

MASTERTON DISTRICT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



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FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Masterton is a fantastic place to live and work, with a great community, and an environment and lifestyle that is hard to beat. However, there will be challenges that as a council we must address as we continue our work to provide the best of rural provincial living.

We know that climate change is already significantly impacting our community, and we take that seriously. This Climate Action Plan sets out the Council's roadmap to reduce emissions and their impacts as a District and be ready for what will follow.

The plan's co-creation with our community focus group supports our aim to work with local experts and interest groups when developing and delivering these types of projects.

Our plan's success will rely on an ongoing, active partnership with mana whenua - Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and Rangitāne o Wairarapa - and strong support from all parts of our community. As Council, we will work hard to make sure our Climate Action Plan is in alignment and has synergies with mana whenua climate and environmental priorities and aspirations.

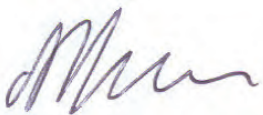
As the urgency of the problem has become clear, Councils across the country are facing an overwhelming influx of climate change policies. We will use this Climate Action Plan to support our community to work with these policies to design a reduced-emission lifestyle that works for us as a district.

A large part of the Climate Action Plan is increasing the understanding in our community of both the complexity of the challenges we face from climate change, and the range of opportunities that exist through taking action that will improve the wellbeing of people living in the Masterton district.

The Masterton district continues to experience steady population growth, with many people making the choice to move here, often in pursuit of a better work/life balance supported by the rise in flexible working. This population growth will mean extra pressure on our existing infrastructure, and we need to plan for these added challenges, all within the context of tight job markets, inflation, and the impact of overseas events on the local economy.

These changes and challenges, alongside the Three Waters Reforms and the Review into the Future for Local Government, mean that it is the ideal time to use this Climate Action Plan to begin planning a low-carbon roadmap for a resilient district.

Ngā mihi,



David Hopman,
Chief Executive



OUR CLIMATE CHANGE COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP

The Masterton District Climate Action Plan was developed in conjunction with a community focus group. Council would like to thank each of the nine community focus group members for their hard work developing an extensive list of potential climate change actions which formed the basis of our public consultation.



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BACKGROUND

HUMANS ARE CAUSING THE PROBLEM, BUT WE ARE ALSO THE ONES WHO CAN SOLVE IT

Climate change is real – it is caused by humans, and it is already having a negative impact in the Masterton District.

The science of climate change is clear. Human caused climate change is accepted by 99 per cent of the world's climate scientists. When we burn fossil fuels like petrol and coal for energy, the carbon dioxide that is released builds up in our atmosphere and acts like a blanket that traps heat, disrupting our climate. Some carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are released by natural cycles but the high levels of emissions currently entering the atmosphere are caused by us. This climate pollution threatens our way of life. In New Zealand, most of our greenhouse gas emissions come from transport and agriculture.

We are already experiencing negative impacts in the Masterton District through more severe droughts, abnormally high rainfall events causing flooding, and coastal erosion. Climate impacts will only get worse with continued inaction, so it is in all our best interests to act now. We also know some of the impacts are already locked in, such as worsening floods, coastal erosion, and droughts, and we need a plan to adapt to these changes. We need to act with urgency to reduce our emissions.

WE NEED TO PLAY OUR PART

As a nation, we have very high per-capita (per person) climate emissions – as individuals we are producing way more climate pollution than people in most countries. If we didn't have such a small population our emissions total would be among the highest in the world. Some people say that we are too small to make a difference, but if all small countries like Aotearoa New Zealand acted ambitiously then one third of global emissions would be reduced. To get results, each region in Aotearoa New Zealand must do their part in reducing our emissions by shifting to low-carbon ways of living as quickly as possible.

As a country we have already committed to significant climate action. The government signed up to the United Nations Paris Agreement in 2015 which sets out a framework aimed at limiting global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. We are currently at 1.1 degrees warming globally. In a show of cross-party support, Parliament unanimously voted for the Zero Carbon Act in 2019 which set up a framework for how Aotearoa New Zealand will reduce our emissions to net-zero 2050. These central government pledges are now putting pressure on local government to act to help stop climate change.

Because the urgency of the problem has become clear, climate change policies are now coming thick and fast which can feel overwhelming and confusing to keep up with. We need to support our community to work with these policies and design our own low-emission community in a way that works for us as a district.

WE HAVE THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO ACT NOW AS A DISTRICT

Our local experts are telling us climate change is happening and impacting our district now. But we can help stop it from getting significantly worse. Change is possible, and by acting with others we can create system change. At a practical level, we need to change how we are moving around our district, how we are using energy, and how we are growing, consuming, and distributing food. The climate work will require action from all parts of our community, and require partnership with mana whenua – Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and Rangitāne o Wairarapa. As Council, we will work hard to make sure our Climate Action Plan is in alignment and has synergies with mana whenua climate and environmental priorities and aspirations.

