He Tirohanga Taratahi ki te Kokenga o Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri 2025

Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan

Progress Snapshot 2025

aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Contents

Introduction

This report outlines Auckland Councils' contribution towards the ambitious regional goals of *Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan*:

- reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50 per cent by 2030 and achieving net zero emissions by 2050
- adapting to the impacts of climate change by ensuring we plan for the changes anticipated in our current emissions pathway.

It highlights key activities and challenges across the plan's eight priority areas in the 2024–2025 financial year.

Prioritising recovery and resilience

Auckland Council continues to prioritise recovery and resilience from extreme weather events in 2023.

We are focused on rebuilding infrastructure, enhancing flood resilience, restoring the transport network and supporting our communities.

Key activities included:

- $731 million for property buyouts
- $8 million to help homeowners reduce future climate risks
- $15.3 million for flood resilience (Making Space for Water)
- $313 million to repair over 2000 slips (91 per cent completed)
- $21 million to restore damaged water infrastructure
- major resilience projects in Māngere East, Central Auckland, Wairau, and Rānui
- supporting community-led recovery efforts across the region.

Low carbon, climate resilient public transport

The Council is investing in a low-emissions, climate-resilient public transport network.

Key activities included:

- completing the City Rail Link, which will open in 2026
- construction of two electric ferries, which will enter service next year
- improvements to bus services and additional electric buses
- 8.3 kilometres of new walking and cycling paths delivered.

Sustainability initiative helping to reduce emissions and costs

We delivered sustainability initiatives that help reduce emissions and operational costs.

Key activities included:

- installing solar power systems at community and regional facilities, including Go Media Stadium
- phasing out gas boilers at two aquatic centres
- supporting community projects through grants.

Regional emissions rise slightly and we are not on track for 2030

Our latest regional greenhouse gas inventory, covering 2023, shows marginally increased net emissions of 2.6 per cent. This was influenced by a 9.5 per cent rise in gross transport-related emissions since 2022.

As a region we are not on track towards a 50% reduction by 2030 from a 2016 baseline.

Climate Insights

Global

2024 the warmest year on record

The 2024 calendar year was the hottest on record, with exceptional land, sea and ocean temperatures.

The World Meteorological Organisation, drawing upon six international datasets, highlights increasing temperatures over the last 10 years, contributing to extreme weather and rising sea levels.

The goal of the Paris Climate Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5°C is now at high risk.

Conference of Parties' outcomes

The annual United Nations Climate Change Conference was held in Baku, Azerbaijan in November 2024 (COP29).

A key outcome was a new collective finance goal to support global climate action. This included a pledge by developed countries to provide US$300 billion per year by 2035 to support developing nations, including Pacific small island nations.

New Zealand announced a $10 million contribution to the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage, which can help Pacific countries respond to the adverse effects of climate change and to build reliance. It is part of the Government's $1.3 billion climate finance commitment for 2022-2025.

Rules were agreed for a new international carbon trading system. These rules will help ensure that emissions reductions are real, measurable, verifiable and permanent.

National

National emissions reduction plan

The Government released its second Emissions Reduction Plan in December 2024. It outlines the actions it will take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet its target for net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Notably, it also removed biogenic methane from this target and excluded agricultural activities from emissions trading.

Changes to 2030 emissions reduction target

In January 2025, the Government pushed out its climate target for 2030. Instead of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50 per cent (below 2005 levels) in 2030, it now aims to reduce emissions by 51–55 per cent by 2035.

National adaptation plan assessment

The Climate Change Commission released an independent assessment of the National Adaptation Plan (2022). It concluded that adaptation was not happening at the scale or pace to address climate risks and to make New Zealand communities safer.

The Government responded to the Commission's recommendations, releasing a National Adaptation Framework and providing national direction for councils about managing risks from natural hazard.

Other policy key changes

- legislation to allow local authorities to introduce congestion charging
- winding down New Zealand Green Investment Finance.

Snapshot of our progress

Natural environment	Built environment	Transport	Economy	Communities and coast	Food	Te Puāwaitanga ō te Tātai	Energy and industry
A healthy and connected natural environment supports healthy and connected Aucklanders. The mauri (life essence) of Tāmaki Makaurau is restored.	A low carbon, resilient built environment that promotes healthy, low impact lifestyles.	A low carbon, safe transport system that delivers social, economic and health benefits for all.	A resilient, low carbon economy, guided by our kaitiaki values, that supports Aucklanders to thrive.	Communities and individuals are prepared for our changing climate and coastline, and carbon footprints of Aucklanders have reduced.	A low-carbon, resilient, local food system that provides all Aucklanders with access to fresh and healthy food.	Intergenerational whakapapa relationships of taiao, whenua and tāngata are flourishing. The potential and value of Māori is fully realised.	A clean energy system that supports and provides for a resilient, low carbon Auckland.
5 action areas	**9 action areas**	**8 action areas**	**7 action areas**	**5 action areas**	**5 action areas**	**7 action areas**	**6 action areas**
30.5 ● Concentration of air pollutants (NO2mgF/m3) in Queen Street [2023]	11.8% ● Per cent of annual dwellings consented within 1km of a train or busway station (rapid transit network stations)	89M ● Public transport boardings annually	673KG ● Total waste per capita per year	80,826 ● Aucklanders engaged in living a low carbon lifestyles	41% ● Domestic food waste as a proportion of total domestic waste [2023]	KEY FOCUS: Marae Resilience, Rangatahi Māori knowledge	15% ● Decrease in emissions from electricity consumption
18% ● Average percentage of tree cover [2016]	N/A Percentage of new buildings built to a sustainable design standard (in development)	898 ● Million litres of petrol purchased	131KG ● Domestic waste per capita per year	63% ● Auckland's schools engaged in sustainability education	24,351 ● Tonnes of domestic food scraps diverted from landfill		15% ● Decrease in emissions from stationary fuel combustion
		649 ● Million litres of diesel purchased annually					

Key: Overall direction of travel since 2021

● Positive change ● Negative Change ● No change ● No trend / update

Priority Area Updates

Natural Environment

Highlights

Targeted rate builds ecosystem resilience

The Natural Environment Targeted Rate is funding large-scale biodiversity and biosecurity initiatives that build the resilience of our native ecosystems to climate change.

