

Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti O Kirikiriroa

Monitoring Report - February 2025



Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa is our long-term strategy to respond to climate change. It sets our vision for Hamilton Kirikiriroa to be a thriving, low-carbon city that responds and adapts to climate change.

The strategy includes three outcomes that will help us achieve our vision.



It also sets emissions targets for both the city and Council emissions. The targets are:



Our Climate Future is a key strategy for Hamilton Kirikiriroa and is supported by the Climate Change Policy. This strategy and policy apply across all Council business activities.

This document provides progress updates on delivery against the strategy outcomes. The following key is used:

Undetermined

Progress against this measure is not available for this report

Red

Progress against this measure is significantly off-track

Amber

Progress against this measure is off-track

Green

Progress is on-track

Progress of delivering the strategy:

February 2025

Based on ratings of each outcome, staff have determined that the overall strategy progress is amber.

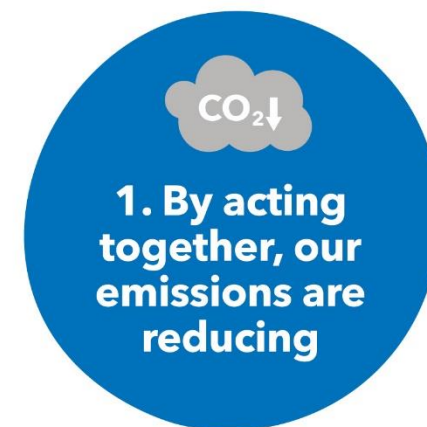


We have continued to deliver key actions to implement Our Climate Future. We've improved our ecological monitoring, flood hazard mapping, and are supporting more community resilience initiatives. Central Government Better Off Funding for 2023/24 supported Council's corporate sustainability initiatives and business and community climate action.

Important aspects of the strategy are at risk due to central Government policy changes and funding decisions. Achieving our 2030 city-wide emissions target is at risk as funding has been cut for low-emissions transport, which is the biggest opportunity for emissions reduction in our city. Latest modelling also outlines that we have lost many trees across the city over the last few years. This will impact our ability to prepare for heat and flooding impacts.

To ensure delivery of the long-term vision, we need to consider how our own long-term funding and priorities can better support the strategy outcomes.

Progress on some outcomes is undetermined as some measures have not yet been established, or updated data has not been received since the last report.



Outcome one: By acting together, our emissions are reducing

- Key successes have been the delivery of the Better Off Funded programmes. This included one programme focused on corporate sustainability, involving projects that work towards our Council emissions reduction targets, and another on building relationships with community and businesses, and delivering a climate action fund.
- The changes in how central government proposes to achieve the national emissions targets represent a key risk to achieving outcome one. Many policies from the first Emissions Reduction Plan, especially those that would help us to reduce transport emissions, are no longer being delivered. This means we are unlikely to achieve the 2025 turning point and are further at risk of not achieving our city-wide emissions target of a 30% reduction by 2030.



The overall progress for outcome one is amber.

How we'll know we are successful	Rating
We are progressing towards our emissions targets – Council emissions	Green
We are progressing towards our emissions targets – Citywide emissions	Red
Emissions from transport are decreasing.	Red
There is an increase in the community's awareness of our climate change response.	Grey
The number of businesses acting on climate change is increasing	Yellow
The quantity of material entering the waste stream is decreasing – kerbside	Yellow
The quantity of material entering the waste stream is decreasing – resource recovery centre	Green
The quantity of material entering the waste stream is decreasing – from Council sites	Yellow

Measure	What we are doing
We are progressing towards our emissions targets – Council	<p>Council emissions</p> <p>In 2023/24 Council’s operational emissions (excluding biogenic emissions from the Wastewater Treatment Plant) were 9069 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents (tCO₂e). This is a 20% decrease from 2018/19.</p> <p>Biosolids management, electricity, and natural gas continue to be our largest sources of emissions, but we’ve seen reductions in almost all emissions sources over 2023/24.</p> <p>Several projects have been delivered that have or will provide emissions reductions for Council:</p> <p>Reducing natural gas use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of the upgraded air conditioning system has been completed at the Municipal Building. This has eliminated natural gas use at the Municipal Building, saving 25 tCO₂e a year. • The bio-gas boiler at the Wastewater Treatment Plant ran exceptionally well throughout 2024, meaning that natural gas was used infrequently. This resulted in a reduction of natural gas emissions of 31 tCO₂e. <p>Renewable electricity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the Better Off Fund, we invested in solar panels for St Andrews Library to support the power needs of this site.



