Our Climate Statement 2024/25

Hamilton City Council
Te kaunihera o Kirikiriroa

Contents

From the Chief Executive

The changing climate presents both challenges and opportunities for Hamilton City Council, our city, and our community. As stewards of Hamilton's future, we recognise the urgency of preparing for these changes. We are focused on strengthening our climate change response, acknowledging that improving our organisational climate change maturity is essential.

Improving our climate maturity means looking inward, evaluating how we work, and embedding climate change considerations into every aspect of Council operations. From governance and decision-making to risk management and day-to-day processes, we are committed to ensuring climate resilience and the transition to a low-carbon future is a core part of how we serve our community.

This year (2024/25) has been about setting up for success on our climate change maturity journey. Our Executive Leadership Team endorsed the 2025–2028 Climate Change Maturity Roadmap, signalling an organisation-wide commitment to advancing our climate response over the next three years. As Chief Executive, I have prioritised building climate knowledge within my leadership team, recognising that meaningful change must be led from the top.

We are committed to fostering a culture of climate education and action across Council. We've started to improve the quality of our climate data and modelling, tailored specifically to Hamilton Kirikiriroa, and are reviewing our Climate Change Policy – our key tool for assessing climate impacts in decision-making. These efforts will support more informed conversations and better outcomes for our city.

While we've made good progress, we must also acknowledge the increase in our corporate emissions over the past year. Although our emissions remain below our 2018/19 baseline, the rise since 2023/24 highlights the need to further embed climate action into our operations and behaviours to meet our 2030 emission reduction target.

This document, Our Climate Statement 2024/25, is our second climate change disclosure report. It reflects the progress we've made in the first year of our climate maturity journey and reaffirms our commitment to a low-carbon, resilient future for Hamilton Kirikiriroa. We will continue to report annually, ensuring transparency and accountability as we move forward.

Lance Vervoort

Tumu Whakarae

Introduction

Our Climate Statement 2024/25 is Hamilton City Council's second annual climate change disclosure report. It is part of Council's wider, ongoing climate change maturity work which looks internally at how we are integrating and responding to climate change across the organisation. This report provides an update on how we are managing climate change risk, and the key actions we have delivered over the last 12 months.

The focus for 2024/25 has been setting out what we need to do and establishing our work programmes. We have developed a three-year Climate Change Maturity Roadmap for the organisation which outlines the workstreams required to improve our climate change maturity. As we implement these workstreams, the outcomes and improvements will be reflected in Our Climate Statement reports.

We have made progress improving our climate change risk data so we have more up-to-date and specific information for Hamilton Kirikiriroa. A review of Council's Climate Change Policy is also underway, which will ensure more useful climate change information is provided to our management and Elected Members to make decisions. A cross-organisation climate change education programme has been developed which will support our staff and decision-makers to better understand climate change risks and opportunities, and what they mean for our city and Council.

While progress has been made since Council's first climate change disclosure (Our Climate Statement 2023/24), we are still early on in our maturity journey and recognise there is a lot more work to do.

Climate change disclosures

A climate change disclosure is a public statement about an organisation's climate risks. It outlines the processes, systems, risk management, monitoring practices, and management and governance structures that the organisation is putting in place to respond to the risk. In summary, it shares how the organisation is changing its way of working to address climate change. Our Council is not currently captured under the mandatory climate change disclosure regime in Aotearoa New Zealand – we are choosing to report annually as part of our climate change work programme.

Producing these reports aligns with best practices for understanding, taking responsibility for, and responding to climate change risk. This reporting drives a better response to the climate change risks across the organisation. It also provides stakeholders with an update on how well the organisation is prepared for the transition to a low-carbon and climate resilient future.

Our approach to climate change disclosures

The Taskforce for Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) has informed the global approach to climate change disclosures. The TCFD recommends that an entity should disclose information about how climate change risks and opportunities are integrated across its governance, strategy, risk management, and metrics and targets. Building on the TCFD recommendations here in Aotearoa New Zealand, the External Reporting Board (XRB) have issued Climate Standards (NZCS) to provide a consistent framework for considering climate change risks and opportunities across these four domains.

Council completed an assessment of how we are currently integrating climate change across the organisation using the TCFD domains and NZCS in 2023/24, and the findings were reported in Our Climate Statement 2023/24. As we are at the start of our climate change disclosure journey, we do not currently have all the information required by the framework and standards. In addition, the TCFD framework and NZCS are intended for use by the financial sector, which means in some areas the approach needs to be altered for the local government context (see Figure 1). Where practical, we are working to voluntarily align with the NZCS.

As we continue to complete our disclosures each year, we anticipate the information and our alignment with best-practice standards will improve.

Figure 1. Applying the TCFD framework for Hamilton City Council

	Description of TCFD domain	Translation to Council context
Governance	How the organisation's governance oversees climate change issues, and how management assess and manage those issues.	How Council ensures climate change is receiving the appropriate attention from Elected Members and the Executive Leadership Team. This includes understanding how they are informed of climate change risks and opportunities, and whether climate change is considered in their decision-making to ensure climate risks are managed.
Strategy	Understanding the impacts of climate change and the low-carbon transition on the organisation's business, strategy, and financial planning, and how the organisation is responding.	How well Council understands the climate change impacts (including financial impacts) for both our organisation and Hamilton Kirikiriroa, and how well these impacts are factored into long-term strategic planning so we are prepared for the transition to a low-carbon and climate resilient future.
Risk management	How the organisation identifies, assesses, and manages climate change risks, and how these processes are integrated into the organisation's existing risk frameworks.	How Council has identified and evaluated climate change risks for Hamilton Kirikiriroa and our own organisation, and how these are integrated into our overall risk profile. This includes understanding if the risks are considered over the appropriate timeframes, and how the risks are being addressed.
Metrics and targets	How the organisation measures and monitors its climate change risks and opportunities, such as emissions targets, investments in climate adaptation, etc.	How Council is monitoring progress towards a low-carbon and climate resilient future for our organisation and for Hamilton Kirikiriroa. This includes how Council and city-wide emissions are reducing in line with our targets, how we are measuring progress against other key indicators, such as extreme weather impacts on our infrastructure and services, and any risks to achieving these.

Governance

This section outlines the role of Elected Members in overseeing climate change risk and opportunities, and the role of the Executive Leadership Team in assessing and managing these risks and opportunities.

Summary

What we've achieved (2024/25)

- Provided strategy implementation updates to Elected Members.
- The Climate Strategy Advisory Group provided direction to staff.
- Reviewing Climate Change Policy Appendix to improve climate change assessments and information provided to decision-makers.
- Establishing a Climate Change Education Programme with tailored resources for managers and governors.