As a community, and as Masterton District Council, we need to:

- use energy from the sun and wind to power our homes, cars, and businesses
- use much less of the different types of energy that add heat-trapping gases to our atmosphere (like petrol and diesel for cars, and coal and gas for heating or cooking)
- find ways to reduce the methane output of our farming industry.

Localised climate impacts need local solutions. We can adapt to the changes heading our way using local people, local infrastructure, local knowledge.

Through this Action Plan our community has a chance to prioritise taking care of each other and our environment by becoming a low-carbon district. We can reshape our community and use this change to reduce current inequities that will be exacerbated by climate change. As Council, we need to plan for the dual challenges of pressures on existing infrastructure from population growth and worsening climate impacts, while balancing the needs of the community, including those who are living in poverty or struggling to meet their daily needs today. Climate action will mean adjusting the ways our community live and work and will give us the opportunity to build a more resilient and fairer community.

We need to put in the work now to ensure a liveable world for ourselves, our children and grandchildren, and future generations to come. Our Council's current Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan⁸ provides the direction and actions we need to take as an organisation to reduce our own internal emissions. And there are many examples of community initiatives that are also designed to fight climate change including waste reduction programmes, tree planting, and dune restoration. Now is the time to accelerate that journey and realise the potential of low-emissions work for promoting tangible benefits for our community.



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Masterton District Council is taking up the challenge of climate change action in two ways.

Firstly, the Council created an internal Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan in 2021 which sets out the ways our Council will reduce our corporate climate pollution. You can find that plan on the Council website: mstn.govt.nz.

Following the development of the internal Corporate Carbon Emissions Reduction plan, the Council wanted to take a co-development approach to create a Climate Action Plan for the whole district through the establishment of a Community Focus Group.

The Climate Change Community Focus Group was formed in July 2021 after taking expressions of interest from the community. A total of ten participants were selected by a panel of elected members for the Focus Group. The participants came from a range of different backgrounds including forestry, farming, climate science, social science, central and local government policy, mana whenua interests, and hazard management. A series of workshops was held with the Focus Group, council staff, and elected members to explore different themes related to climate change and to analyse potential solutions for the district. The ideas generated in the workshops were used to develop a list of actions which were consulted on with the wider community and went on to inform this Climate Action Plan.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Council adopted the draft Masterton District Climate Action Plan consultation document and proposed list of climate actions for public consultation on 29 June 2022. In total, 118 proposed climate actions were consulted on. These actions were split across nine theme areas: coordinated regional approach, transport, energy/electricity, built environment, natural environment, waste and circular economy, agriculture and forestry, water, and community empowerment. A total of 87 written submissions were received, including 23 who presented to Council at the oral hearing. Submissions received reflected overwhelming support for a Masterton District Climate Action Plan. Submitters gave a wide range of different opinions on what types of actions should be included in the final plan.

A deliberations meeting took place on 24 August 2022, during which the Council discussed the submissions, analysis, and proposed recommendations that were to be carried forward into the final Climate Action Plan. These recommendations included reducing the number of actions, reducing the number of themes, with some being merged, and changes to the goals and subgoals to align with changes to the themes.

The final Climate Action Plan was adopted by elected members at the September 14, 2022, Council meeting.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW

The Masterton District Climate Action Plan contains 76 actions under four theme areas:



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT



20-MINUTE TOWN



CIRCULAR ECONOMY



CLIMATE RESILIENT DISTRICT

Goals and subgoals have been set for each of the theme areas based on the original goals consulted on with the community. The theme areas have been split into several categories as listed below. Each of these categories has a list of corresponding actions which are outlined in the following section. Each of the actions include a description of where funding/resources/capacity may be found for implementation.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

- Council to promote community leadership
- Council to support community initiatives
- Council to facilitate climate change education



CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- Organic (green and food) waste
- Circular economy principles
- Building/infrastructure waste



20-MINUTE TOWN

- Cycling
- Walking, wheelchairs, prams, scooters
- Public Transport
- Electric Vehicles (EVs)



CLIMATE RESILIENT DISTRICT

- Energy transition
- Emergency response
- Public spaces
- Building construction/retrofit
- District mapping
- District planning
- Productive landscapes
- Biodiversity and ecosystem health

ACTION LIST





COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

A climate change aware community, empowered and supported to act. How we ensure our plan does not increase current inequities in our district but helps build a more resilient and fair community.

Goal

Building mana-enhancing relationships to support connected communities to be more resilient to climate impacts.

Sub-goals

- Build empowered community networks that help to sustain the Climate Action Plan and other initiatives, whilst informing future action plans.
- Provide meaningful support to community change projects that inform, educate and inspire climate action.
- Implement actions to reduce the impacts of climate change on health and well-being.