Measure	What we are doing
We are progressing towards our emissions targets – Council	<p>Creating energy savings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacing the aeration blowers at Pukete Wastewater Treatment Plant reduced the power rating by 200kW. • Our roading corridors use LED streetlights to ensure the highest energy performance for one of Council's largest electricity loads. We've also introduced remote access and management of sports lighting to save energy. • We've invested in a filter system for the 25m, 50m, dive, and Lido pools at Waterworld which can achieve water savings of 90%, energy savings of 50%, and chemical savings of 30%. The hydro slide at Waterworld now runs on occupancy sensors rather than a fixed time, reducing the run times of large pumps. Energy savings were also made over summer at both Gallagher Aquatic Centre and Waterworld by utilising the warmer weather and decreasing pool water temperatures to minimise heat loss evaporation. • At Te Kete Aronui Rototuna Library, an intensive review of the air conditioning system has reduced unnecessary power use. • New air handling and environmental controls implemented as part of the upgrades at the Te Whare Taonga o Waikato Museum will meet the gallery space conditions while minimising energy use. • Our renewal programme has focused on replacing and renewing older and less efficient equipment. For example, we've replaced gas boilers at the Central Library, resulting in a 20% efficiency gain.



Measure	What we are doing
We are progressing towards our emissions targets – Council	<p>Changing the way staff travel for and to work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We've created a Mevo car-share hub at the Municipal Building for Council staff to use alongside other businesses and individuals. Based on the success, we're now looking to create additional hubs at Waterworld and Hamilton Gardens. • Nine electric vehicle chargers have been installed at Council sites to support the roll-out of our fleet of electric vehicles. • We have been trialling Uber for Business for staff to use instead of taxis and rental cars (for both domestic and international travel). These pilots have been successful, and we are planning to implement this across the organisation in 2025. • Bee cards and Auckland Transport cards are now available for staff to use public transport throughout Hamilton and Auckland. • A new e-bike and e-scooter room and end-of-trip facilities have been completed to support active travel. So far, approximately 250 Council staff have been trained on how to use our fleet e-bikes and 88 staff trained on using our fleet e-scooters. • Our e-bike purchase initiative for staff ended in 2023/24 after five years. During this time, 94 e-bike loans were taken out by staff and 10 staff purchased e-bikes outright.
We are progressing towards our emissions targets – City-wide	<p>City-wide emissions</p> <p>We do not have an update on city-wide emissions for 2023/24 (the last emissions profile was for 2021/22 and was off-track at the time). However, given the changes in the approach by central government to achieving the national emissions targets, the emissions reduction we were anticipating for Hamilton Kirikiriroa, especially from transport (at 64% of our profile), is now at risk.</p> <p>A project has commenced in collaboration with 18 other councils and the Ministry for the Environment to begin measuring our city-wide emissions every year. A dashboard will be created to track progress and understand the impact of government policy on our emissions.</p>