Key activities included:

- funding 46 community conservation projects
- reducing possum numbers to very low levels across 38.5 per cent of rural mainland Auckland and preventing feral deer establishing in several regional parks
- eradication efforts on Kawau Island to remove possums and wallabies in partnership with the Manuhiri Kaitiaki Charitable Trust, Department of Conservation and community volunteers
- protecting pest-free status other Hauraki Gulf islands, through training, support, inspections and pest-detection dogs
- publishing the first conservation status report on Auckland's birds and climate change risks to threatened species.

Improved air quality and forest cover

The State of the Environment Report (2025) found that air quality remains generally good, with a continued decline in vehicle-related pollution. Coastal and estuarine water quality has also improved.

Figure 1: Monitoring plot on Kawau Island showing devastation caused by wallabies and possums

Successful tree planting season

2024 was a highly successful planting season, with over 790,000 native trees planted.

The 200-hectare Urban Ngahere programme delivered nearly three times its annual planting target, with over 45 hectares planted. This was made possible through additional funding from Waka Kotahi.

Challenges

We are seeing increasing pest and pathogen incursions in Auckland.

Warmer temperatures are helping exotic species such as painted apple moths and gypsy moths to establish.

Most biosecurity risks arrive unexpectedly responding to them can stretch operational resources and budgets.

Nature-based solutions

Natural carbon sinks

Mangroves, saltmarshes, and seagrasses are highly effective natural carbon sinks. Much of the carbon they capture is stored in sediments, where it can remain for centuries.

Auckland Council commissioned a study that used satellite imagery and machine learning to map these habitats. The refined mapping estimated they cover approximately 22,762 hectares across Auckland's east and west coasts, sequestering around 11,946 tonnes of CO_2 annually—equivalent to the emissions from 10,000 petrol cars.

Beyond carbon storage, these ecosystems provide additional environmental benefits, including erosion control, nutrient and sediment filtration, and protection from flooding and storm impacts.

It highlights the importance of protecting and enhancing these ecosystems for Auckland's environmental health and climate resilience.

Dune Restoration

Extreme coastal storm events affected Stanmore Bay Reserve in 2018 and Browns Bay Beach Reserve in 2023, causing outflanking of legacy rock armouring and erosion along the reserve edges at both sites.

These events provided an opportunity to reassess existing hard protection structures and implement nature-based solutions, making use of the wide adjacent reserve buffers.

At both sites, legacy rock armouring was removed, reserve edges were reshaped, and beach sand was repositioned to form restored dune profiles. The dunes were then planted with native grasses—spinifex and pīngao—which are now well established.

The restored dunes now provide a natural, dynamic buffer against storm events and coastal processes, while enhancing the beach environment and natural landscape.

Figure 2: Restored dune as a nature-based solution, Browns Bay

Taiao hanga

Built Environment

Highlights

Storm response continues

Responding to extreme weather events in 2023 remains a priority.

The second year of storm fund expenditure supported 31 programmes to increase preparedness.

Over $17 million was spent on activities ranging from inspections to network cleaning.

Key activities included:

- more than 5700 visits to high-risk properties
- enhanced Auckland Emergency Management resourcing
- higher-resolution climate projections to inform future infrastructure planning
- increased community engagement on climate risks.

Flood resilience projects

We are making reasonable progress with rebuilding affected infrastructure and flood resilience projects.

Key achievements include:

- flood resilience projects in Māngere East and Central, the Wairau blue-green network, and a major project in Rānui
- repairing 80 per cent of road slips including major repairs on Scenic Drive, Ahuroa Road and Awhitu Road
- outcome decisions for 85 per cent of properties registered under future risk categories.

Modelling helps us understand key climate change impacts

- A report on urban heat highlighted the impact of land cover on regional temperatures, particularly where high-density buildings trap heat. High-resolution maps show effects at neighbourhood level
- A region-wide landslide susceptibility study helps Aucklanders identify and avoid high-risk areas
- A climate impact report as part of natural hazards loss modelling identified key risks, particularly flooding and drought are expected to worsen.

Revitalising Victora Street

The Auckland's city centre renewal continued with the revitalisation of Victoria Street.

This included integration of 16 mature native trees to enhance biodiversity and urban cooling.

Significant improvements were also made to cycle safety.

Challenges

Recovery takes time and the effects on affected Auckland communities are long-lasting.

At the same time, we must continue to build resilience. And we expect more frequent disruptive climate events.

Auckland Central Library living roof

Rooftop opportunity

Green or living roofs offers an effective way to mitigate environmental challenges by integrating natural processes into urban environments where they are needed most.

Rooftops comprise a significant proportion of the total impervious area in urban settings and are frequently underutilised.

A living roof has been installed at Central Auckland Library. Approximately 2000 native plants attract pollinators and provide habitat and landing points for precious taonga species within an urban setting.

Plant powered partnership

To increase understanding of how living roofs can contribute to climate adaptation and resilience, Auckland Council and the University of Auckland have partnered to measure the performance of a range of living roof typologies. This includes a replica of the substrate used on the Central City Library Living Roof.

Initial insights

- over 80 per cent annual average reduction in stormwater peak discharge rates across all vegetated substrates
- surface temperatures reduced by 56 per cent compared to conventional roofs during hot summer days
- approximately 90 per cent native plant survival rate on the Central City Library pilot.

Figure 3: Living Roof test beds, University of Auckland, Engineering Roof

The findings demonstrate that living roofs can significantly reduce urban stormwater impacts, provide natural cooling and biodiversity.

It offers valuable evidence to inform future policy development supporting living roofs.

Energy and Industry

Highlights

Transitioning away from natural gas

Council continued to replace natural gas heat pumps for space heating and hot water and to improve energy metering.

Key activities included:

- new hot water heat pump systems at Stanmore Bay Pool and WestWave Aquatic Centre
- new electric heat pumps in the East and West Stands at Go Media Stadium to replace aging gas boilers
- electrical metering at key regional sites, including the Civic Theatre, Auckland Art Gallery, Town Hall, and Viaduct Events Centre to better manage energy use.