What we need to improve

- Strengthen governance and management frameworks to ensure climate change information is applied to decisions.
- Consistency, depth, and quality of climate change information provided to decision-makers, and how this is monitored.
- Understanding of climate change and managing climate change risks.

Hamilton City Council is made up of two key parts: the governance body and the organisation.

Elected Members

The governance body includes the Elected Members who set the strategic direction and have oversight of our climate change response. For the 2022-25 triennium, all of Council (the Mayor and all Elected Members) have had oversight of the climate change strategy, Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa, and the Climate Change Policy. Their role is to ensure that decisions are not inconsistent with the strategy, and the Policy is designed to ensure they receive information about the climate impacts of key decisions. The committees that have a governance role in relation to climate change risk for the 2022-25 triennium are shown in Figure 2, along with their climate change responsibilities and delegations.

In February 2025, Council received an annual update on the delivery of Our Climate Future (see Council Open Agenda 11 February 2025). This report highlighted the achievements and challenges with the implementation of the strategy over the previous 12 months.

For the 2022-25 triennium, Council also established an internal panel for climate change – the Climate Strategy Advisory Group. This sub-group of Elected Members provide advice to staff relating to the implementation of Our Climate Future and the Climate Change Policy.

The Climate Strategy Advisory Group met five times over the 2024/25 financial year. The Advisory Group meetings included discussions on the climate change maturity programme, corporate and city-wide emissions, climate change risk assessment and management, and any key risks to programme delivery. The Advisory Group also discussed how to best support Elected Members with their climate change knowledge, which has informed plans for the climate change education programme in the 2025-28 Climate Change Maturity Roadmap. This is key to building the

appropriate skills and competencies to oversee climate-related risk and opportunities, aligning our governance decisions with Our Climate Future, and to properly consider climate change impacts when making these decisions.

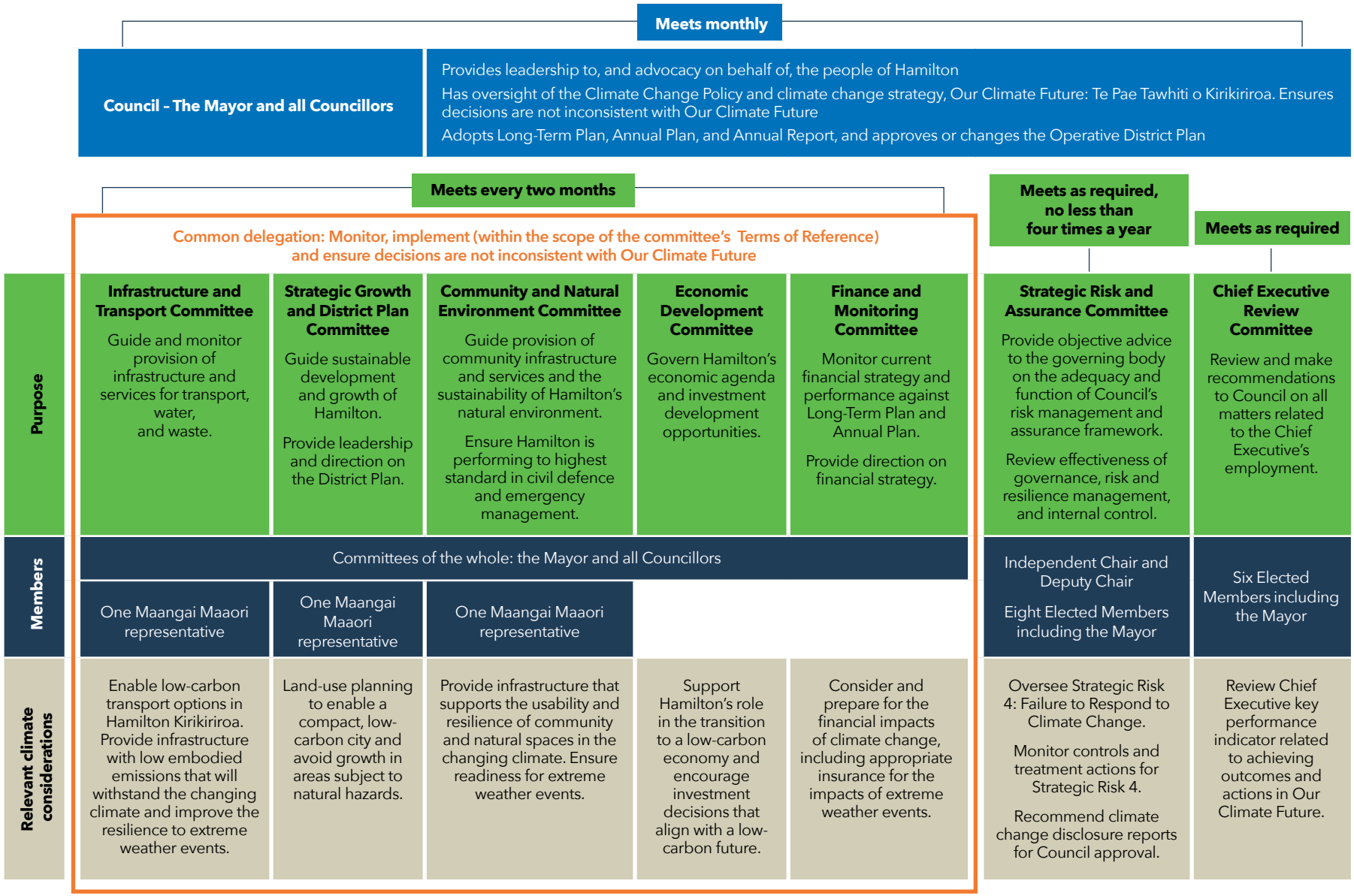
Having these Advisory Group meetings has been useful for directing staff work programmes. For Elected Members that have engaged, it has improved their understanding and oversight of climate change risks and opportunities. However, the Advisory Group membership is only a third of our Elected Members (five members). This means we are still not seeing the cross-Council engagement with climate change at the governance level.

Continuing to strengthen our governance frameworks for climate change will remain a focus as we move into the new triennium (2025-28). However, as the Mayor and Elected Members of the day decide on council and committee structures, these are likely to look different following the local government election in October 2025. Staff will work with the new council to integrate climate change in the new governance structures and will take learnings from this year to make improvements. This will include working with new and existing Council-controlled organisations (CCOs), which are shown in Figure 3.