1. By acting together, our emissions are reducing

Measure	What we are doing
Emissions from transport are decreasing	<p>We do not have an update on the emissions from transport in Hamilton Kirikiriroa as this was last done as part of the 2021/2022 emissions profile. However, changes made to transport funding and the Government Policy Statement for Land Transport in 2023/24 limit our ability to deliver projects that will reduce emissions and provide credible, safe alternative options to travel by vehicle over the next three years.</p> <p>Prior to these changes, significant investment was made into transport infrastructure through the Climate Emergency Response Fund (CERF). The benefits of the CERF projects will not be realised without the ongoing funding needed to implement a connected network for active and public transport.</p>
There is an increase in the community's awareness of our climate change response	<p>We do not have an update for this measure, as the 2024 Quality-of-Life Survey did not include a question related to this topic. An update will be provided in the next monitoring report, as the 2025 Quality-of-Life: Pulse Survey will include relevant questions.</p> <p>To improve our community awareness of Council's climate change response, we provide a quarterly newsletter, Te Pae Tawhiti: Delivering on Our Climate Future. As of December 2024, the newsletter has 579 subscribers and a high level of engagement.</p>



Measure	What we are doing
The number of businesses acting on climate change is increasing	<p>Te Waka - Waikato Regional Business Sentiment Survey April 2024 posed the question to businesses on how they are managing the risk of climate change. In Hamilton, 58% of businesses that responded are not considering climate change risks at present. We will investigate other ways to measure this metric following the closure of Te Waka.</p> <p>Through the Better Off Fund, we initiated a Sustainability: Walk the Talk programme with the Community and Enterprise Leadership Foundation (CELF). This programme invites local businesses to share and learn from each other's sustainability journey. Each of the three sessions in 2024 were well attended, and we are looking at ways to continue the programme post Better Off Funding. Council also supported the Go Eco Carbon Response Programme which supports small and medium enterprises to reduce emissions.</p> <p>We have supported businesses to reduce their emissions through alternative travel options. In February 2024, Council supported the Aotearoa Bike Challenge which saw 19 businesses and 433 people across Hamilton Kirikiriroa participate. For World Car Free Day in September 2024, staff visited three large organisations to promote cycling to work and held a community event which over 200 people attended.</p>
The quantity of material entering the waste stream is decreasing - kerbside	<p>The amount of waste to landfill through Hamilton's kerbside service (red rubbish bin) in 2023/24 was 18,200 tonnes, equivalent to 98.22kgs per person. This is an increase on 2022/23 (15,992 tonnes, equivalent to 88.89kgs per person).</p>



Measure	What we are doing
The quantity of material entering the waste stream is decreasing - resource recovery centre	<p>The amount of residential waste to landfill at Hamilton's Resource Recovery Centre in 2023/24 was 9805 tonnes, equivalent to 52.91kgs per person. This is a reduction on 2022/23 (10,932 tonnes, equivalent to 57.7kgs per person).</p> <p>In May 2024, the 2024-30 Waste Management and Minimisation Plan was approved which includes the vision that 'Hamilton Kirikiriroa is leading the way towards a low-waste city'.</p> <p>In September 2024, the Resource Recovery team collaborated with Go Eco and Hospice Waikato to deliver Thrifty Threads, a pop-up op-shop experience held at The Meteor. The event raised awareness about textile waste and encouraged the reuse of goods through second hand shopping. Thrifty Threads was a tremendous success, with over 2000 people helping to divert 18,000kg of textile waste from landfill.</p> <p>A reusable cup trial was run during 2023/24, with six local cafes using the Again Again platform.</p>
The quantity of material entering the waste stream is decreasing - from Council sites	<p>Waste to landfill from Council sites for 2023/24 was 1,072.76 tonnes. This is an increase on 2022/23 (1,025.43 tonnes).</p> <p>A key waste reduction achievement in 2023/24 was the Founders Theatre/Boyes Park project, which saw 94.72% of all materials in the building diverted from landfill. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 304.87 tonnes (100%) of construction demolition materials (excluding concrete and steel) • 2591 tonnes (100%) of concrete • 14 tonnes (100%) non-ferrous (not iron) materials to community groups and reuse • 282 tonnes (100%) of steel <p>170 tonnes of asbestos were taken to a certified landfill.</p>



Outcome two: Our neighbourhoods enable low-carbon living

- We are still looking to establish baselines for two measures of success under this outcome, making it difficult to assess progress so far. Status is therefore undetermined until we are better able to measure progress.
- Plan Change 12, which targets high- and medium-density housing close to transport networks and key centres in our city, is critical to ensuring we create compact, connected, and healthy neighbourhoods with access to low-carbon travel options. Plan Change 12 was publicly notified and became effective from December 2024.
- As with outcome one, changes in central government direction for transport funding do put outcome two at risk.