Action categories

- Council to promote community leadership
- Council to support community initiatives
- Council to facilitate climate change education





COUNCIL TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

ACTION 1

Council to establish a Masterton District Climate Advisory Group in the new triennium.

The community Climate Advisory Group will provide community input about climate issues to be considered as part of council's decision-making processes. This advisory group will provide advice to support the implementation of the Masterton District Climate Action Plan.

It will be made up of community members from different parts of our district as well as 1-2 elected member appointments.

What implementation looks like

A terms of reference will be developed for council consideration in the new triennium. This will include developing a process for appointments.

ACTION 2

Council to provide a designated climate change community fund that community groups can access to implement their own local-level climate actions.

The fund could use different categories for project selection including education, mitigation, adaptation, art, and activism.

What implementation looks like

\$50,000 has been budgeted in 2022/23 to be allocated to the community via a contestable funding process.

The funding criteria, application form, assessment process, and administration of this fund will be progressed in Year 1 of the Climate Action implementation plan.

ACTION 3

Masterton Youth Council to host a youth climate forum for Masterton rangatahi (two-year trial).

What implementation looks like

A business case to support a youth climate forum 21 to be developed for consideration as part of the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan process.

External funding opportunities will also be explored.

ACTION 4

Council to use the development of the Youth Hub to investigate potential for low-emission infrastructure and renewable energy generation on Council assets.

What implementation looks like

The current build and budget does not currently allow for low-emission infrastructure and renewable energy.

External funding could be applied for to undertake retrofitting (e.g., installation of solar panels) at a later stage.

ACTION 5

Council to use its social media/communication channels to highlight success stories and achievement of Climate Action Plan milestones.

What implementation looks like

Develop Communications and Engagement Plan to support implementation of the Climate Action Plan in 2022/23.

ACTION 6

Council to promote and celebrate good stories of what is already being done well in the district in the climate change space.

What implementation looks like

Develop Communications and Engagement Plan to support implementation of the Climate Action Plan in 2022/23.

ACTION 7

Council to support Climate Action Plan outcomes specific to vulnerable communities, providing consistent messages through regular channels and consultative processes.

What implementation looks like

Develop Communications and Engagement Plan to support implementation of the Climate Action Plan in 2022/23.



ACTION 8

Investigate biochar proposal for land at Homebush Waste Water Treatment Plant.

What implementation looks like

More in-depth business case to be developed, including when this work could commence.

A business case for funding could be developed as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 if cost/benefit makes project viable.

ACTION 9

Council to investigate providing support to community-led initiatives that enhance our natural environment in ways that provide more resilience to climate change for our native flora and fauna, and initiatives which preserve and enhance natural carbon sinks, such as wetland and regenerating forest.

What implementation looks like

Provide non-financial support to community groups. Examples could include:

1. promotion through Council communication channels
2. staff time (e.g. providing support with event planning/writing grant application/proposals).

More in-depth business cases could be developed if needed on a case-by-case basis.

A business case for council funding opportunities could be developed as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 if cost/benefit makes the project viable to financially support.

ACTION 10

Support pest-free initiatives (strong native forests are carbon sinks, pests kill forests).

What implementation looks like

Provide non-financial support to community groups. Examples include:

1. promotion through Council communication channels
2. staff time (e.g. providing support with event planning/writing grant application/proposals).

More in-depth business cases could be developed if needed on a case-by-case basis.

A business case for council funding opportunities could be developed as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 if cost/benefit makes the project viable to financially support.

ACTION 11

Council to continue to support Enviroschools and other community initiatives to provide environmental education programmes which incorporate lessons on climate change impacts and solutions.

What implementation looks like

Continued funding support (via MoU arrangement) for Enviroschools.
Provide non-financial support to community groups. Examples include:

1. promotion through Council communication channels
2. staff time (e.g. providing support with event planning/writing grant application/proposals).

ACTION 12

Council to support events that encourage individuals, whānau (family), schools, groups, businesses to establish how they are personally contributing to the problem of climate change and collaboratively work out ways to lessen their climate impact.

What implementation looks like

Provide non-financial support to community groups. Examples include:

1. promotion through Council communication channels
2. staff time (e.g. providing support with event planning/writing grant application/proposals).

More in-depth business cases could be developed if needed on a case-by-case basis.

A business case for funding could be developed as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 if cost/benefit makes project viable to financially support.



COUNCIL TO FACILITATE CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION

ACTION 13

Council to create a community facing Climate Data Hub so that the District's climate change data and information is available to the community in one online space.

What implementation looks like

The creation of this data hub will be assessed against other Climate Action Plan priorities to determine when this work could commence.

ACTION 14

Council to develop a community education programme to engender community support for the Climate Action Plan implementation. The information should be used to help the community better understand what resilience means in practice for the District.