The induction process for the 2025-28 Elected Members is a key opportunity to engage with our governors on climate change. We will use the other channels already established in the next triennium (such as briefings or workshops) to continue to upskill them in climate change governance, and the risks and opportunities that climate change brings for our city and Council.

In May 2025, Hamilton City Council and Waikato District Council approved the establishment of a joint waters Council-controlled organisation, IAWAI Flowing Waters. This was in response to central government water services reform Local Water Done Well. The new entity will own and manage drinking water and wastewater assets and services, and provide stormwater services for both councils from 1 July 2026. We are working to understand how best to integrate the climate change response for Hamilton's water services as the new entity is established. This change impacts who is responsible for the resilience of our water services in the face of climate change, and the emissions associated with these services. See Metrics and Targets section for further information.

Figure 2. Hamilton City Council's climate-related governance structure and responsibilities for 2022-25



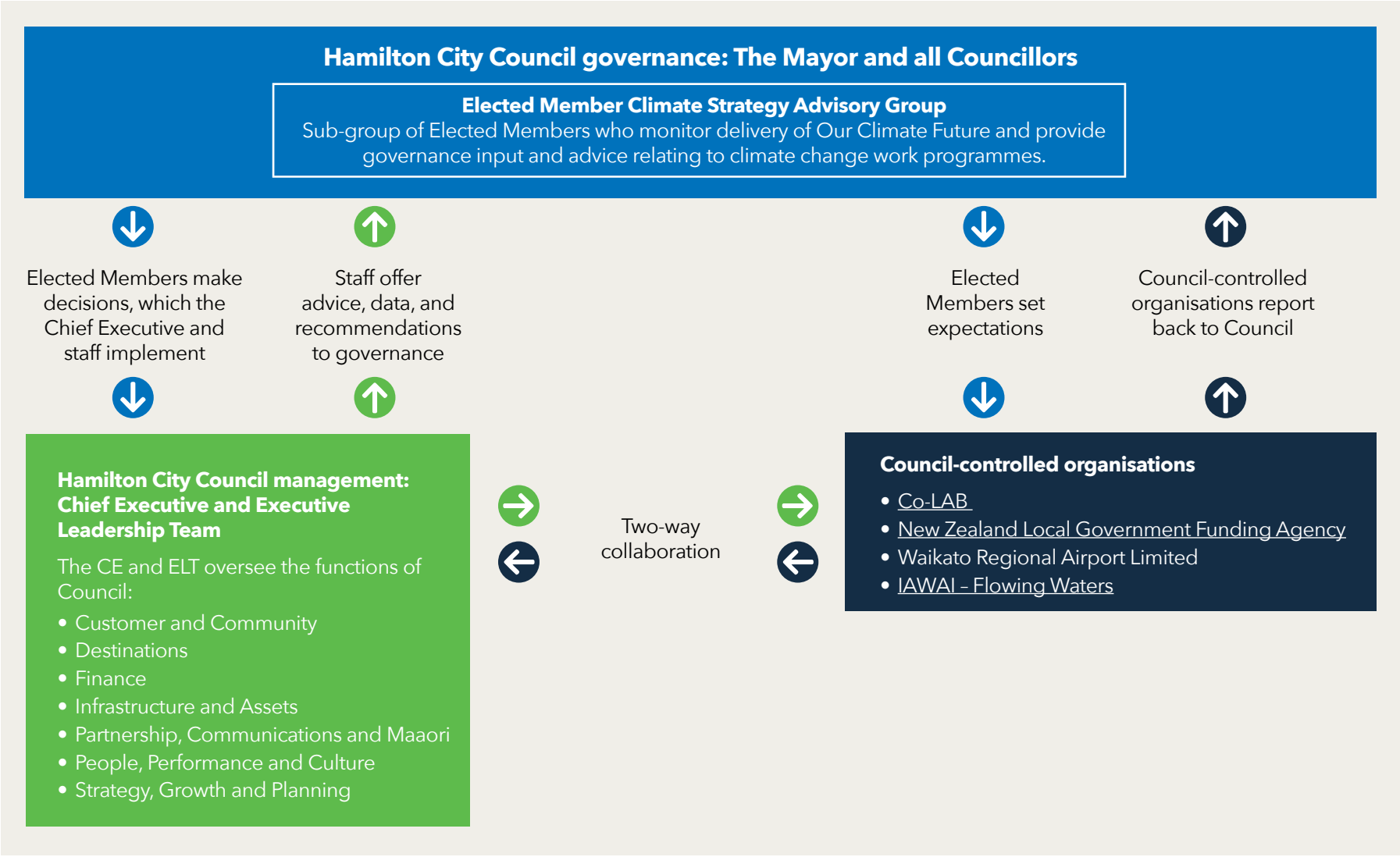
Executive Leadership Team

The Executive Leadership Team is our management team made up of the Chief Executive and General Managers that lead the organisation. The Executive Leadership Team and staff provide advice to Elected Members and implement their decisions in relation to our climate change response (and other activities). Figure 3 shows the information flows between the Executive Leadership Team, Elected Members, and staff.

In February 2025, the Executive Leadership Team approved the 2025-28 Climate Change Maturity Roadmap which outlined the key workstreams to improve our maturity, their role to champion, engage with, or approve the work, and their group's involvement in delivery. Their engagement with and approval of the Roadmap represents a key improvement in their understanding and involvement of our climate change maturity journey, and how we are integrating our climate change response across the different parts of the organisation.

There is a varied level of understanding of climate change and its risk across our Executive Leadership Team. This impacts how well management decisions align with Our Climate Future and consider climate change impacts. The climate change education programme initiated in 2024/25 will build on the foundational education sessions the Executive Leadership Team received in 2023/24 and will provide more tailored education for them and for managers. In May 2025, we delivered a Climate Fresk workshop for our Executive Leadership Team to support their understanding of the causes and consequences of climate change, and the influence they have as individuals, leaders, and in their role at Council.

Figure 3. Information flows between Hamilton City Council governance, management, and Council-controlled organisations



Climate Change Policy review

The Climate Change Policy is a key tool for providing Elected Members and the Executive Leadership Team with information on the climate impacts of decisions they recommend or make. The Policy includes a requirement to assess the emissions and adaptation impacts of all key decisions. This information is captured in key documents like Project Management Plans, as well as the relevant Council or committee report, so that the information is available for the Executive Leadership Team and Elected Members to inform their decision-making.

In 2024/25, we started a review of the climate change impact assessments required by the Policy. Since the Policy was adopted in 2022 the implementation has been ad-hoc and was not leading to useful climate change information being provided to the Executive Leadership Team or Elected Members. The review will ensure that impact assessments are easier for staff to complete, so that the right information is being provided for management and governance to make climate-informed decisions. The review also includes improvements in the digital processes staff use to complete the assessments, so that we are capturing the information and outcomes clearly and consistently and can better monitor the Policy implementation.