Solar powered community and regional facilities

We also continue to invest in renewable energy generation to reduce costs and strengthen resilience. Highlights include 11 solar system upgrades at the following community facilities:

- Allan Brewster Leisure Centre (127 kWp solar array) and Lloyd Elsmore Pool (263 kWp solar array)
- solar upgrades at Kelston Community Centre - Te Pae o Kura (48 kW system) and Mahurangi Library (29.9 kWp system)
- installation of solar at Orere War Memorial Hall (12 kW), Waiuku Community Recycle Centre (40 kW), and 254 Ponsonby Park (10 kW).

Figure 4: Allan Brewster Leisure Centre now uses solar photovoltaic cells to help meet its energy needs

Challenges

Transitioning from fossil fuels, particularly natural gas, remains a significant challenge.

Switching to electric heat pumps, electric and biomass boilers require substantial capital investment, which is a challenge for the council, in a tight fiscal environment with competing priorities requiring trade-offs.

This task is often also out of reach for small and medium-sized businesses around the region and exacerbated by the simultaneous impact of rising prices from the declining natural gas supply.

The faster-than-expected depletion of natural gas reserves has increased volatility and shortened the transition window, exposing Council to either higher prices and supply uncertainty, or an accelerated rate of investment, not currently planned for.

Go Media Stadium solar system

Go Media Stadium is one of New Zealand's largest and busiest venues, hosting multiple major events and regular One New Zealand Warriors matches.

Auckland Council's Climate Action Programme, allocated funding to help decarbonise regional facilities, including Go Media stadium.

Solar upgrades

A total of 1651 solar panels have been installed across the East and West Stands, generating approximately 800 MWh per year, equivalent to 60 per cent of the stadium's total energy use.

Go Media Stadium is now one of New Zealand's most sustainable large venues.

The solar panels generate around $150,000 in annual savings, reducing reliance on ratepayer funding. The investment is expected to pay for itself within six to eight years.

Figure 5: New solar panels installed at Go Media Stadium

New electric heat pumps

Installation of new electric heat pumps in the East and West Stands has been completed.

These state-of-the-art heat pumps replace gas boilers and provide hot water for showers and kitchens. They use carbon dioxide as a refrigerant and extract heat from the air to heat water to over 60°C.

The ultra-efficient heat pumps generate four kilowatts of heat for every one kilowatt of electricity consumed. This 400 per cent efficiency compares to 85 per cent from the old gas-fired boilers.

The installation is estimated to reduce over 100 tonnes of CO_2 annually - the equivalent of 5000 trees.

$150,000 per year saving

140 tonnes CO2 saved per year

Figure 6: New electric heat pumps

Ikiiki

Transport

Highlights

Significant public transport investments

Our large-scale investment in public transport is expected to contribute to lower greenhouse gas emissions, by reducing private vehicle use.

It was a landmark year for the City Rail Link, which is set to open in 2026.

Key achievements included:

- installing all overhead line equipment and station energisation
- completing extensive station fit outs, including interiors and exteriors incorporating culturally significant design
- conducting over 9000 safety and operational readiness tests
- blessing by Mahi Ōkawa, led by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei and the mana whenua forum
- conducting live train testing
- receiving the first, and highest-ever, rating "Leading" from the Infrastructure Sustainability Council.

New and improved bus services

We made further improvements to the bus network.

It helped provide more Aucklanders access to low cost, low carbon public transport. New routes also provide greater coverage as well as encouraging a mode shift from private vehicles.

Key activities included establishing four new frequent bus routes (94, 67, 65, 12) and two new central crosstown routes.

Auckland Transport continued to shift towards cleaner transport

- 45 new zero-emission buses, bringing the total to 225 (16 per cent)
- introducing double-decker electric buses on routes WX1, 11, 12
- starting construction of four low-emission ferries
- completing low emission vessel charging infrastructure at Half Moon Bay and preparing for the first stage at Downtown Ferry Terminal.

Delivering more walk walkways and cycleways

- 2.8 kilometres of cycleway delivered (Point Chevalier to Westmere)
- 3.9 kilometres of new walking connections added to the Auckland network
- 1.6 kilometres of footpaths as part of community improvements.

Challenges

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport is our biggest challenge.

It has been met with the biggest single investment by Auckland Council, Auckland Transport and the Government in the City Rail Link project as well as significant public transport improvements.

The payoff depends on uptake - that Aucklanders taking up these improved public transport options as well as low-cost active transport options.

Changing behaviour and making a mode shift from private vehicles will take time.

Climate Action Transport Targeted Rate (CATTR)

Highlights

Bus programme delivered several key improvements including:

- 19 bus service upgrades, five in the north, five in the west, six in the central area and three in the south
- two new northern bus routes
- four frequent routes were introduced, including two isthmus crosstown services, one in the north, and one connecting north and west Auckland
- 470,000 people now live within 500 metres of a new or improved CATTR-funded service
- 41 zero emission buses.

The first CATTR funded ferry vessel is progressing along with charging infrastructure.

- first CATTR low emission ferry is under construction, with both deck and below-deck installation work underway, including electric motor installation
- Half Moon Bay charging infrastructure is nearing completion, with physical works now finished
- Downtown charging resource consent has been received, and wharf enabling work started
- Hobsonville pontoon design and procurement is underway.

Ngahere planting to reduce impacts of heat

- 1865 ngahere trees planted in areas of heat vulnerability.

Cycling progressed designs and procurement of upcoming delivery.

- Hobsonville cycleway draft design has been completed and procurement started
- Kelston-New Lynn cycling connection has completed public consultation
- Onehunga and Takapuna cycling projects have received Local Board resolutions to start.

New walking infrastructure delivered across Auckland

- 3.9 kilometres of new walking connections added to the Auckland network from footpaths and crossings
- four new road crossings at Blockhouse Bay, Great South Road Manurewa, Totaravale Drive and Murrays Bay Sailing Club
- six new footpaths constructed across Auckland.