What implementation looks like

External funding is being sourced for a Climate Change Activator to support this action

ACTION 15

Council to expand, develop or support programmes of information on:

1. Climate change science and impacts
2. Energy efficiency. Council to provide residents and businesses with information for how they can convert to energy efficient lighting and heating products.
3. Hazard mitigation and Council/community response (to floods, drought, storms, wildfires, invasive species, heat stress, fewer frosts, etc).
4. Waste and circular economy
5. Benefits of public and active transport
6. Low-emission building/construction/retrofitting/demolition
7. Health impacts of climate change (physical and psychological)
8. Localising food systems.

What implementation looks like

External funding is being sourced for a Climate Change Activator to support this action

ACTION 16

Embed circular economic principles to address construction and demolition waste.

What implementation looks like

Consider inclusion of circular economic principles with regard to construction and demolition waste for the following reviews:

- Wairarapa Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2021
- Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan

Waste Minimisation staff to support wider education on this.

ACTION 17

Council to provide education and alternatives to reduce the amount of people in rural areas who burn their household and farm waste.

What implementation looks like

External funding is being sourced for a Climate Change Activator to support this action

ACTION 18

Council to provide information to the community around current recycling schemes for bale to stop the plastic being burnt, and investigate ways to make the schemes more user friendly in the District.

What implementation looks like

External funding is being sourced for a Climate Change Activator to support this action

ACTION 19

Council to promote home composting through education and workshops.

What implementation looks like

External funding is being sourced for a Climate Change Activator to support this action

ACTION 20

Council to partner with organisations that are educating the community on the link between waste and climate change.

What implementation looks like

External funding is being sourced for a Climate Change Activator to support this action

ACTION 21

Council to provide access to information on low-emissions building.

What implementation looks like

Consideration needed for how/when action could be included within new or existing work programmes.

ACTION 22

Council to encourage new builds to include effective climate control systems to allow for internal temperatures that can support health during heat waves.

What implementation looks like

Consideration needed for how/when it could be included within new or existing staff work programmes.

ACTION 23

Council to promote and incentivise the certification of new domestic properties to performance standards that meet the requirements of the Healthy Homes Act (e.g., Passive House).

What implementation looks like

Consideration needed for how/when action could be included within new or existing staff work programmes.

ACTION 24

Council to collaborate with Te Whatu Ora - Health NZ teams to provide the community information on support available for climate change related mental health issues.

What implementation looks like

External funding is being sourced for a Climate Change Activator to support this action

ACTION 25

Council to highlight potential health and wellbeing implications of climate change in the District, in preparation for future action planning and resilience-building activity. Working with the health sector and community groups, Council to share the potential health and wellbeing impacts of climate change in the District (based on global and local evidence bases, trends and forecast data).

What implementation looks like

External funding is being sourced for a Climate Change Activator to support this action

ACTION 26

Investigate importance of localised food networks as a climate action and as a wellbeing mechanism.

What implementation looks like

Consideration needed for how/when action could be included within new or existing staff work programmes.

ACTION 27

Investigate risks to food systems due to climate impacts, with a focus on heat stress / flood resilience / water shortage / water contamination / invasive pests and diseases.

What implementation looks like

Consideration needed for how/when action could be included within new or existing staff work programmes.

ACTION 28

Develop educational material relating to climate change and promote it in the community.

What implementation looks like

Consideration needed for how/when action could be included within existing staff work programmes.



20-MINUTE TOWN

How we move around the district using less climate-harming emissions.

Creating accessible, safe, and attractive local areas where people can access most of their everyday needs within a 20-minute walk, cycle or local public transport trip, allowing them to rely less on personal motor vehicles.

Goal

Increase uptake of low-emission, active and public transport options in the Masterton District so that community/suburb hubs are accessible within 10 minutes for all urban residents.

Sub-goals

- Masterton District Council reduces its own organisational carbon footprint from transport.
- Masterton District Council supports the community to transition to low-emission transport.
- Improve the public transport network (buses, shuttles, and trains).
- Masterton District has well designed streets and roads that minimise transport emissions.
- Improved active transport networks (footpaths, cycleways, and walking tracks) to encourage alternative modes of transport.

Action categories

- Cycling
- Walking, wheelchairs, prams, scooters.
- Public Transport
- Electric Vehicles (EVs)





ACTION 29

Council to investigate active transport networks/cycleways to encourage alternatives modes of transport. Create cycle lanes or shared road/footpaths prioritising areas that connect to schools and recreation spaces, including a cycle network connecting Kuripuni/Masterton South, Town Centre, Masterton East, Masterton West, and Lansdowne. The network should connect in with the Wairarapa region's Five Town Trail Network cycling infrastructure project.

Council to lead local projects, and advocate to Waka Kotahi for State Highway related projects.

What implementation looks like

A business case for funding could be developed as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 if cost/benefit makes the project viable.

Council to advocate for external funding (action dependent on significant external funding).

Linkages to be made to connect any relevant existing projects and strategy implementation plans to ensure there is no duplication with these workstreams.