How we'll know we are successful	What we are doing
More people are using active transport options (e.g. walking, biking, scooting) within their neighbourhoods	<p>We are yet to establish a baseline for this measure.</p> <p>Throughout 2023/24, we have been continuing to support the uptake of active transport in schools. We delivered our Kids on Bikes programme to 16 schools and taught cycling skills to 1628 students. 133 of these students learned how to ride a bike for the first time. Five schools received the Kids on Scooters pilot programme, in which approximately 500 students participated. We also supported two new walking school buses with 22 children and their caregivers. We're also working with ECEs to support their Happy Feet programme with two new centres joining this financial year.</p> <p>In addition, the 2024 Quality-of-Life Survey found that 43% of (527) respondents in Hamilton agreed or strongly agreed that their local bike network is safe.</p>

How we'll know we are successful	What we are doing
<p>There is an increase in the use of public transport</p>	<p>2023/24 saw 16.5 bus trips per capita in Hamilton Kirikiriroa. This is an increase on 14.01 bus trips per capita in 2022/23.</p> <p>There has also been considerable growth in bus patronage across the region and in Hamilton. In Q3 of 2024 there were 839,500 passengers in Hamilton city, an increase of 16.4% compared to the same time the previous year (Q3 2023, which saw 721,000 passengers). This is mainly driven by the increased patronage for Meteor, Orbiter, Comet, Claudelands, and Rototuna services.</p> <p>In addition, the 2024 Quality-of-Life Survey found that 16% of (527) respondents in Hamilton used public transport at least once a week. This is an increase compared to the 7% of (541) respondents in the 2022 survey.</p> <p>There have been a number of changes to Hamilton's bus services over 2023/24 including the launch of the high-frequency Meteor service carrying (on average) over 9000 passengers per week; increased bus frequency across the Hamilton network by 102 trips per week; and two trial services connecting Matangi and Tamahere to Hamilton due to public demand.</p> <p>An additional stop for Te Huia has been added at Pukekohe. The train service recorded a 99% passenger satisfaction rate in 2024. In 2023/24 Te Huia carried 79,720 passengers, a 13% increase on 2022/23 (70,964 passengers).</p>



How we'll know we are successful	What we are doing
More of our homes and buildings are incorporating sustainable design principles	<p>We are yet to establish a baseline for this measure.</p> <p>We produced a Sustainability Guide for new residents of Peacocke to enhance the environment and live more sustainably. This includes information about sustainable building materials, saving water and energy, and waste reduction.</p>
Our communities are actively making low-carbon choices as they recognise the benefits of doing so.	<p>We do not have an update for this measure, as the 2024 Quality-of-Life Survey did not include a question related to this topic. An update will be provided in the next monitoring report, as the 2025 Quality-of-Life: Pulse Survey will include relevant questions.</p> <p>We have been focused on building climate change knowledge in our community to support low-carbon choices. In 2023/24 we delivered the first round of an online course, Living Lightly, where residents learn simple tips to take climate action. The first intake saw 100% of respondents saying they'd recommend the course to others, and 100% of respondents saying they made a change because of their participation in the course.</p> <p>We also hosted five workshops focused on exploring the science of climate change and identifying local solutions to the challenges we face. Attendees' feedback was that the sessions were "inspiring", "informative and empowering", and "a great learning experience".</p>



Outcome three: Our city is ready for Hamilton's climate

- We are currently establishing or have only recently established baselines for most of the success measures under this outcome, so it's difficult to assess progress so far. Status is therefore undetermined until we are better able to measure progress.
- We've worked with the University of Waikato to understand how we may need to respond to extreme heat events in Hamilton Kirikiriroa and are developing a Civil Defence Heat Response Plan for the city which will include things like using community centres as cooling centres and ensuring adequate water availability. Through the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan, parks and play spaces renewals will have more focus on providing shade to ensure usability in increased summer temperatures.
- The [Hamilton Kirikiriroa Kai Map](#) has been developed to support our community with access to free food and reduce food waste. Council is working with others to support various community groups to grow and develop community gardens, such as the community garden at Gudex Court. Providing local food options will protect communities from food availability issues and price increases as the climate changes and impacts the health of the local environment.