2024/25 (FY25) Net Financial Results

CATTR FY25 (Auckland Council & Auckland Transport)			
All Figures $000's	**Actual**	**Budget**	**Variance**
Capex	**$16,253**	**$20,425**	**$4,173**
Opex	**$12,999**	**$14,151**	**-$1,152**
Group total	**$29,252**	**$34,577**	**$5,325**

Challenges

Reductions and discontinuation of central government co-funding, including low emission ferries and active modes has lowered our expected budget. This has impacted our ability to deliver on some of the original outcomes.

Auckland Council continues to review how to achieve the best possible outcomes with the remaining funding.

Climate Action Transport Targeted Rate
New crosstown bus services

Auckland Transport introduced major changes to the OuterLink and crosstown bus services to enhance reliability and better meet customer needs, funded by the Climate Action Transport Targeted Rate.

The previous services experienced low usage, poor reliability and limited evening and weekend availability.

After planning and public consultation, Auckland Transport implemented several improvements, including:

- Adjustments to approximately 15 bus routes.
- New interchange facilities and bus stops.
- Two new frequent crosstown routes (65 and 67).
- Increased service frequencies across multiple routes.

Key Benefits:

- an additional 40,000 people now live within 500 metres of a frequent bus route
- enhanced transfer experiences and improved service reliability
- OuterLink customer satisfaction increased from 52 per cent to 68 per cent reflecting improved reliability and reduced mid-trip waiting times
- route 650 buses now operate every 15 minutes improved access to jobs and opportunities along crosstown routes.

Figure 7: New crosstown bus services launched across Auckland

Communities and Coast

Highlights

Community climate action

- 1325 low-income households were helped by the Reducing Energy Hardship project to make their homes warmer and more energy efficient. We exceeded the annual target of 500 with support from community and energy-efficiency providers
- 27 community projects were supported by Auckland Climate Grants that reduced emissions, built resilience and backed Māori-led solutions
- 32 organisations supported the Enviroschools programme to empower young people to take climate action and lead local community projects
- over 80,000 Aucklanders were engaged in climate action through events, local board projects, online tools and community-led activities.

Supporting our diverse communities

- the Community Catalyst Project supported 13 organisations including underserved groups such as Pacific peoples, South-Asian, and Chinese communities
- two research reports focusing on climate impacts on Pacific peoples and disabled people were delivered to better understand complex climate change challenges, gaps, and opportunities
- Te Kotahi a Tāmaki - a collective of 33 marae were supported to host a climate symposium, which provided over 50 participants with a networking opportunity and tools and resources to strengthen marae climate resilience and preparedness for future events.

Community driven support pushes recovery efforts

The Auckland Council Recovery Office supported communities across Tāmaki Makaurau responding to significant climate events.

- the second round of community wellbeing funding was allocated to iwi and community organisations affected by 2023 extreme weather events
- helping drive recovery planning in the Āwhitu community through the Pollok Community Hall and Emergency Hub
- facilitating recovery planning in East Coast Bays communities through Auckland North Community and Development
- planning recovery initiatives in Beach Haven, Northcote Point, and Birkenhead with Pest Free Kaipātiki.

Challenges

We are working to transition affected households and communities from initial short-term support to recovery and long-term stability.

This can be time and resource intensive and requires building local knowledge and capability.

However, over the long-term, we can form enduring relationships that strengthen local communities and their ability to adapt and respond to future climate events.

Community-led action

Supporting diverse communities

The partnerships we have with Auckland's communities can enable them to become more self-reliant and reduce their vulnerability to climate disruption.

- Pacific Climate Leaders are being supported to work alongside communities to build shared understanding of climate risks and practical ways to prepare. Tools and resources grounded in Pacific perspectives and values have been developed for the Manava for Climate Resilience platform
- an online climate learning module for deaf people using New Zealand Sign Language. It includes information about climate change, tips for reducing power, food waste and other practical climate actions.

The Māngere Enviro-Hub

The Mangere Environ-Hub is at the heart of a number of connected community activities with council support.

- I AM Māngere has built a thriving community garden. It is growing a range of seasonal kai, as well as other produce such as taro, pawpaw and bananas
- council funding has helped provide carbon-cycle composting bins for the site. Each bin can process up to 750 kg of food waste per week, and the compost produced is used to nourish the garden
- the Enviro Hub works with several schools, including Māngere College, which helped build the foundations of the garden

Figure 8: Local student Jackson has learnt how to compost at Māngere Community Enviro Hub's carbon cycle composting bins.

- community groups such as Ngāti Tamaoho, run workshops and teach tamariki and rangatahi (children and teenagers) sustainable living skills, such as how to grow their own kai.
- this sits alongside other Council programmes in Māngere designed to build resilience to future hazards such as floods, droughts, cyclones and rising sea levels.

"From these practical skills and newfound environmental knowledge comes personal growth.

One thing I say to these kids is: if you want to understand your culture, understand your first mother, Papatūānuku (Mother Earth).

Once you learn how to look after the garden and the planet, everything else will come naturally" says Rata Taiwhanga from the Etū Rākau Charitable Trust.

Ngā kai

Food

Highlights

Food scraps generate renewable energy

Auckland's food scraps service, now in its third year, has diverted a total of 50,000 tonnes of waste from landfill across 480,000 households.

Last year, it avoided 33,000 tonnes of CO_2 emissions (24,351 tonnes).

The food scraps are used to generate renewable energy and liquid fertiliser.

The renewable gas is pumped into the national grid, supplying homes and businesses with clean energy.

The liquid fertiliser returns nutrients to the soil and reduces reliance on synthetic fertilisers.

Community-led food initiatives

A number of community-led food initiatives are helping to improve food resilience and increase access to sustainable food.

Sharing knowledge through training and resources strengthen Aucklanders' ability to access healthy, low-carbon food.

Examples include:

- Manurewa Kai Resilience Group provides access to nutritious, sustainable food for the local community. Recent activities include a community planting day where 250 fruit trees were planted at Manurewa High School as part of a long-term food forest project
- the Grow to Share programme supports Pacific communities by providing training and resources to strengthen both new and existing gardens
- Pacific Vision Aotearoa supports food resilience through its Fill the Pantry project. Workshops teach preservation skills such as fermenting and pressure canning empowering families to store seasonal produce and reduce food waste. These skills strengthen household resilience and help maintain cultural food practices
- Different Dinners promotes plant-based eating to improve health and cut emissions. A train the trainer programme equips community leaders with skills to share healthy, affordable plant-based meals.