ACTION 30

Council to advocate to Waka Kotahi and Greater Wellington Regional Council for the creation of safe cycle lanes between main centres in the Wairarapa along SH2 (for both commuters and recreation). The connected cycleway would be part of the Five Towns Trails Network but with a higher emphasis on commuter and local community recreation, rather than tourism.

What implementation looks like

Internal staff time/capacity required to prepare advocacy material.

ACTION 31

Investigate opportunities to encourage bike repair, and second hand bike initiatives

What implementation looks like

A business case for funding could be developed as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 if cost/benefit makes project viable.



WALKING, WHEELCHAIRS, PRAMS, SCOOTERS

ACTION 32

Investigate options for a more pedestrian friendly Queen Street.

What implementation looks like

Action to be considered as part of the Town Centre Revamp project.

ACTION 33

Council to investigate opportunities for incorporating shade and covered walkways in design of public spaces. Council to encourage new or renovated commercial buildings in or near the town centre to incorporate shade and covered walkways over footpaths.

What implementation looks like

Action to be considered as part of the Town Centre Revamp project.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

ACTION 34

Council to investigate needs of public transport users in partnership with Greater Wellington Regional Council to understand:

- current and future needs of users
- constraints/barriers for community to use public transport
- potential incentives.

Council to support pilot initiative(s) based on outcomes of this public transport study.

What implementation looks like

Initiate conversation with Greater Wellington Regional Council to discuss a pilot initiative. Council to advocate for external funding (action dependent on significant external funding).



ACTION 35

Advocate to Greater Wellington Regional Council for an on-demand bus service trial.

What implementation looks like

Council to advocate for external funding for this trial (action dependent on significant external funding).



ELECTRIC VEHICLES

ACTION 36

Encourage EV charging providers to provide additional charging stations to the Masterton District, including at rural hubs such as schools and coastal settlements.

What implementation looks like

Council staff will facilitate traffic bylaw schedule amendments to allow for additional EV charging stations as requests by providers are made. This will include approval to replace existing car parks with the EV charging stations.



CIRCULAR ECONOMY

How we reduce our consumption and repurpose old items. How we embed principles of circular economy into our district at every level.

Goal Reduce Masterton District's contribution to methane emissions from landfills.

Sub-goals

- Keep organic waste out of landfills to reduce methane emissions.
- Masterton District Council is a role model and educator about reducing waste in the District.
- Masterton District Council supports climate outcomes within local waste reduction initiatives.

Action categories

- Organic (green and food) waste
- Circular economy principles
- Building/infrastructure waste





ORGANIC (GREEN AND FOOD) WASTE

ACTION 37

Council to investigate support for local green waste mulching and composting services for the wider community.

What implementation looks like

Provide non-financial support to community groups. Examples could include:

1. promotion through Council communication channels
2. staff time (e.g. providing support with event planning/writing grant application/proposals).

External funding is being sourced for a Climate Change Activator to support this action

ACTION 38

Council to investigate the best way to deliver domestic organic waste collection in the District. Council to support initiatives that collect organic waste from homes and businesses for composting.

What implementation looks like

Council consulted on an organic waste collection as part of the Long-Term Plan 2018-28, with a result of not proceeding with this initiative.

Council to re-visit this. Potential to be included as a consultation issue in the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan.

ACTION 39

Council to investigate expansion of support for, or develop partnerships with, existing or new programmes which redistribute surplus food from restaurants and supermarkets, such as Wai Waste.

What implementation looks like

Provide non-financial support to community groups. Examples could include:

1. promotion through Council communication channels
2. staff time (e.g. providing support with event planning/writing grant application/proposals).

More in-depth business case could be developed if needed on case-by-case basis if funding is needed.

A business case for funding could be developed as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 if cost/benefit makes project viable to financially support.



CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRINCIPLES

ACTION 40

Council to investigate expansion of the current resource recovery operations in the District and look to build on that existing infrastructure. Foster a culture around 'repair not replace' in the District.

What implementation looks like

More in-depth business case to be developed.

A business case for funding could be developed as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34.

ACTION 41

Council to facilitate repair café style events* with the resource recovery groups and local businesses, promoting the idea of repairing broken or old household items via local community groups

What implementation looks like

Funding to support this action will be sought through the 2023/24 Annual Plan process.



BUILDING/INFRASTRUCTURE WASTE

ACTION 42

Council to investigate developing a deconstruction hub as part of the Resource Recovery Centre that provides infrastructure for industry to exchange key materials and share best practice expertise.

What implementation looks like

More in-depth business case to be developed for investigation.

A business case for funding could be developed as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 if cost/benefit makes project viable.