Strategy

This section outlines how well Council understands the climate change risks and opportunities that are currently, or may in the future, impact both Council and Hamilton Kirikiriroa. It sets out how we are responding to the risks and opportunities presented by climate change through our strategic and financial planning and decisions.

Summary

What we've achieved (2024/25)

- Initiated a Hazard and Climate Change Risk Project.
- Participated in scenario analysis for the local government sector.
- Early identification of how to integrate climate change into the development of the 2027-37 Long-Term Plan.

What we need to improve

- Understand full scope of climate change impacts and risks.
- Complete scenario analysis.
- Improve integration of climate change risk into core strategic planning processes and documents.

Building our strategic response to climate change

We have been building our climate change response for some time and have started to incorporate the climate change risks and opportunities we are aware of into our strategic planning processes and documents.

Our journey so far

This timeline shows the journey we've taken in developing our strategic response to climate change so far:

2019/20

- Council recognised climate change is an urgent issue.
- Measured 2018/19 baseline emissions for Hamilton City Council and for Hamilton Kirikiriroa.

2020/21

- Council established 'Failure to respond to climate change' as a Strategic Risk.
- Measured Council's emissions for 2019/20.
- Delivered Council's first Climate Change Action Plan.
- Set our first emissions reduction target for Council.

2021/22

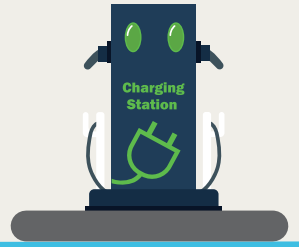
- Measured Council's emissions for 2020/21.
- Delivered Council's second Climate Change Action Plan.

2022/23

- Measured Council's emissions for 2021/22.
- Approved our climate change strategy, Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa.
- Set emissions targets for Hamilton Kirikiriroa and strengthened targets for Council's emissions.
- Completed physical climate change risk assessment for Council assets and operations.

2023/24

- Measured Council's emissions for 2022/23.
- Measured 2021/2022 emissions for Hamilton Kirikiriroa.
- Initiated Climate Maturity and Disclosure Programme, assessing how climate change is integrated across Council.



2024/25

- Measured Council's emissions for 2023/24.
- Published first climate change disclosure report, Our Climate Future 2023/24.
- Developed 2025-28 Climate Change Maturity Roadmap.
- Launched organisation-wide climate change education programme.
- Initiated Hazard and Climate Change Risk Project.
- Procured a natural hazard and climate change risk modelling tool.

Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa

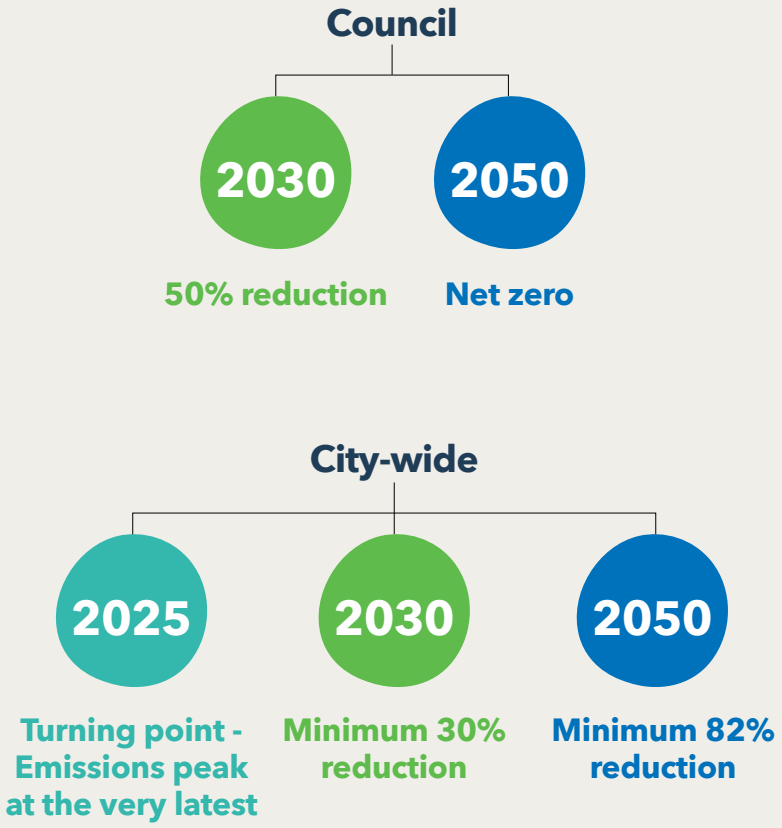
In 2022, Council approved Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa. This strategy outlines the priorities for Council's response to the physical and transition risks associated with climate change. The vision and three outcomes of Our Climate Future are:

Vision:

Hamilton Kirikiriroa is a thriving, low-carbon city that responds and adapts to climate change.

Outcomes:

Our Climate Future also sets emissions reduction targets for Hamilton City Council's operational emissions and for Hamilton Kirikiriroa:



'Net zero' refers to reducing emissions as much as possible, with any remaining unavoidable emissions being sequestered through planting and maintaining trees. 'Net zero' does not mean there are no emissions produced – just that these are balanced by capturing them from the atmosphere.

Council also adopted our Climate Change Policy in 2022, which sets the rules for when, and the extent to which, climate change will be considered in Council decision-making. Implementing the strategy and policy are our key tools for embedding climate change in our strategic and financial planning and decisions.

Understanding the full scope of climate change impacts and risks

Our understanding of climate change impacts and risks remain limited but has improved. It is informed by national data, other councils' climate change risk assessments, and a high-level physical risk assessment that was completed for Councils assets in 2023.

In 2024/25, Waikato Regional Council finalised a high-level risk identification and screening project and published the Waikato Regional Climate Change Hazard and Risks Report. The report provides an overview of climate change hazards and risks that are likely to affect the region, across five domains (human, natural environment, economy, built environment and governance). This work gives us further indication of the climate-related risks that Hamilton Kirikiriroa may face, however, it was not a full or detailed climate change risk assessment. As it was high-level, it misses some of the key risks that could impact our city. Further work is required for us to continue improving our understanding of the full scope of climate change impacts and risks.