Challenges

In recent years we have seen a dramatic increase in food costs and growing food poverty.

This is mostly due to a sharp rise in the cost of living. Crop losses due to climate change are also affecting supply and adding to cost pressures.

Community groups, gardens and food banks are struggling to meet increasing demand. They often lack scale and long-term sustainable funding.

Sustainable food

Whare Kai is the home base of The Kitchen Project, a community food business incubator programme. Located in the city centre's Learning Quarter, The Kitchen Project has developed a close relationship with the University of Auckland Wellbeing Team.

Improving student food poverty

In 2023, a PhD study identified that food poverty affects 53 per cent of students at the University of Auckland. While some students had access to funding support, none of the options specifically addressed improving access to food for those who cannot afford it.

The Caretakers Cottage, centrally located in Albert Park, provided the perfect community-driven solution for students, with the service now provided by The Mission Grocer.

Cooking classes improve food sovereignty

The Kitchen Project runs monthly cooking classes at Te Tirohanga o te Tōangaroa and Carlaw Park Student Village.

Classes focus on simple, affordable, low-carbon, healthy, plant-based recipes.

The University funds the purchase of four bags per class, challenging students to come up with creative ways to use the produce. Participants are also invited to take home ingredients for their own cooking.

To date, a total of 428 students have taken part.

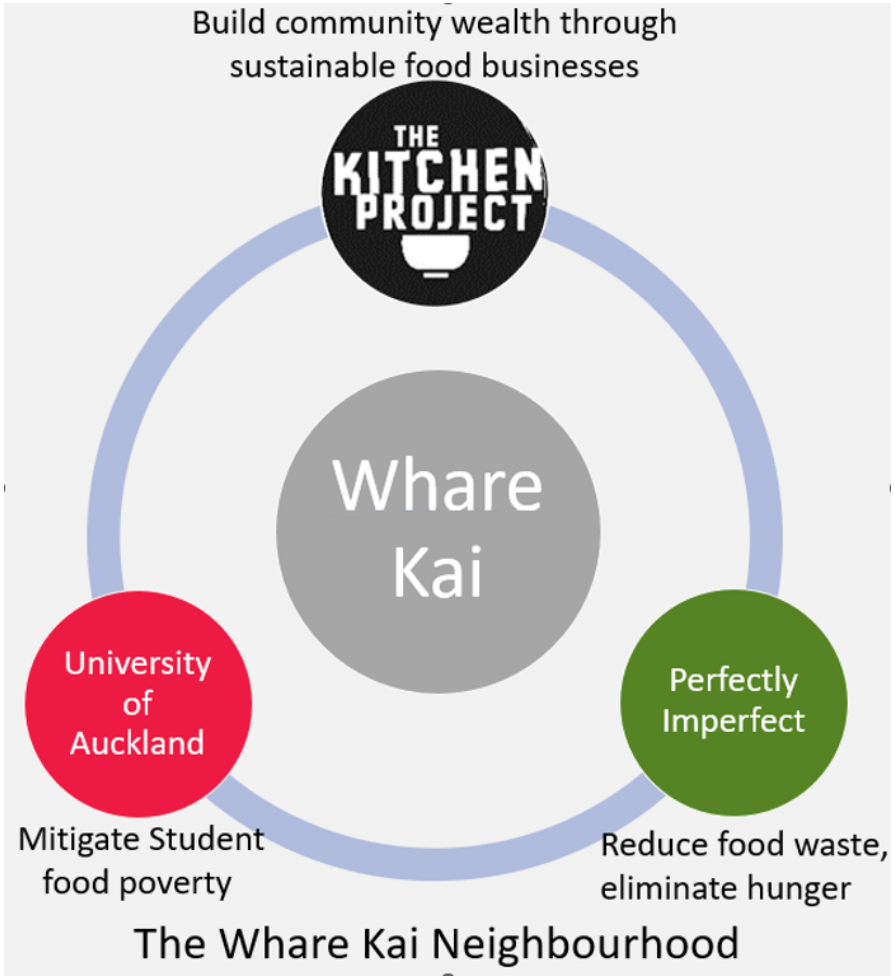


Figure 9: Framework of the Kitchen project

Economy

Highlights

New sustainable finance targets

Auckland Council continues to play a leadership role in New Zealand's sustainable finance market.

In June 2025, we launched a unique sustainability-linked bond. It has a nature-based target of planting one million native trees across regional parks by the end of 2027.

If the target is not met, Council will make donations to organisations that support native ngahere restoration. It ensures the delivery of benefits for Aucklanders and the environment, regardless of whether the target is met.

Figure 10: Te Rau Pūriri Regional Park planting site linked to sustainability targets.

Since its inaugural green bond issue in June 2018 (a bond which has since matured), the council has issued a further nine green bonds.

On 30 June 2025, the council's outstanding green bonds totalled NZ$3.7 billion.

Climate Connect Aotearoa a hub for innovation

Over the past twelve months, several workstreams have progressed:

- an energy-sharing pilot in Franklin aims to enhance access to renewable energy resources. The pilot will share solar power from Counties Energy's Pukekohe site, stored in an on-site battery, with three local charities
- the ClimateWise platform was launched, offering free tools and resources to help businesses reduce risk, uncover opportunities, and build long-term resilience to climate impacts
- Climate Connect hosted its second He Kete Mātauranga Hui at Te Puna Creative Hub in Te Kōpua, Henderson. The two-day hui explored how creatives, innovators, and taiao practitioners are leading climate action through a te ao Māori worldview.

Challenges

New Zealand has faced a number of economic challenges in recent years. We have had a period of low growth and high inflation. The economy contracted by 1.1 per cent over the year ended June 2025, and GDP per capita fell by 2.1 per cent.

In response, the Government cut spending; as did business.

Trade-offs were also made, which meant deferring some climate investments, while also increasing investment to recover from climate disruption and increase future resilience.

Waitākere resource recovery

Turning trash into community resource

Auckland Council is accelerating efforts to reduce landfill waste, benefiting the environment while creating opportunities for communities and businesses through a circular economy.

