

Becoming a Low Carbon Community

An Action Plan

Becoming a Low Carbon Community

This low carbon action plan is a positive step towards Auckland's transformation into an energy-resilient low carbon city. It is the result of determined advocacy by a number of Waitemātā Local Board members, both past and present, and an array of community groups and stakeholders.

We are proud to be the first local board to have developed our own plan, which is intended to work in conjunction with Council's *Low Carbon Auckland: Auckland's energy resilience and low carbon action*. Based in active interventions, we intend to see a good number of projects initiated and advanced in this term so that they can continue to develop into the future.

The Waitemātā Local Board's area is situated on the unique and fragile Auckland Isthmus and includes the central city, several kilometres of built-up harbour edge, a number of townships, villages and residential suburbs. It also incorporates a wide array of regional and local parks and reserves and a number of streams, many of which are piped.

Much of the infrastructure is in need of replacement, notably waste and stormwater drains, and is under further pressure from the intensified development of housing and commercial buildings. Traffic and public transport converge on the City as do commercial shipping, ferries and recreational boating from the sea. Our urban forest, at risk from growth and development, plays a crucial role in terms of providing carbon sequestration and climate management.

Fortunately environmental awareness, including cognisance of the preciousness of our environment and its bio-diversity, the threat of climate change and the need to maintain good levels of public health, is advanced amongst the populace and in the business and development sector.

This plan brings together a range of possible actions to adopt carbon practices and reduce carbon emissions within the community, businesses infrastructure, transport and housing. Given the awareness within our boundaries, and with enthusiastic but careful activation of this plan, we have the potential to become an exemplar low carbon community.

Deborah Yates and Rob Thomas

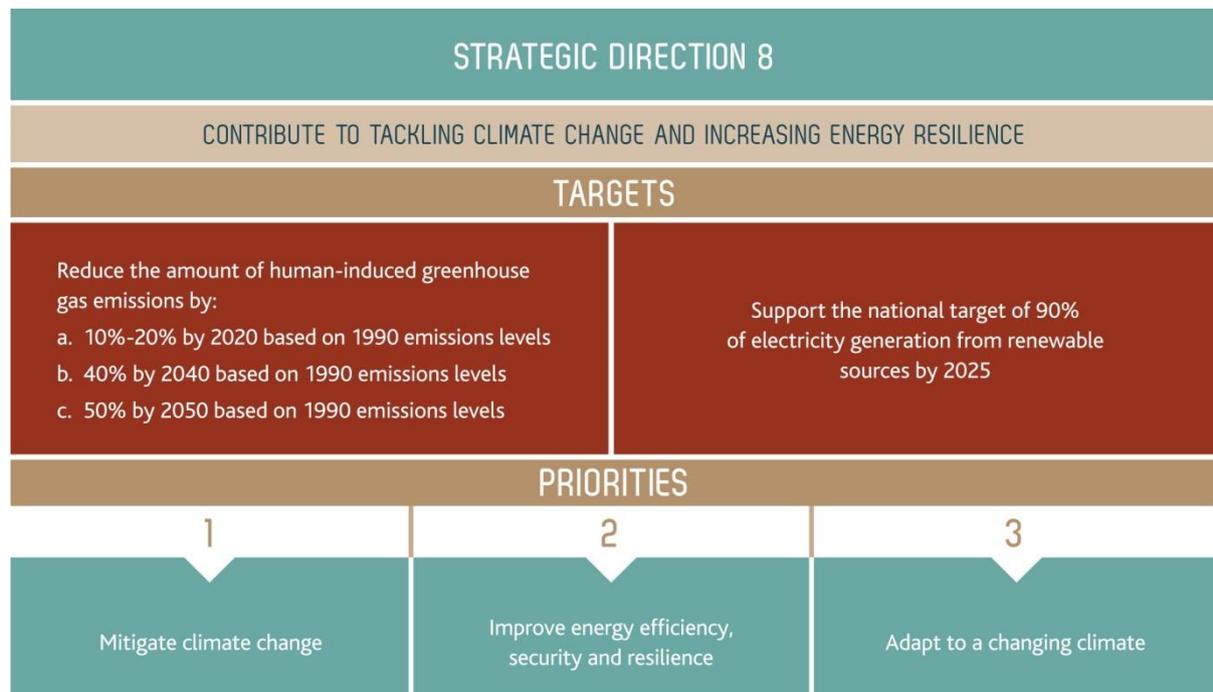
Natural Environment Portfolio

Waitemātā Local Board

August 2015

Introduction

The Auckland Plan lays the foundation for Auckland’s transformation to a highly energy resilient, low carbon city through a focus on green growth. It sets an aspirational target of a 40 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 [based on 1990 levels].