Some of the high-level climate hazard and risks identified in the report include:

- Increased coastal and riverine hazards lead people to migrate to Hamilton, placing additional pressure on our services and housing.
- Impacts of severe weather events create economic costs for homeowners.
- Warmer temperatures disrupt ecosystems, including Hamilton lakes and the Waikato River, which impacts water quality and biodiversity.
- The city's critical infrastructure is overwhelmed by heavy rainfall, impacting critical services across the city.

We have also initiated a Hazard and Climate Change Risk Project in 2024/25. This project includes procuring spatial climate change modelling for Hamilton Kirikiriroa, which will help us to better understand and prepare our city and organisation for natural hazards and the physical impacts of climate change. It also means that we have more up to date information to inform decision making as we move into the next Long-Term Plan. This project is the first step, and integration of the information will be a focus going forward.

Completing scenario analysis

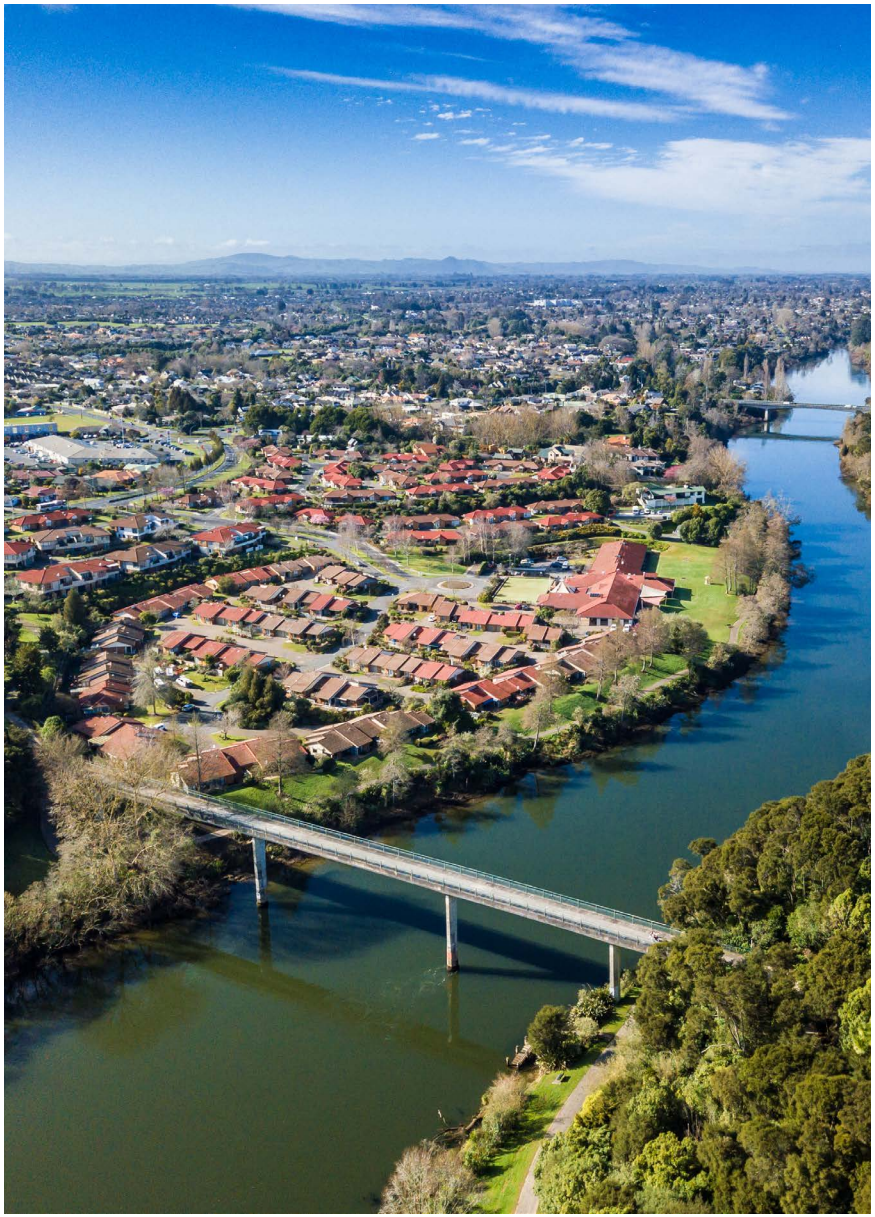
Scenario analysis is a strategic tool that allows organisations to explore plausible futures they may need to operate in. Each scenario outlines how the future might look if inputs such as extreme weather events, climate-related policies, low-carbon technology, and social and demographic changes play out in different ways. These scenarios can then be used to understand how an organisation might perform in those futures, and what it needs to do to prepare.

In 2024/25, Hamilton City Council was involved in the development of shared scenarios for the local government sector alongside other local government partners, such as the Local Government Funding Agency, Wellington City Council, and Auckland Council. The scenarios aim to answer the question, "How could climate change influence local government's ability to deliver services between now and 2035, 2050 and 2100?". These scenarios will provide a tool for local governments to use, to better understand the impacts of climate change on our work and the plausible futures we need to prepare for. Being involved in this work supports Hamilton City Council's capability and understanding of scenario analysis, and means we are better prepared to create plausible futures that are specific to Hamilton Kirikiriroa. These Hamilton-specific scenarios can then better inform Council's strategic climate change response, as we will have a better understanding of what risks and opportunities our organisation and city face. This is particularly important for the non-physical risks that climate change presents.

Integrating climate change risk into strategic planning

Every three years Council develops a Long-Term Plan, which sets major projects, budgets, and financial strategy for the next 10 years. For the two years after that, we develop Annual Plans outlining changes or additions to the Long-Term Plan. Each year Council also produces an Annual Report which demonstrates how we performed. A reflection of the year's progress of our climate change response is included in the 2024/25 Annual Report.

As we begin preparations for the 2027-37 Long-Term Plan, we are focused on how we can better integrate climate change information in the process to support decision making.



Risk management

This section outlines how Council identifies, assesses, and manages climate-related risks, and how this is integrated into existing risk management processes. It includes the different types of risk categories Council has, and how climate change risk is addressed based on the risk type.

Summary

What we've achieved (2024/25)

- Improved climate change information available to the organisation.
- Planning for climate change risk and risk management education with management and governance.

What we need to improve

- Assess physical and transition climate change risks for both Council and community.
- Deepen understanding of, and engagement with, climate change risk across the organisation.
- Ensure consistency in climate change risk management across the organisation.

Council's risk management framework

Council has a robust risk management framework to manage our strategic, organisational, emerging, and operational risks. These are managed in an online risk management platform, SHIELD, and reported to management, the Executive Leadership Team, and/or the Strategic Risk and Assurance Committee. The framework is outlined in Figure 4. Whilst this framework is in place, there is still work to do to ensure that climate change risk is fully embedded across our organisation.