The Waitākere Resource Recovery Park officially opened on 12 June 2025. It is a local hub focused on resource recovery and reuse.

Last year, the site processed nearly 86,400 tonnes of material. Approximately 45 per cent was diverted from landfill for recycling or repurposing.

An expanded Tipping Point Reuse Shop and new Construction and Demolition Hub will significantly boost local waste-diversion efforts.

Run by McLaren Park Henderson South Community Trust, the Tipping Point plays a key role in promoting reuse and reducing waste, with profits reinvested into community programmes.

The new hub will allow more items to be rescued from landfill, protected from the weather, and made more usable and valuable for both businesses and the community.

The Construction and Demolition Hub enables individuals, suppliers, and trade clients to drop off and purchase salvaged building materials.

Much of the facility's interior has been built using recovered materials.

Figure 11: Inside the Waitākere Resource Recovery Park.

Te Puāwaitanga ō te tātai

Highlights

Te Ora ō Tāmaki Makaurau is the wellbeing framework developed by mana whenua in response to Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri.

The core values of the framework and are expressed as Te Puāwaitanga ō te Tātai, with a set of activities and action areas.

Supporting Māori-led action for climate resilience

Marae and mātātahi are becoming climate leaders within their communities. They lead with mātauranga Māori (knowledge, wisdom, and practice), framing resilience through cultural reconnection, whakapapa and whenua-based priorities.

A growing number of mana whenua entities and mātātahi (youth) are leading initiatives that build resilience and adapt to a changing taiao (natural environment), as part of Resilient Marae and Mātātahi Taiao programmes.

- 13 marae were supported by the Resilient Marae programme to lead local climate responses
- five marae and five iwi were supported to build resilience, led by their rangatahi.

The Resilient Tāmaki Makaurau programme supports 19 iwi-led adaptation planning and action projects. Actions include climate haerenga, wānanga, adaptation planning, raising awareness, education and monitoring.

Ōtakanini Haranui Marae

Ōtakanini Haranui Marae, located at the base of South Head in the Kaipara Harbour, has strengthened the resilience of its people, community and places of significance.

A series of wānanga led by local experts has helped whānau reconnect with their cultural heritage and identity through pepeha, whakapapa, and shared experiences.

Kaimahi developed a taiao action plan for delivery in the community.

The marae led a restoration project to revive the mauri of the whenua and deepen connection to pepeha through planting and managing invasive species.

> *"For many, it was the first time truly recognising Tarawera Maunga – moving beyond simply knowing the name to physically seeing, sitting before, and embracing it. This experience bridged the gap between kōrero and place, strengthening the relationship between whakapapa, story, and whenua."* – Mātātahi Taiao Lead, Ōtakanini Haranui Marae

Challenges

Mana whenua and Māori are being better supported in their leadership of climate responses in a growing number of communities.

Resources remain a key challenge to scale-up these activities, broaden and deepen their reach. Building intergenerational leadership capability can ensure long-term sustainability.

Auckland's Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Slight rise in regional emissions

Auckland Council produces a greenhouse gas inventory for the Auckland region each year.

The latest inventory covers 2023 data. In that year:

- regional gross emissions totalled 10,919 kilotons of carbon dioxide equivalent (Kt CO_2e)
- net emissions totalled 10,298 (Kt CO_2e).

This represents a slight increase from 2022 (2.6 per cent).

Emissions are rebounding post COVID-19

The region's gross emissions decreased by 9.5 per cent and net emissions by 8.3 per cent between 2016 and 2023.

Greenhouse gas emissions have fluctuated annually with a major Covid-19 influenced downward shift in 2020. Regional emissions are lower than pre-COVID-19, but are rebounding, primarily driven by increasing transport emissions.

Steeper pathway

The pathway to the 2030 regional goal is becoming much steeper. As a region we are not on track towards a 50% reduction by 2030 from a 2016 baseline. It would require transformational shifts by central government, the Auckland Council Group, businesses and Auckland communities to reach the regional 2030 goal.

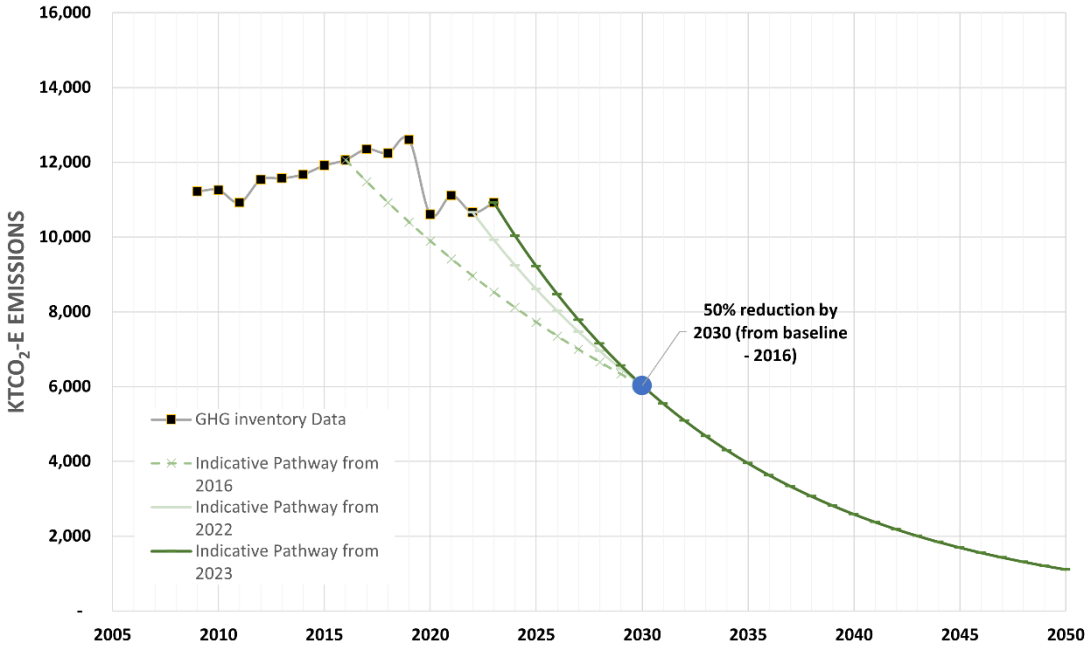


Figure 12: Auckland's greenhouse gas emission profile (2023 data in Kt CO_2e).