*zerowaste.co.nz/repair-cafe-aotearoa-nz-to-be-launched-on-international-repair-day/



CLIMATE RESILIENT DISTRICT

How we adapt to increasingly severe floods, droughts, storms, and changes in precipitation rates, power our homes and businesses through renewable energy, design and retrofit for low-emission construction and create infrastructure that is resilient to climate impacts, protect our native biodiversity through climate solutions, and take a coordinated and strategic approach to tackling climate change in the Greater Wellington Region. Collect data, map current and potential impacts and develop a fit for purpose, adaptable plan for managing climate change exacerbated hazards.

Goal

Ensure the resilience of our district infrastructure, productive landscapes, and natural environment from current and future climate change exacerbated hazards (floods, droughts, heavy precipitation events, strong wind, landslides, heat stress, wildfires).

Sub-goals

- Masterton District has transitioned to zero-emissions energy sources.
- Masterton District Council has plans for increasingly severe hazards/risk (floods, droughts, storm events).
- Reduce carbon emissions related to creating and maintaining infrastructure (including buildings) and ensure infrastructure is designed to withstand climate impacts.
- Masterton District has biologically healthy rivers which provide for our local communities, and our flora and fauna.
- Masterton has access to enough water to service a growing population.
- Masterton District Council has a clear picture of the health of the district's rivers, including what parts are improving and what parts need urgent attention, and the Masterton community has a clear understanding of what work is being done to improve them.
- Enhance the capacity of the natural environment to sequester carbon and protect indigenous biodiversity from the impacts of climate change.
- Masterton District Council supports legal protection of key biodiversity hotspot sites that will be important in helping our native flora and fauna to adapt to climate change.
- Masterton District Council remove any local barriers to a transformative, low-emission primary industries sector.
- Connected regional approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change which allows for knowledge sharing and uses Council resources/staff capacity wisely.
- Utilise the current and future regional projects to feed into council decision making around climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Action categories

- Energy transition
- Emergency response
- Public spaces
- Building construction/retrofit
- District mapping
- District planning
- Productive landscapes
- Biodiversity and ecosystem health





ENERGY TRANSITION

ACTION 43

Council to support wider conversion to LED lighting across the District.

What implementation looks like

More in-depth business case to be developed for investigation.
A business case for funding could be developed as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 if cost/benefit makes project viable.

ACTION 44

Council to investigate installation of solar and/or wind generation infrastructure on appropriate Council buildings. Look at all Council buildings being well insulated.

What implementation looks like

More in-depth business case to be developed for investigation.
A business case for funding could be developed as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 if cost/benefit makes project viable.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

ACTION 45

Council in collaboration with Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO) to update internal extreme weather response to make it fit for purpose with new climate change impacts.

What implementation looks like

Consideration needed for how/when action will be included within new or existing staff work programmes.

ACTION 46

Council to be well-prepared to support communities in the event of extreme weather events, such as flooding and fire events. Examples could include sandbags, flood barriers, water testing kits, evacuation plans, etc.

What implementation looks like

More in-depth business case to be developed for investigation.
A business case for funding could be developed as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 if cost/benefit makes project viable.

ACTION 47

Council to make its public buildings (such as the library) safe spaces for the community in days of extreme heat stress.

What implementation looks like

More in-depth business case to be developed for investigation.
A business case for funding could be developed as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 if cost/benefit makes the project viable.



PUBLIC SPACES

ACTION 48

Council to investigate embedding climate change mitigation and adaptation measures into all council controlled public spaces. Prioritise the use of low-carbon infrastructure in public spaces e.g. e-charging infrastructure including e-bikes, scooters, wheelchairs, cars.

What implementation looks like

Consideration needed for how/when action could be included within new or existing staff work programmes.

ACTION 49

Council to investigate how to make carbon negative parks and recreation spaces using international and domestic examples.

What implementation looks like

More in-depth business case to be developed for investigation.
A business case for funding could be developed as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 if cost/benefit makes the project viable.





BUILDING CONSTRUCTION/RETROFIT

ACTION 50

Council to investigate the potential for greater utilisation of roof areas for solar power generation and water capture. Showcase opportunities through pilots on public assets. Address current barriers to uptake and investigate incentives. Investigate:

- what are the best options for different locations and building type
- how they could benefit stormwater management, electricity generation, rainwater harvesting and food growing in the Wairarapa.

What implementation looks like

Funding will be sought through the 2023/24 annual plan process for an initial investigation.

Business case to be developed based on initial investigation as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34.

ACTION 51

Council to identify and remove barriers to low-emission design and construction, including council processes and enable other mechanisms such as incentivisation and upskilling.

What implementation looks like

Funding will be sought through the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 process for the investigation.

A more in-depth business case to be developed based on initial investigation.

ACTION 52

Council to investigate reduced building/compliance fees for proposed Green Star builds.

What implementation looks like

Funding will be sought through the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 process for the investigation.

A more in-depth business case to be developed based on initial investigation.