Auckland Plan’s strategic direction for climate change and energy resilience

The Auckland Energy Resilience and Low Carbon Action Plan sets out a 30-year pathway and a 10-year plan of action that will guide the first stage of Auckland’s transformation towards an energy-resilient future and help deliver on the Auckland Plan’s aspirational target. While the need for an Auckland-wide plan focused on the collaboration and cooperation of businesses, industry, government and communities is recognised, it is also acknowledged that action at a local level is also a contributor to the collective action needed to transform Auckland, not least for the wealth of local knowledge to be found within the community.

The opportunity to examine the connection between the Auckland-wide strategy and local action has been provided by the Waitemātā Local Board, who signalled in their 2011 Local Board Plan the desire to prepare a localised plan for reducing emissions. This localised carbon-reduction plan – which is the first of its kind in Auckland – seeks to define the focus areas at a local level that will contribute to the greenhouse gas emission reduction target.

A number of the actions and advocacy aims of this plan have already been signalled in the Waitemata Local Board's annual agreements over the past 2 to 4 years, with progress already being made. As international and local knowledge and learning increase, this plan may well be adjusted in the future, with the proviso that the sincere intentions are maintained. As such, it is a living document.

Rationale

There are numerous benefits associated with becoming a low carbon community. These include, but are not limited to:

- Energy savings to households, businesses and council
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- Supporting green enterprise and green growth outcomes
- Positive impact on human health
- Climate change mitigation
- Reduction in air pollution through reduction in private vehicle use
- Physical wellbeing as a result of active transport
- Physical wellbeing as a result of healthier residential dwellings
- Community resilience
- Increased biodiversity and biosecurity

Localised Opportunities and Actions

There are a number of ways that activity at a local level can contribute to greenhouse gas reductions. The key areas of focus (called 'Action Areas') for the Waitematā Local Board area have been identified as:

Utilising Social Infrastructure. Within the local board area there are a number of assets that can be utilised at key locations to support the desired actions including community centres and schools. In particular, the local board would like to see the facilities they support being used as exemplars in terms of how they operate and as locations for training and networking.

Walking the Talk. The Local Board is committed to walking the talk in demonstrating the behaviours they expect of others.

Good for Business. Support businesses to be more sustainable and resilient.

Low Carbon Transport options. Transition transport to low carbon options.

Champions for Change. Build relationships with organisations and individuals who support localised reduction in carbon.

Engaging Households. Support householders to live lower carbon lives.

Local Exemplars and Initiatives. Support and profile those who are taking action.

Implementation processes or opportunities

The Waitematā Local Board has the following mechanisms it can use to support the implementation of this Action Plan:

1. **Funding** – Provision of funds to deliver projects and support groups taking action.
2. **Advocacy** – including to the Governing Body and other organisations such as NZTA, Auckland Transport, Waterfront Auckland, ATEED.
3. **Leading** – including delivering projects themselves but also using powers available to drive change (including landowner approval and bylaws.)
4. **Partnering** – including building relationships with key organisations and individuals who can help deliver action.
5. **Recognition** – including promoting actions and recognising efforts.

The Action Plan brings together these different elements, which include projects already underway that are focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions; provides some examples of projects (some existing and some possible) and indicates the role of the Waitematā Local Board in implementation.

The Action Plan

Action Area 1 | Utilising Social Infrastructure

1.1 Support community centres and facilities to adopt low carbon practices.

For example: Support energy, water, waste and sustainable transport audits of centres and facilities.

For example:

- Support green roofs on Council owned centres and facilities.
- Support local power generation to support energy resilience and reduction in carbon and ecological impact

Local Board Mechanism: Lead, Fund, Support

1.2 Support local schools to deliver environmental initiatives.

Local Board Mechanism: Fund, Support

1.3 Work towards zero waste for all Local Board funded events.

Local Board Mechanism: Lead, Fund

1.4 Work towards zero waste events at all Council facilities within the Local Board area.

Local Board Mechanism: Fund, Support, Advocate

1.5 Enhance urban forest and biodiversity.

Local Board Mechanism: Fund, Support, Advocate

Action Area 2 | Walking the Talk

2.1 Ensure the practices of the Local Board in relation to purchasing decisions, waste management and travel reflect the Board's desire to be leading by example in working in a low carbon manner.

For example: increase in staff and Elected Members using public and active transport.

Local Board Mechanism: Lead

2.2 Use advocacy powers to ensure that the practices of the Auckland Council (including the Council Controlled Organisations) support the low carbon outcome.

For example: Advocate to the Governing Body for Council-Controlled Organisations (CCO) to include low-carbon in their Statement of Intent.