"Between 2016 and 2023, emissions decreased by 1,141 kt CO_2e (9.5 per cent) gross.....To achieve the target of halving 2016 emissions by 2030, a reduction of 6,030 kt CO_2e...of gross....emissions is required".

Auckland greenhouse gas inventory to 2023, Technical Report, page 11.

Te Rārangi mō Ngā Haurehu Kati Mahana ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Transport remains our biggest issue

Transport emissions rose 9.5 per cent since the 2022 inventory. Over the past four years, emissions from on-road vehicle use have risen.

Transport emissions remain the biggest issue.

Our response is to try and shift Aucklanders from cars into an integrated and efficient public transport system, with new routes and the opening of the City Rail Link.

Energy is the next biggest emissions area.

Over the last five years, we see a decline in energy-related emissions (power and heat).

It indicates a gradual decrease in emissions from electricity generation supply and increasing use of renewable energy generation.

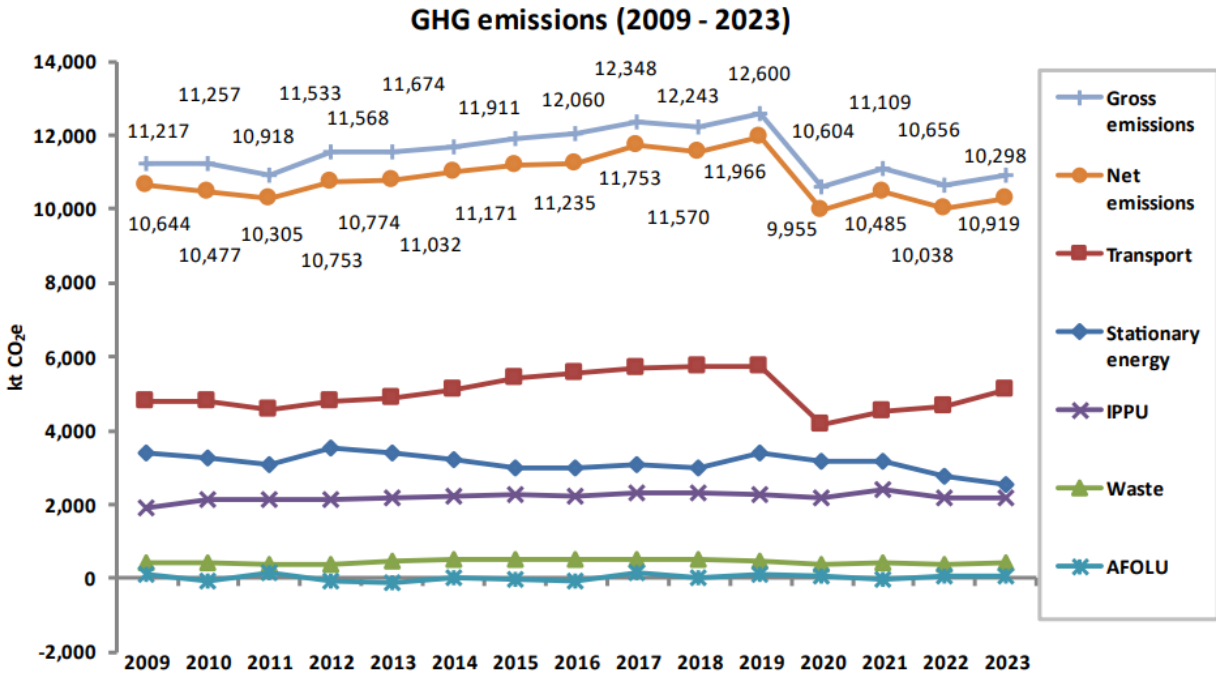


Figure 13: Auckland's GHG emissions with key sectors by year

Auckland Council leads the ‘A List’

Auckland Council is recognised as a global leader in climate action.

In 2024, we received an ‘A’ rating from CDP (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project). This non-profit manages a global independent environmental disclosure and rating system.

Auckland Council provides annual environmental and climate-related disclosures.

This data fosters collaboration between local governments, businesses, and communities to accelerate climate action. It ensures accountability and transparency and may help attract investment.

Cities that receive an ‘A’ rating are recognised for embedding climate action into decision-making processes and leading by example in building resilience, mitigation and adaptation.

Only 15 per cent of cities (112) received a similar score.

A significant number of these were C40 Cites, including Melbourne, Paris, London and Los Angeles.

Wellington City Council was the only other from New Zealand to receive the same rating.

Auckland Council Group Greenhouse Gas Inventory

The Auckland Council Group produces an annual greenhouse gas inventory as part of its annual climate statement.

The annual climate statement discloses climate-related risks and opportunities, which comply with the *Aotearoa New Zealand Climate Standards*.

The aim of the climate standards is to support the allocation of capital towards activities that are consistent with a transition to a low-emissions, climate-resilient future.

The climate statement forms part of our annual report (Volume 4 of the 2024/2025 (FY25) Annual Report).

Increased Council Group emissions

In 2024/2025 the council measured Scope 1 and 2 emissions for the first time, with limited assurance.

The results show increased Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions.

2024/25 (FY25) Results

Emission Source	Tonnes CO2e	Change since last financial year (FY24)
Group Scope 1	131,524	19% increase
Group Scope 2	30,323	47% increase

A key driver of a 19 per cent rise in Scope 1 emissions was higher wastewater emissions.

This increase is mostly attributed to changes made to how wastewater emissions are calculated (fully accounting for emissions from soaps, detergents and cleaning products in wastewater).

A 47 per cent rise in Scope 2 emissions was mainly due to increased electricity emissions factors. Last year, the power we used from the national grid drew more heavily on coal burning power to meet demand (there was insufficient supply from renewable sources).

Based on current funding, as a group we are not on track to contribute a 50 per cent reduction in group Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030.

At an entity level we also measure our contribution towards the regional goals. These reductions are also lagging.