'Failure to respond to climate change' has been identified as a strategic risk for our organisation since 2020. The risk is defined as "Climate change causes changes to our community and city we have not anticipated or planned for which will negatively impact on the wellbeing of our community". In 2024/25, following a review of all strategic risks, the name of the risk was changed from Strategic Risk 9 to Strategic Risk 4. As of June 2025, the residual rating for this risk remains at very high (see Strategic Risk and Assurance Committee Open Agenda, 17 June 2025). We continue to implement risk treatment actions that enable Council to better understand this risk and support the organisation's approach to climate change risk management. The climate change maturity work and Our Climate Statement reports are a key treatment activity for this risk. By having our climate risk information in the public domain and using the findings of our annual disclosure report to better support our climate change response, we are taking responsibility for and strengthening our climate action. This in turn will enable better outcomes for the organisation, community, and city as we face the challenge of climate change.

Figure 4. Management and reporting of different types of risk for Hamilton City Council

	Strategic	Organisational	Emerging	Operational	Project and Programme
Type of risk	The risk of an event or impact that is external to Council, that if it occurs forces a change in strategic direction of Council objectives, including Council's Financial Strategy, Long-Term Plan and 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy.	The risk of an event or impact that is internal or external to Council that could impact the whole organisation.	Emerging risks are risks which may develop or already exist and are difficult to quantify but may have a high consequence and impact if they materialise.	The risk of an event or impact that is internal or external to Council and could impact one or more operational activities.	Risks associated with individual projects and programmes.
Example risks related to climate change	Strategic Risk 1 – Failure to respond to a disaster, crisis, or emergency. Strategic Risk 4 – Failure to respond to climate change.	Failure of critical assets. Failure to provide a safe environment for the community.	Misinformation impacting Council activities.	Surface flooding to transport network. Plant disease or serious harm to planting. Failure to prevent flooding of habitable floors.	Extreme weather events delaying project delivery, disrupting supply chains, etc.
Managed in	Risks are managed in SHIELD, Council's online risk management platform. SHIELD enables business units and teams to take ownership for creating, managing and reviewing risk registers. Risks can be assigned to 'Climate change' category.				Risks are managed in Psoda, Council's online project management platform.
Reporting and review	Strategic and Organisational Risk Register is reported to the Strategic Risk and Assurance Committee every quarter. Risks with an 'extreme' residual risk rating are reviewed monthly with the Executive Leadership Team. Risks with a 'very high' or 'high' residual risk rating are reviewed quarterly with the Executive Leadership Team. Risks with a 'medium' or 'low' residual risk rating are reviewed six monthly with senior management.		Risks with an 'extreme' residual risk rating are reported to the relevant committee or via an Executive Update as required. There is also a monthly review with monthly reporting to the Executive Leadership team. Risks with a 'very high' residual risk rating are reported the relevant committee or via an Executive Update as required. There is a quarterly review with monthly reporting to the Executive Leadership Team. Risks with a 'high' residual risk rating are reviewed quarterly, with monthly reporting to the Executive Leadership Team. Risks with a 'medium' or 'low' residual risk rating are reviewed six monthly with senior management.		

Assessing climate change risks for Council and community

Our 'first pass' climate change risk assessment for Council assets was completed in 2023. This assessment was limited by the use of regional data, so didn't provide the detail of what climate change means for Hamilton Kirikiriroa.

In September 2024, Ministry for the Environment (MfE) released a dashboard with summaries of the modelled changes to the climate for territorial authorities. It provides a snapshot of downscaled climate change information for Hamilton Kirikiriroa, which can be found in Table 1. This improved information gives us a better understanding of the physical climate change impacts our city is likely to face in the future under the different Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSPs, noting that SSP5-8.5 is not provided in the dashboard).

> Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSPs) outline different scenarios that the world could experience, examining how society, demographics, economics and technology might change over time. These are combined with different emissions trajectories to provide a global narrative, emissions trajectory, and level of warming as a baseline for future planning.

Table 1. Projected climate changes in Hamilton between now and 2099, relative to the 1995-2014 period for three scenarios - SSP1-2.6, SSP2-4.5 and SSP3-7.0

Climate variable	Average daily air temperature	Number of hot days (>25 °C)	Number of frost days	Total rainfall	Number of very rainy days (>25mm)	Number of dry days (<1mm)	Number of windy days (>10m/s)
2050 (2041 - 2060)	Average temperatures likely to be 0.8 - 1.4°C warmer	23.3 - 37.3 more hot days per year	3.6 – 5.7 fewer frost days per year	Annual rainfall likely to decrease by -3.6% to -1.2%	0.4 – 0.7 more very rainy days per year	1.5 fewer – 2.0 more dry days per year	5.7 – 7.6 fewer windy days per year
2090 (2080 - 2099)	Average temperatures likely to be 0.8 - 3.0°C warmer	19.5 - 77.8 more hot days per year	3.2 – 11.2 fewer frost days per year	Annual rainfall likely to decrease by -8.4% to -1.5%	0.5 – 0.8 more very rainy days per year	0.5 fewer – 8.0 more dry days per year	1.8 – 18.0 fewer windy days per year

Note: The figures above represent the range of impacts across all three SSPs.

In 2024/25, we procured a new natural hazard and climate change risk modelling tool, Resilience Explorer. This tool will be used to update our risk assessment for Council's assets. It provides a spatial platform and centralised space for Council to access consistent and regularly updated information. This improves our understanding of the impact of climate change on our assets, which assets are most vulnerable, and how they need to be managed differently and effectively. This information will inform Asset Management Plans and recommendations for the 2027-2037 Long-Term Plan and will support better climate change risk reporting through our existing risk management framework. This modelling tool improves not only our understanding of the physical risks that climate change presents to Council, but also how we need to respond in our planning and renewals programmes.

We plan to complete a full climate change risk assessment for Council that includes transition risks, impacts for our operations and the outputs from the assets climate change risk assessment in 2025/26. A climate change risk assessment for our community is also needed, and the timing, approach and scale of this assessment will depend on funding and resourcing availability.

Improving our understanding of, and engagement with, climate change risk

Initiating the Hazard and Climate Change Risk Project and Resilience Explorer tool in 2024/25 means that we are setting ourselves up to improve our understanding of, and engagement with, climate change risk. These are cross-organisation initiatives that are still in their early stages of implementation but have initiated more meaningful conversations on climate change risk across Council this year.