ACTION 53

Council to investigate how to support the delivery of a residential programme to reduce carbon emissions from the District's commercial and residential buildings, including the installation of insulation, double glazing, summer cooling and ventilation, efficient heating and lighting, and renewable energy generation.

What implementation looks like

Funding will be sought through the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 process for the investigation.
A more in-depth business case to be developed based on initial investigation.

ACTION 54

Council to investigate ways to partner with industry to develop a commercial building retrofit programme to improve the efficiency and climate footprint of the District's commercial buildings; promote and enable fuel switching to renewable sources and install energy efficient air conditioners.

What implementation looks like

Funding will be sought through the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 process for the investigation.
A more in-depth business case to be developed based on initial investigation.



DISTRICT MAPPING

ACTION 55

Council to map climate risks and impacts (floods, drought, storms, sea level rise, fire risk, heat stress, invasive/noxious species) across the three district geographical areas – coastal, rural, and urban. Council to investigate identification of council assets that are within current or predicted risk zones (over the next 100 years). Utilise NIWA climate change projections and regional climate change risk assessment to understand specific infrastructure vulnerabilities to river and lowland flooding and coastal storm surge and sea-level rise, including changes in erosion/deposition.

What implementation looks like

Funding budgeted and allocated in 2021/22 for Council's contribution to the Wellington Regional Climate Change Impact Assessment (CCIA).
Funding budgeted in 2022/23 for Council's contribution to the Wellington Regional Climate Change Impact Assessment (CCIA).
Existing staff resourcing already committed as part of the project team for the Wellington Regional Climate Change Impact Assessment (CCIA).

ACTION 56

Council to investigate how to create a carbon map for the District to show where sequestration is occurring and may be enhanced (e.g. wetlands, native forests, local forestry plantations).

What implementation looks like

More in-depth business case to be developed.

Funding will be sought through the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 process if cost/benefit makes project viable.

Council to advocate for external funding (action dependent on significant external funding).

ACTION 57

Council to advocate to Greater Wellington Regional Council for better water sampling data sharing and use, and increasing the data points collected (if needed) to get a clear picture of the state of the District's rivers.

What implementation looks like

External funding is being sourced for a Climate Change Activator to support this action



DISTRICT PLANNING

ACTION 58

Council to determine approach to risk mitigation and planning decisions (such as adaptive design and planning pathways as recommended by the Ministry for the Environment). This approach aims for flexible and adaptable decision making over time and has been used successfully by other councils for flooding and coastal erosion planning.

What implementation looks like

Internal staff time/capacity required. Consideration needed for how/when action will be included within new or existing work programmes.

ACTION 59

Council to understand what measures to take to mitigate the effects of flooding and sea-level rise.

What implementation looks like

More in-depth business case to be developed.

Funding will be sought through the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 process if cost/benefit makes project viable.

Council to advocate for external funding (action dependent on significant external funding).

ACTION 60

Council to investigate how to ensure new stormwater infrastructure is designed to respond to the increasing frequency of extreme weather events.

What implementation looks like

More in-depth business case to be developed.

Funding will be sought through the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 process if cost/benefit makes project viable.

Council to advocate for external funding (action dependent on significant external funding).

ACTION 61

Council to work with Greater Wellington Regional Council to monitor and model climate change impacts on the District's water system to understand the resilience of the network.

What implementation looks like

More in-depth business case to be developed.

Funding will be sought through the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 process if cost/benefit makes project viable.

Council to advocate for external funding (action dependent on significant external funding).

ACTION 62

Council to collaborate with Greater Wellington Regional Council to identify options for reducing risk from flooding, including riparian planting, stop banks, wetlands, restrictions on buildings.

What implementation looks like

More in-depth business case to be developed.

Funding will be sought through the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 process if cost/benefit makes project viable.

Council to advocate for external funding (action dependent on significant external funding).

ACTION 63

Council to ensure Masterton District has a reliable and safe water supply.

What implementation looks like

More in-depth business case to be developed.

Funding will be sought through the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 process if cost/benefit makes project viable.

Council to advocate for external funding (action dependent on significant external funding).

ACTION 64

Council to support development of new water storage infrastructure or expansion of existing infrastructure, including the use of nature-based solutions.

What implementation looks like

More in-depth business case to be developed.

Funding will be sought through the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 process if cost/benefit makes project viable.

Council to advocate for external funding (action dependent on significant external funding).

ACTION 65

Council to make the installation of rainwater tanks (non-potable) compulsory for new builds.

What implementation looks like

To be considered as part of the current Wairarapa Combined District Plan review.

ACTION 66

Council to investigate how to assess climate change impacts for all new Council developments and infrastructure. Council to investigate how to develop a framework that will allow staff to consider climate implications at each stage of project development. Climate change projections are considered in all infrastructure planning. For example, Council to ensure climate projections are used in planning for water resources infrastructure (dams, rivers, groundwater, pipelines, water races).