How we'll know we are successful	What we are doing
Our roads and cycleways are meeting our community's needs despite the changes in climate and extreme weather events	We are yet to establish a baseline for this measure.

How we'll know we are successful	What we are doing
Native vegetation cover has increased to 10% by 2050	The Nature in the City Ecological Inventory conducted in 2023/24 shows that native vegetation cover is 2.5%. This is on track with projections to 10% by 2050.
Tree canopy cover is increasing across the city	<p>Final modelling is yet to be completed, but initial findings suggest a significant decrease in tree canopy cover across the city since 2019/2020.</p> <p>Plan Change 12 includes provisions to enable the procuring and planting of street trees and the design, construction, and landscaping of upgrades to neighbourhood parks. A Tree Policy is also in development to retain street trees where possible. This will support more tree canopy across the city.</p>
Our stormwater system continues to minimise the impact on the awa despite changes in rainfall	<p>We are yet to establish a baseline for this measure.</p> <p>District Plan Change 14 - Flooding focuses on better managing flood hazard across Hamilton Kirikiriroa using the best available information. This plan change is publicly notified and opened for community feedback throughout early 2025.</p> <p>The Rotokauri Greenway is a key piece of infrastructure that will provide a nature-based solution for stormwater for new developments. Construction of the greenway is expected to begin in late 2025.</p> <p>As we develop Peacocke, our newest residential area, we are establishing around 30 wetland areas to help with stormwater management. Wetland areas by the new bridge, Te Ara Pekapeka, have been completed.</p>

How we'll know we are successful	What we are doing
<p>Water is being conserved by our community, businesses, and at Council facilities</p>	<p>Total citywide water consumption in 2023/24 was 22,588.93 mega million litres. In 2023/24, the average daily water use per resident was 323 litres per day. This is a lower water use rate compared to three of the past four years (338 litres in 2021/22, 331 litres in 2020/21, and 348 litres in 2019/20) however was higher compared to 2022/23 (308 litres). This result indicates the continued success of the water conservation and water use campaigns and programmes of work.</p> <p>We continue to undertake water leakage detection, maintenance, and renewals to maintain our water supply networks. In 2023/24 the percentage of real water loss from the water network in the city was estimated to be 11.6%, a reduction on the previously estimated 14% in 2022/23. This is an estimate of how much water is lost from the system between the water treatment plant and the household or customer. Higher levels of water loss indicate a network that is in poor condition or operating inefficiently, so a lower number indicates improvements.</p> <p>Investments and policies related to Three Waters management will be impacted by our response to Local Water Done Well (central Government's changes to the arrangements for water services across Aotearoa New Zealand). As we work through what the arrangements will mean for Council and our community, we will better understand how the climate change impacts for water services will be considered.</p> <p>Water use agreements are being developed for each Council facility that will outline water demand management and conservation actions.</p>

How we'll know we are successful	What we are doing
Our community is more aware of the impacts of climate change in Hamilton Kirikiriroa	<p>We are yet to establish a baseline for this measure.</p> <p>Funding for a Civil Defence community engagement plan was approved in the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan, which will support community understanding of the risks and hazards that climate change presents for Hamilton Kirikiriroa. This will also improve community preparedness for extreme weather events.</p> <p>We have updated Floodviewer, an online tool that supports community awareness related to flood hazards in Hamilton Kirikiriroa. It includes information on flood depression areas and overland flow paths across the city, providing detailed flood hazard mapping for 90-95% of Hamilton Kirikiriroa.</p> <p>We supported a climate change partnerships project on Maara kai, that includes understanding the impact of climate change on kai.</p>