The Climate Change Policy review is also key to improving climate change risk management across Council. By improving the data available to complete the assessment, and the process for completing the assessments, we are making it easier for staff to implement the Policy and providing clearer and more consistent information to our decision-makers. The Climate Change Policy review is currently underway.

We have also initiated our climate change education programme in 2024/25, which is in its early stages of implementation. A key focus area is the targeted education for the Executive Leadership Team and Elected Members on climate change risk, and how to apply it in making decisions.

Metrics and targets

This section outlines Council's metrics and targets for managing climate-related risks, opportunities, impacts, and performance, and how well they are monitored. This includes measuring and reporting Council's corporate emissions, citywide emissions for Hamilton Kirikiriroa, and other climate change measures established through Our Climate Future.

Summary

What we've achieved (2024/25)

- Calculated our corporate emissions for 2024/25.
- Initiated improvements for city-wide emissions measurements.

What we need to improve

- Accounting for all relevant activities in our corporate emissions monitoring.
- Clarity for our emissions targets and what's in/out of scope.
- Capturing and monitoring the right data for all other climate change metrics and targets.

Hamilton City Council's corporate emissions and targets

We first measured Council's corporate greenhouse gas emissions in 2019/20, to establish our 2018/19 baseline. Our corporate emissions are those produced by our operations and activities, and include the following sources:

Scope 1:

- Energy (LPG and natural gas) used in our buildings and operations.
- Fuels used in Council-owned fleet, in vehicles we rent for fleet purposes, and car share use.
- Livestock and fertilisers used on Council land.

Scope 2:

- Electricity used in our buildings and operations.

Scope 3:

- Flights, hotel stays, and rental cars used for staff travel.
- Transport and composting of biosolids from our wastewater treatment process.
- Waste from Council operations.

Our 2018/19 baseline included biogenic emissions from the flaring of biogas at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), which were 11,159 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO_2e), almost 50% of our total emissions at the time. We recognised that these emissions could be addressed by changing a single process (i.e., utilising the biogas for something else). In contrast, other sources require a mix of infrastructure, behaviour change, and process and system changes across the organisation, making them more likely to fluctuate and require multiple actions to address. We have therefore focused on annual measurements and reporting of our other emissions and have excluded biogenic emissions from the WWTP in our corporate emissions targets and monitoring.

Our 2018/19 baseline for the remaining emissions, and what our annual reporting is compared against, is 11,357tCO_2e. Our corporate emissions targets are a 50% gross reduction in emissions by 2030 and to be net zero by 2050.

Hamilton City Council's 2024/25 greenhouse gas emissions

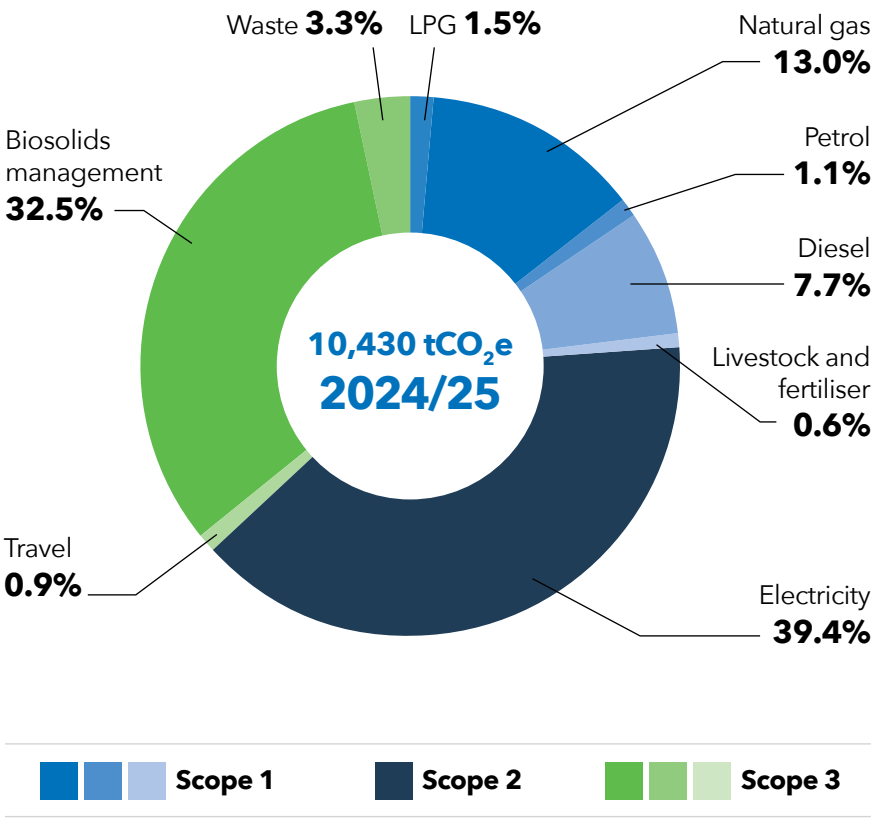
Council's emissions for 2024/25 were 10,430tCO_2e, outlined in Figure 5. This is an 8% reduction on our 2018/19 baseline. We have seen a significant increase in emissions from electricity in 2024/25, which is driven predominantly by a higher share of non-renewable electricity (e.g., coal) in the national supply. Most other emissions sources have also increased, including travel (e.g., flights, hotel stays and rental vehicles) and waste from Council operations. Emissions from natural gas use have decreased by 13% in the last 12 months, resulting in a reduction of 204tCO_2e.

To achieve our 2030 target of 50% reduction in our gross operational emissions, more work is needed. We have reviewed the actions in our emissions reduction plan and will identify additional key actions we need to take. This information will be included for consideration through the 2027-37 Long-Term Plan.

There is room for improvement in how we are measuring and reporting our corporate emissions, as there are many sources that we do not currently account for. This is an area of focus going forward.

Approximately 70% of our total emissions baseline – biogenic and non-biogenic emissions from the WWTP, water treatment plant and pumping water around the city – will be the responsibility of the new Council-controlled Organisation, IAWAI – Flowing Waters, as of 1 July 2026. This change will have an impact on the role and influence that Hamilton City Council has in reducing these emissions and will also affect the corporate emissions targets that we have set. This will be assessed over the next year as more decisions are made in relation to IAWAI.

Figure 5. Hamilton City Council's emissions for 2024/25



City-wide emissions for Hamilton Kirikiriroa

This year we have initiated a project in collaboration with 18 other Councils across Aotearoa New Zealand which will enable us to provide annual updates going forward. This project improves our data collection and provides a more robust methodology for calculating our city-wide emissions. It will mean our emissions profile is able to be compared to other areas of the country and improvements in methodology and data can be identified. An update on city-wide emissions will be provided in the next disclosure report.