Local Board Mechanism: Advocate

Action Area 3 | Good for Business

3.1 Partner with business associations and Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to design and deliver initiatives.

For example: Work with Auckland Council officers to identify all the programmes on offer from Council, CCOs and other organisations that support businesses becoming part of a low carbon economy, and then to promote these programmes through the business associations and BIDs.

Local Board Mechanism: Lead, Fund, Support

3.2 Continue to deliver Good for Business presentations with a focus on transitioning to a low carbon economy.

For example: This is a continuation of the Good for Business presentations delivered in partnership with AECOM.

Local Board Mechanism: Support, Advocate

3.3 Lead the development of a low carbon programme targeted at supporting businesses to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adopt low carbon practices.

For example: Work with Auckland Council officers to identify all the programmes on offer from Council, CCOs and other organisations that support businesses becoming part of a low carbon economy and advocate for an integrated and coordinated approach to target business.

Local Board Mechanism: Lead, Fund, Advocate

3.4 Support and profile exemplar businesses.

Local Board Mechanism: Lead, Support

3.5. Encourage businesses to implement product stewardship scheme.

Local Board Mechanism: Lead, Support, Advocate

Action Area 4 | Low Carbon Transport Options

4.1 Advocate for public transport (this includes buses, ferries, rail, trams and light rail) that is easy to access, frequent, affordable, comfortable and integrated.

Local Board Mechanism: Advocate

4.2 Promote the development of Employee Travel Plans to business.

Local Board Mechanism: Advocate

4.3 Work with Auckland Transport to ensure temporary bike parking is available for all events.

Local Board Mechanism: Lead, Advocate

4.4 Support local car share schemes and carpooling.

Local Board Mechanism: Lead, Advocate

4.5 Work towards completing the Auckland cycling network, including upgrading substandard parts of existing cycle network.

Local Board Mechanism: Lead, Advocate

4.6 Advocate for more sustainable transport options including public transport, walking and cycling.

Local Board Mechanism: Advocate

4.7 Support the SkyPath project.

Local Board Mechanism: Advocate

4.8 Continue to look for opportunities to prioritise the movement of pedestrians in a safe manner.

Local Board Mechanism: Lead, Advocate

4.9 Work towards implementing the Greenways Plan for the Waitematā Local Board area.

Local Board Mechanism: Lead, Fund, Advocate

4.10 Work to transition Auckland Council vehicles to a low carbon fleet including electric cars, hybrid cars, electric bikes and pool bikes.

Local Board Mechanism: Advocate

4.11 Advocate for effective parking management to ensure that it supports people's enjoyment of public spaces.

Local Board Mechanism: Advocate

Action Area 5 | Champions of Change

5.1 Build a network of local organisations and individuals who can support the Waitemātā Local Board to implement this Plan.

Local Board Mechanism: Lead, Fund, Support, Recognise

Action Area 6 | Engaging Householders

6.1 Implement programmes to support householder's transition to a low carbon lifestyle.

For example: Pilot a project with a residential Body Corporate to reduce energy use, water consumption and waste.

Local Board Mechanism: Fund, Advocate, Support

6.2 Encourage interested parties to become involved in local ecological restoration initiatives.

For example: Community participation in ecological restoration projects in the 2015-16 financial year will include Jagers Bush, Meola Reef Reserve, Mortions Rd Reserve, Alberon Reserve, Arch Hill Scenic Reserve, Cox's Bay (Hukanui Reserve, Cox's Reserve and Bayfield Park), Lemington Reserve and Wellpark Reserve

Local Board Mechanism: Lead, Fund, Support, Recognise

6.3 Promote the Auckland Council's free Eco-Design Service.

Local Board Mechanism: Support

6.4 Support local initiatives such as Grey Lynn 2030 and Nature for Neighbourhoods.

Local Board Mechanism: Fund, Support, Recognise

6.5 Encourage uptake of home insulation subsidies and programmes, particularly on rental stock.

Local Board Mechanism: Advocate, Support, Recognise

6.6 Implement programmes to support sustainable new buildings with energy efficient designs, use of low impact materials and less waste.

Local Board Mechanism: Advocate, Support

Action Area 7 | Local Exemplars and Initiatives

7.1 Identify a number of exemplars that demonstrate Action Areas 1 through 6, and use them to demonstrate desired practice and behaviour.

Local Board Mechanism: Lead, Recognise

7.2 Identify local projects which support the outcome of becoming a low carbon community.

For example: Work with Unitec to prepare an Urban Forest Map for the Waitematā Local Board area.

Local Board Mechanism: Fund, Support, Advocate

7.3 Assist in the development of a Resource Recovery Centre within the Waitematā, Albert-Eden or Puketapapa Local Board areas.

Local Board Mechanism: Fund, Support, Advocate



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