate change projects and explore EnviroSchools as a possible mode of delivery.			
	3.2.E	Work with the community and with stakeholders to facilitate behaviour change.			
	3.2.F	Take an active leadership role, fostering public debate and awareness through, for example, hosting talk series', symposia, forums and other public events.			

Colour key: Actions to be undertaken by GWRC in conjunction with other partners

* Current projections are based on information contained in the IPCC's AR4 report. These will be updated with regionally downscaled data from the latest IPCC (Fifth Assessment) Report when that information is available. Information will be posted at gw.govt.nz/climatechange

** GWRC is working with Wellington Water to progress actions 2.4.D & 2.4.E

3. Performance measures and level of GWRC control or influence

These high level performance measures will be used to evaluate progress on the objectives of the strategy. More detailed measures and targets will be developed for individual actions as and where relevant.

Objectives	Performance measures	Level of GWRC control or influence
Mitigation	Reduced energy consumption (kilowatt hours per capita)	GWRC cannot directly control energy consumption in the region but can exercise indirect influence through supportive policies in the RPS (policies 7, 9, 10, 11, 45, 55, 56, 57, 65 and 67) as well as providing a rating framework and promoting community awareness.
	Reduced private vehicle kilometres travelled per capita	GWRC can influence through improvements to the regional public transport network as expressed through the Regional Public Transport Plan, policies in the RPS (9, 10) and the Regional Land Transport Plan, as well as advancing a regional integrated approach to spatial planning
	Increased (%) active and public transport mode share	GWRC can influence through improvements to the regional public transport network as expressed through the Regional Public Transport Plan, objectives in the Regional Land Transport Plan and promotion of active transport through school and workplace travel programmes.
	Increased energy efficiency of public transport fleet	Within the control of GWRC and public transport providers KiwiRail, Mana-Newlands and NZ Bus
	GWRC's corporate emissions are measured and reported and a reduction in council emissions is demonstrated	GWRC has significant control over emissions generated through its own activities and, to a lesser degree, its investments
	Steps are taken to divest GWRC of investment in fossil fuel and coal companies	Within GWRC control
	Increased rates of afforestation and reforestation in ways that enhance carbon sequestration and indigenous biodiversity	GWRC has a significant role in biodiversity management in the region, as well as owning and managing large areas of park and forest land. GWRC can also exercise some influence over tree-planting activities on private land through the work of the Land Management department
Adaptation	A policy of assessing climate change implications of all council projects/proposals is implemented	Within GWRC control
	Increased participation in adaptation planning workshops among officers and councillors	Within GWRC control
	Downscaling of climate projections to the regional and local level is completed and this information is used to inform strategic planning	This is contingent on the delivery of work being undertaken by the Ministry for the Environment and NIWA
	Improved resilience of infrastructure to climate change impacts, informed by outcomes from the UN-Habitat Making Cities resilient campaign*	GWRC can improve the resilience of its own infrastructure assets and can exercise some influence over the climate-resilience of regional infrastructure through policies in the Regional Policy statement
	Reduced vulnerability of communities to climate-related events	GWRC can exercise some influence on community preparedness and resilience, largely through the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO)
Awareness	Increased knowledge is derived through participation in regional, national, and international climate change forums	Within GWRC control
	More climate change and resilience focussed stories are shared with the community	Within GWRC control
	Increased mobilisation of venture capital for development of new enterprises in the region supporting mitigation and adaptation	GWRC can have some limited influence in this area, mainly through the work of the Wellington Regional Strategy office and WREDA
	Increased number of cross- council climate resilience collaborations in the region	Within GWRC control, though is contingent on the ability and willingness of other councils to collaborate
	Collaborations established with the finance sector to design and implement new financing tools that redistribute investment/performance risk and make regional investment in mitigation and adaptation more feasible and attractive	The ability to initiate connections lies largely within GWRC control, though design and implementation of new financing tools lies largely outside of GWRC control
	Ongoing collaborations are established with tertiary institutions to engage students in climate change research projects	This is largely within GWRC control, though does rely on availability of students and partnership opportunities with learning institutions

* The United Nations office for Disaster Risk Reduction. 2012. Making Cities Resilient Campaign – Strategy 2012-2015

The Greater Wellington Regional Council's purpose is to enrich life in the Wellington Region by building resilient, connected and prosperous communities, protecting and enhancing our natural assets, and inspiring pride in what makes us unique

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