Other climate change performance measures

We set a series of measures of success in Our Climate Future to provide a holistic picture of our climate change response. We are still establishing baselines and a regular monitoring schedule for a number of these metrics. We have provided an updated for 2024/25 on the metrics we can measure in Table 2. We will address the data collection, monitoring and reporting processes as part of the strategy review in 2026 and 2027.

Table 2. Additional climate change performance measures from Our Climate Future

Outcome	Metric	2023/24 update	Source
	Quantity of material entering the waste stream is decreasing.	The amount of residential waste to landfill at Hamilton's Resource Recovery Centre in 2024/25 was 8562 tonnes, equivalent to 45.30kgs per person. This is a reduction on 2023/24 (9805 tonnes, equivalent to 52.91kgs per person). The amount of waste to landfill through Hamilton's kerbside service (red rubbish bin) in 2024/25 was 16,694 tonnes, equivalent to 88.33kgs per person. This is a reduction on 2023/24 (18,200 tonnes, equivalent to 98.22kgs per person). Waste to landfill from Council sites for 2024/25 was 1,107 tonnes. This is an increase on 2023/24 (1,072.76 tonnes).	Waste collection reports provided by waste contractors.
	There is an increase in the community's awareness of our climate change response.	Quality of Life Pulse Survey data showed that in 2021 and 2022, on average 26% of respondents 'didn't know' how they felt about the amount of effort Council puts into actions or initiatives to address environmental issues or climate change. In 2025, this has increased to 28% of respondents. This suggests a lack of awareness among some residents around what Council does to address these issues. As we implement Our Climate Future and produce annual Our Climate Statement reports, we aim to see this decrease over time.	Hamilton Kirikiriroa Pulse Survey.

Table 2. Additional climate change performance measures from Our Climate Future

Outcome	Metric	2023/24 update	Source
 **2. Our neighbourhoods enable low-carbon living**	Increase in the use of public transport.	The total number of trips in Hamilton increased by 2.8%, with 3,018,725 passenger trips made in 2024/25. However the number of trips per capita in Hamilton has reduced compared to the previous year. 2024/25 saw 16.1 bus trips per capita compared to 16.5 bus trips per capital in 2023/24.[1]	Waikato Regional Council (WRC) Annual Report data received by staff. See WRC Annual Reports.
	More of our homes and buildings are incorporating sustainable design principles.	Pulse Survey data from 2025 shows that respondents have limited access to the following sustainable resources: home composting (35%), ability to easily charge a hybrid or electric vehicle at home (12%), solar panels (7%), and rainwater tanks (6%). The majority of respondents (53%) said they do not have access to any of these resources. Compared to data from 2023, there has been an increase in the proportion of respondents who state they access home compost, solar panels, and rain water tanks, and a subsequent decline in the proportion who access no environmental initiatives.	Hamilton Kirikiriroa Pulse Survey.
	Our communities are actively making low-carbon choices as they recognise the benefits of doing so.	Pulse survey data shows Hamiltonians are taking climate action. In 2025, 64% of respondents took actions to manage waste, 52% took purchasing actions such as buying fewer products, 44% took food actions such as eating more plant-based foods, 35% took transport actions such as choosing to walk, bike or bus, 32% talked about climate change issues or solutions with others, and 23% took energy actions such as home upgrades to reduce electricity use. Only 10% of respondents reported not undertaking any actions. These results are similar to those in 2023. Pulse survey data shows that the proportion of Hamiltonians who 'often' consider sustainability and climate change in their decision making has remained the same over the last few years. In 2023, 36% of respondents 'often' considered this, and in 2025, this was 37% of respondents.	Hamilton Kirikiriroa Pulse Survey.

[1] This data is subject to audit through the Waikato Regional Council Annual Report.

Table 2. Additional climate change performance measures from Our Climate Future

Outcome	Metric	2023/24 update	Source
3. Our city is ready for Hamilton's climate	Tree canopy cover is increasing across the city.	Tree canopy includes trees and shrubs over 3.5m tall. A baseline of 12.5% was established in 2019/20. Data collected in December 2023 showed that tree canopy cover has reduced to 11.3%.	GIS data collected by Hamilton City Council staff.

Next Steps

Over the last year, we have made improvements in our understanding of climate change risks and opportunities across all areas of governance, strategy, risk management and metrics and targets. The key achievements are outlined in this statement, but we recognise that there is more work to do.

Our priority areas for the next three years are set out in the 2025-28 Climate Change Maturity Roadmap (see Figure 6), which was approved by our Executive Leadership Team in February 2025. We will report progress on these workstreams to our Executive Leadership Team every six months. The impacts that these workstreams have on Council's climate change maturity will be reflected in annual Our Climate Statement reports.

Figure 6. Hamilton City Council 2025-28 Climate Change Maturity Roadmap

Relevant TCFD domain(s)	Area for improvement	Workstream	2025	2026	2027
Governance	**Climate Change Policy** Ensure consistent, decision-useful climate change information is provided to leadership and Elected Members	Review Climate Change Impact Assessment and embed across the organisation	—	—	—
		Full Climate Change Policy review			—
Strategy	**Embedding climate change in our strategic direction** Respond to climate change risks and opportunities for Council and Hamilton Kirikiriroa through our strategic and financial planning	Develop and agree on climate change scenarios	—	—	
		High-level assessment of financial impacts of climate change	—	—	
		Integrate climate change into corporate planning processes	—	—	—
Risk management	**Climate change risk management** Identify, assess, and manage climate change risks for Council and Hamilton Kirikiriroa	Climate Change Risk Assessment for Council	—	—	—
		Community Climate Change Risk Assessment for Hamilton Kirikiriroa (unfunded)			—
Metrics and targets	**Council's emissions** Measure the full emissions impact of our activities and outline what's required to achieve our targets	Review Council's emission profile and targets and develop an Emissions Reduction Plan for Council	—	—	—
	City-wide emissions Measure city-wide emissions accurately and frequently	Measure city-wide emissions profile and progress tracking	—	—	—
	Other progress indicators Measure other indicators of climate change response progress, including measures of adaptation and low-carbon transition	Review and improve non-emissions metrics set in Our Climate Future strategy	—	—	—
All	**Climate change education** Strengthen our organisation's understanding of climate change, and leadership and Elected Member oversight of climate change risks and opportunities	Comprehensive education programme for all staff	—	—	—
		Targeted education for Senior People Leaders, Executive Leadership Team, and Elected Members	—	—	—

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