A focus on integrating risk and improving reporting

We also continue to improve our consideration of climate risks and opportunities by:

- integrating climate-related risks and opportunities into council operations and refreshing climate projections and scenarios
- taking a Council Group-wide risk management approach, with a coherent climate risk framework and use of tools such as scenario planning, expert input and hazard mapping to assess impacts on our assets and services to Aucklanders.

Ongoing challenges

Global warming threat intensifies

Each year, climate warming intensifies, with annual global temperature measurements setting new records. 2024 was the warmest on record, with a global mean temperature of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

Regional impacts and response

A warming climate will bring more frequent and severe weather events, such as floods, damaging Auckland's infrastructure and disrupting communities.

Building regional resilience and securing long-term sustainable funding remain key challenges.

Embedding climate action

The Long-term Plan 2024-2034 embeds climate action across our activities, as we seek to reduce our contribution to climate change and deal with its impacts on Aucklanders as well as our services and assets.

We are focused on actions that will make the biggest difference, whilst managing other strategic priorities.

A tight fiscal environment means we will continue have to make trade-offs between climate mitigation, response, recovery and resilience while taking account of the benefits and affordability for Aucklanders.

Transport emissions remain the biggest challenge

Transport is Auckland's largest source of emissions. Regional emissions are slowly rising again after a significant drop during COVID-19 lockdowns.

Public transport is a key focus of our efforts and underpinning our Transport Emissions Reduction Plan. We have been making significant investments in improvements that can help shift Aucklanders from private cars to low-carbon trains, buses and ferries and active modes.

The 2026 opening of the City Rail Link is a big investment in shifting Aucklanders to public transport

Shifts in government policy

There have been a number of climate policy changes at the national level, including changes to key emissions reduction targets and investment objectives.

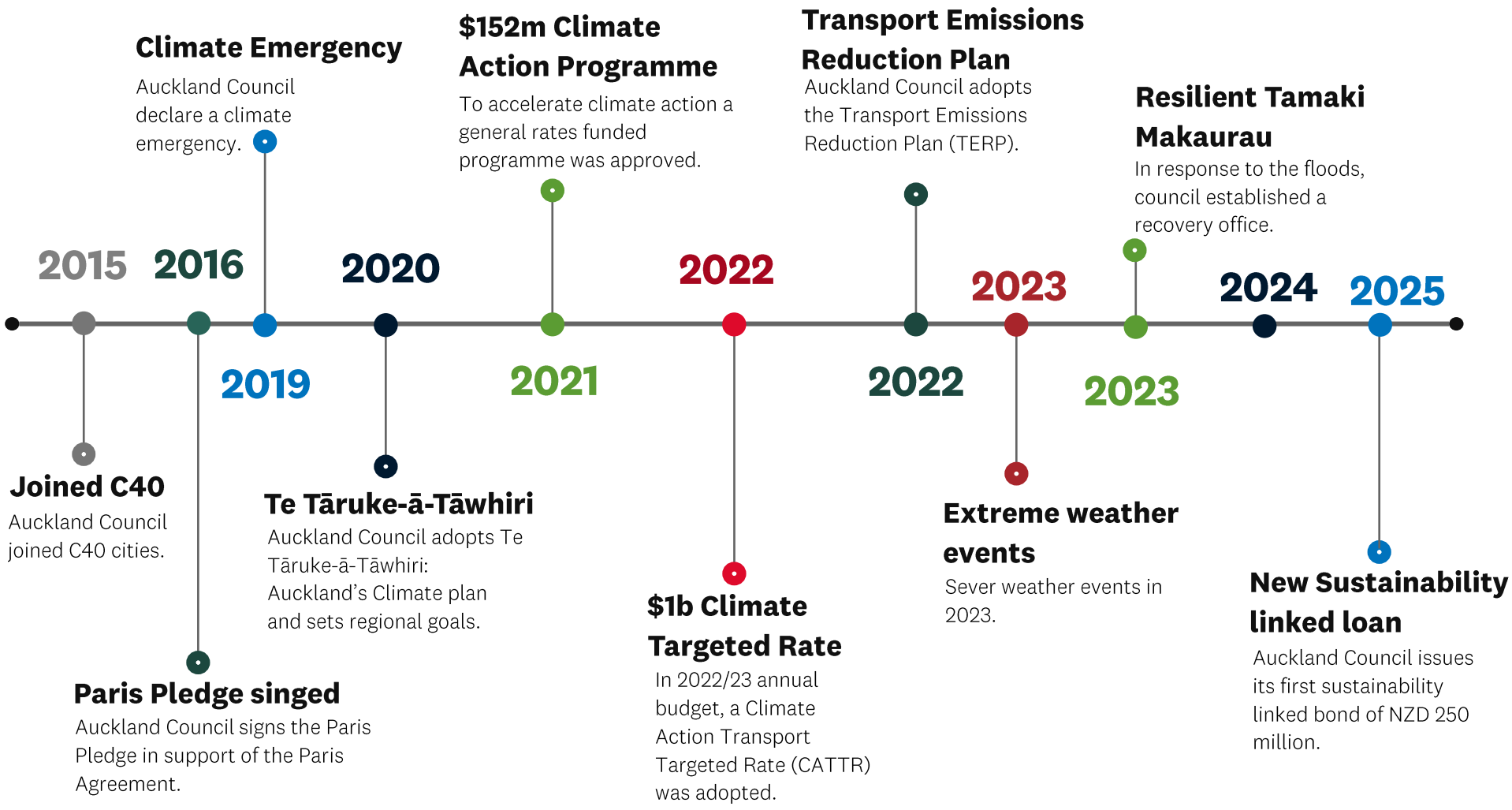
As a result, co-funding of some Auckland projects was lost, particularly relating to active transport.

At the international level, it is becoming harder to reach consensus on climate issues. Some governments have withdrawn from previous climate commitments and deprioritised actions.

Climate is a global problem requiring a concerted and cohesive approach if we are collectively to mitigate the cause of climate change and reduce its impact.

Te rārangi wā mō te āhuarangi

Climate timeline



Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan Progress Snapshot 2025

April 2026

ISSN 3021-1077

ISBN 978-1-991415-05-9 (PDF)