What implementation looks like

Internal staff time/capacity needed to be allocated for framework development.

ACTION 67

Council to assess and support pathways to decrease construction of new infrastructure in known climate hazard/risk zones.

What implementation looks like

Staff time/capacity needed to support this action.

Link to mapping work based on the Wellington Regional Climate Change Impact Assessment project.

ACTION 68

Council to ensure clear climate hazard information is provided for developers and regulators. Council to investigate how to encourage new commercial developments to install on-site storm water retention system or bio remediation systems based on size of building and hard surface, and investigate requiring new commercial carpark areas to plant shade trees and/or rain gardens.

What implementation looks like

Staff time/capacity needed to support this action.
Link to mapping work based on the Wellington Regional Climate Change Impact Assessment project



PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPES

ACTION 69

Council to meet with representatives of different forestry companies quarterly to discuss climate impacts on infrastructure e.g. increased storm damage. Council to also hold a combined meeting with the sector (as done in Northland with the Wood Council) to discuss upcoming harvesting and the impacts on roads and other infrastructure in the District. Investigate forestry land rates, timing options of harvests, as well as environmental management such as 10m riparian zone of native planting along waterways, designated wetland zones, and coastal esplanade zones. Take guidance from this process happening in other regions.

What implementation looks like

Staff time/capacity needed to support this action.
Link to mapping work based on the Wellington Regional Climate Change Impact Assessment project

ACTION 70

Council to assist Greater Wellington Regional Council in fostering a 'right tree, right place, right time' culture of tree planting in the district.

What implementation looks like

Internal staff training/community engagement.
Collaboration with Greater Wellington Regional Council.

ACTION 71

Council to support Greater Wellington Regional Council in their programmes for farm-based and community tree planting.

What implementation looks like

Internal staff training/community engagement.
Collaboration with Greater Wellington Regional Council.



BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

ACTION 72

Council to develop a plan to manage the effects of climate change on local biodiversity.

What implementation looks like

Internal Council planning (staff time and capacity). Getting the action on the work programme of relevant staff for 2023/2024.

ACTION 73

Council to ensure existing provisions and relationships to protect and enhance local biodiversity to address potential climate impacts.

What implementation looks like

Investigation to confirm what processes are currently in place and what additional work is required.

ACTION 74

Council to investigate how to include ecological corridors, rain gardens, and street trees when (re)designing urban areas.

What implementation looks like

Internal Council planning (staff time and capacity). Getting the action on the work programme of relevant staff for 2023/2024.

Funding will be sought through the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 process for project costs.

ACTION 75

Council to identify options for protecting native vegetation and planted forests from wildfires, including firebreaks, and selective planting of fire-resistant species.

What implementation looks like

Internal Council planning (staff time and capacity). Getting the action on the work programme of relevant staff for 2023/2024.

Funding will be sought through the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 process for project costs.

ACTION 76

Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council support the enhancement and legal protection (covenants) of our wetlands and forests

What implementation looks like

Internal Council planning (staff time and capacity). Getting the action on the work programme of relevant staff for 2023/2024.

Funding will be sought through the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 process for project cost.

COUNCIL CORPORATE CARBON EMISSION REDUCTION PLAN

For actions that were focused on internal Council organisational emissions reductions, it is proposed that those actions move to the next iteration of the Council Corporate Carbon Emission Reduction Plan.

ACTIONS FOR THE NEXT ITERATION OF THE CCERP

- Council to encourage all council contractors to use low carbon vehicles and machinery or offset their emissions.
- Determine the Masterton District's share of regional transport emissions and monitor changes over time to establish effectiveness of the Climate Action Plan. Customise Greater Wellington Regional Council carbon emissions inventory for the District.
- Council to promote alternative energy development in the District and support rural development of alternative energy production, e.g. micro-hydro, wind, solar, biomass.
- Council to lobby for centralised waste operation in Manawatū at Bonny Glen to recover more landfill gas for power generation (this is where Masterton District sends all our waste).
- Council to investigate retrofitting existing Masterton District Council buildings with energy-efficient air conditioners.
- Council to incorporate climate change considerations into Council procurement processes. Ensure Council's tenders have a weighting for climate change.
- Council to consider utilisation of appropriate eco-design and low impact principles in all council refurbishment projects, including thorough utilisation of timber where feasible. Investigate low-emission and sustainable buildings practices for future council development.
- Council to consider use of underused land for opportunities such as energy generation and carbon sequestration.
- Council to investigate funding options for planting council land to offset carbon emissions based on current research.
- Council to incorporate climate change (mitigation and adaptation) considerations into future community development projects.
- Council to take account of cultural values when considering the impact of climate change and when proposing solutions to climate change.



IMPLEMENTATION

A Year 1 implementation plan will be developed in the first six months after the Climate Action Plan is adopted. A revised implementation plan and associated budget will be developed and approved by Council at the beginning of each financial year.





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