**Community led Climate Change Adaptation: Funding Guidelines**

**Bay of Plenty Regional Council July 2021**

**Background**

Through the [Long-Term Plan 2021-2024](https://www.boprc.govt.nz/your-council/plans-and-policies/long-term-plan) process, funding was identified for community and iwi led climate change adaptation planning. The objective of the funding is to enable grass/flax roots planning directly by communities at their scale, for example a catchment group or hapū, in recognition that communities are deeply connected to place and changes to that place.

While councils in the region will be facilitating adaptation planning at a regional/ district scale, the objective of the funding is to complement this with a bottom-up community approach. It is expected that these processes complement each other and use the same assumptions.

**What can be funded?**

The available funding is targeted at existing place-based community organisations and iwi, hapū or marae in the Bay of Plenty. Funding is available for individual projects up to a maximum of $20,000 in value.

Funding is designed to enable the identified groups to plan for a changing climate at a community scale. This includes: understanding projected climate hazards, understanding what is at risk for a community from these hazards, and planning or exploring options on how to adapt to these changes. A single project may address one or all of these steps.

Examples of potential projects could be: a catchment group has started to observe climate impacts in the catchment and wants to better understand how predicted changes could affect them, a hapū are already noticing that a marae is at risk from a climate hazard and want to explore options for the future.

The funding is designed to complement work by local government. Projects must not duplicate and must be consistent with any adaptation planning carried out by local government and must not compromise or conflict with any Council statutory roles or regulation.

Council staff are available to assist groups considering an application to ensure alignment with funding intent, compatibility with existing work and access to information.

**Applications**

Applications may be **submitted from 1 January 2023** and should be submitted as a **project proposal**. Funding is not available to commercial or government entities. Council is the sole and final decision maker on funding applications. **Talk to us first.**

There is limited funding available each year 2021-2024 and Council reserves the right to hold or combine applications to ensure the best spread of funding or compatibility.

Applications will be **evaluated** considering consistency with these **guidelines** and the following **criteria**:

* Demonstration that the project will enable a defined community to:
  + understand projected climate hazards at a scale not provided by other assessments, and/or
  + understand how those projected hazards could affect the defined community, and/or
  + plan how to adapt to projected climate change impacts
* Alignment with other work being undertaken by local government, industry, or communities.
* Level of certainty around: good process for adaptation planning, community buy-in, and tangible outcomes.
* Value for money.

Please contact us for an application form at [ClimateChange@boprc.govt.nz](mailto:ClimateChange@boprc.govt.nz)

**A Changing Climate**

The Bay of Plenty’s climate is changing, and these changes will continue for the foreseeable future. It is internationally accepted that human greenhouse gas emissions are the dominant cause of recent global climate change, and that further changes will result from increasing amounts of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The rate of future climate change depends on how fast greenhouse gases increase.

Council has funded NIWA to detail Climate Change Projections for the Bay of Plenty Region. The full report is available[[1]](#footnote-1) and some of the key projected changes are summarised below:

* An increase in the average number of hot days (days >25°C) and extreme hot days (days >30°C) with the largest increases in the central part of the region.
* A change in the seasonality of rainfall with spring and summer generally becoming drier and winter and autumn becoming wetter than the historic period.
* Extreme, rare rainfall events are projected to become more severe in the future. Short duration rainfall events have the largest relative increases compared with longer duration rainfall events.
* Drought potential is projected to increase across the region, with increasing accumulated Potential Evapotranspiration Deficits (PED). The coastal areas around Tauranga and Te Puke are expected to observe the largest increases in PED.
* There is good evidence that storms originating from the sub-tropics will have more intense circulation leading to stronger winds, greater storm surge and higher rainfall accumulations.
* Sea-level rise projections for the region are slightly faster than the New Zealand average, and overall the Bay of Plenty coastline has moderate-high sensitivity to erosion and inundation.

Interactive maps which show climate projections for a number of variables are at <https://www.boprc.govt.nz/environment/climate-change/climate-change-overview>

**Approaches to Adaptation Planning**

Climate Change Adaptation involves adjusting to actual or expected future climate with the goal of reducing our vulnerability to the effects of a changing climate. In some situations it may include making the most of opportunities.

Adaptation planning typically follows a process of firstly understanding what change is coming, secondly evaluating what is likely to be at risk, and then thirdly planning how to adapt to the changes. For communities these steps are likely to be less distinct.

There are accepted concepts for adaptation planning which help in dealing with uncertainty. Firstly Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs) which make predictions of how concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere will change based on human activities and how this will affect climate hazards. The NIWA projections for the region use RCP 8.5 (business as usual emissions) and 4.5 (a moderate level of emissions reduction) and these are accepted nationally. This means it is prudent to plan for both the effects of a moderate level of global reduction in greenhouse gases and a worst case scenario where globally we do not to reduce emissions. Dynamic Adaptive Pathways is another concept which enables us to make short term decisions when planning, where there is long term uncertainty (e.g. what RCP we will follow). It involves making decisions based on a series of triggers in the environment which in turn trigger new decisions or actions. This enables communities to plan for the long term without making expensive decisions which are dependent on uncertainty.

Communities need not use complex processes but need to be aware of and be consistent with the principles.

1. <https://atlas.boprc.govt.nz/api/v1/edms/document/A3434328/content> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)