

*Te Mahere Mahi mō
te Huringa Āhuarangi*

Climate Change Action Plan 2021-23

Kia manawatoa a Te Moana-o-Toitehuatahi
Working towards a climate resilient Bay of Plenty



Kōrero whakataki

Ko te huringa āhuarangi tētahi take taiao, pāpori, ahurea me te ōhanga. He tino whānui, he tino nui hoki tōna pānga – kāore i te mōhiotia te rahinga, whānuitanga hoki.

Introduction

Climate change is an established environmental, social, cultural and economic issue. Its impact is at the same time far reaching and significant – and uncertain in terms of its scale and extent.

Climate change is an acknowledged strategic issue for Council but, as with many organisations, the complexity, scale and significance of the issue means finding responses to the challenge is not easy. Local government has the added challenge that it is an organisation (itself) but has responsibilities and obligations to the community (others).

Me whakatūtuki te huringa āhuarangi e pā ana ki te:

- ***whakangāwari*** – te whakaheke i ngā hau kati kōtuhi kei te hau takiwā; me te
- ***urutaunga*** – e urupare ana ki ngā huringa kei te kite tātau ināianei, ā, ka pā mai tonu ahakoa ka heke haere pea ngā tukunga ā muri ake.

Action on climate change is needed both in terms of:

- ***mitigation*** – reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere; and
- ***adaptation*** – responding to the changes we are already seeing and will continue to encounter, even with a global reduction in future emissions.



Our aim is to be a key contributor in shaping a low carbon, resilient future for the Bay of Plenty.



Te whakatau whakatika āhuarangi
Our climate change statement

Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Council recognises the significant implications that climate change will have for the Bay of Plenty and the need for mitigation and adaptation actions locally and region-wide.

Following our declaration of a climate change emergency in June 2019, we committed to working with our sectors and communities on transitioning to a low carbon future and preparing ourselves for the changing climate. Our Climate Change Action Plan and Work Programme guides our work in this area, including a strong focus on reducing our emissions as a Toitū CarbonReduce certified organisation.

This Climate Change Statement outlines Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Council's view of what needs to occur in our region and the transformational changes needed to respond to climate change. The Statement will inform and guide how we can work in partnership with Māori and support conversations around the regional climate change challenges.

Our vision

Bay of Plenty Regional Council strengthens the long-term resilience and sustainability of the Bay of Plenty region through climate change action and awareness.

Our objectives

- 1.** Risks from climate change related impacts are managed and resilience is increased through consistent adaptation planning based on best scientific information;
- 2.** Community awareness of climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions increases, and organisations and individuals know what they can do to improve the long term resilience and sustainability of the region; and
- 3.** Bay of Plenty Regional Council greenhouse gas emissions reduce across all areas of influence, including its own operations, helping to create the conditions for a just transition to a smart, innovative, low-carbon regional economy.

Transformational shifts required for the Bay of Plenty

We recognise that transformational shifts are required in order to meet the region's climate change challenges. These include:

- 1.** An engaged and aware community, enabled to take action.
- 2.** Transport emissions are significantly reduced across the region.
- 3.** Lower carbon energy supply and demand challenges are addressed.
- 4.** Land use planning results in emissions reductions and adaptation.
- 5.** Investors in our region support low carbon transitions.
- 6.** Significant investment occurs in natural carbon storage, including planting native trees and the preservation or creation of wetlands.

We will:

- Act proactively and with urgency to address climate change risks.
- Raise awareness of climate change and its anticipated impacts, and show leadership in climate change action response.
- Work collaboratively.
- Put science based evidence front and centre.
- Value māturanga and te ao Māori in our approach.
- Align with national direction and commitments.
- Stimulate debate and innovative thinking.
- Factor carbon footprints into our decision making.



Whakaekengia tēnei waka **Join our journey**

Climate change is a strategic priority for Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Council and this was reflected through the Long Term Plan process with significant funding assigned to the climate change related projects included in this Action Plan.

In 2017, we signed the New Zealand Local Government Leaders' Climate Change Declaration. This committed us to develop and implement ambitious action plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support resilience within Council and for our local communities.

In 2019, we declared a Climate Emergency, committing to work with the community on transitioning to a low carbon future and adapting to a changing climate. We also adopted our first Climate Change Action Plan this same year.

The first iteration of the Action Plan outlined a range of initiatives, with a strong focus on getting our 'house in order'. As part of this, we have become a Toitū CarbonReduce certified organisation, calculated our organisational carbon footprint and put measures in place to reduce this footprint over time, in line with our organisational emissions target.

Our work on climate change is co-ordinated through a dedicated programme, which brings together projects with a specific focus on climate change. These projects sit alongside the range of work we do across our Council services that has climate change implications, but where climate change is not the primary focus.

As we continue on our climate change journey, our role will continue to evolve and develop, with greater clarity expected as the national framework and legislation falls into place. As part of this journey, this Action Plan has been reviewed, alongside the Long Term Plan 2021-31 process and adoption of our Climate Change Statement, to identify a new set of goals and actions for this second iteration of our Climate Change Action Plan.

**Our community outcomes
are the four pillars that all our
work relates too.**



Ngā whainga

Our goals

E whakarārangi ana tā tātau Mahere Mahi mō te Huringa Āhuarangi i tā tātau urupare ki te huringa āhuarangi e pā ana ki ngā mahi mō te whakangāwari me te urutaunga.

Our Climate Change Action Plan outlines our response to climate change in terms of actions around both mitigation and adaptation.

These goals guide our specific climate change actions. Their impact stretches across all four of our community outcomes, as set in our Long Term Plan.



Goal 1

BOPRC is net zero carbon by 2050

We will identify and implement deliberate mitigation actions we can make as an organisation in order to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and achieve this target.



Goal 2

Reducing regional greenhouse gas emissions

We will support a just transition to a smart, innovative, low carbon regional economy. We will work with iwi, businesses and our communities to identify actions they can take to reduce emissions.



Goal 3

As a region we understand, are preparing for and adapting to a changing climate

To prepare for a changing climate, we need to be aware of how and where we will be affected by the impacts of climate change and plan accordingly. Using the best available information, we will work to understand the risks climate change presents for our region based on the local physical, social, economic and wider environmental impacts. This will support adaptation conversations across the region to help iwi, businesses and communities plan to adapt and protect what they value most.



Goal 4

Our BOP community is aware, engaged and resilient

People who are aware of climate change and its implications are more likely to engage in reducing emissions (mitigation) and planning to deal with the impacts of climate change (adaptation). To improve the long term resilience and sustainability of the region we have a role to play in taking the BOP on this journey.

Ngā kōrero o te rangahau

What the research says

International and national analysis says the following about climate change:

- Multiple lines of evidence show climate change is happening
- The levels of carbon dioxide and methane in the atmosphere are increasing
- The Earth's temperature is changing at a rate unprecedented in recent history
- It is extremely likely that humans are the cause of recent global warming
- Limiting climate change will require substantial reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- The effects of climate change will continue even after emissions are reduced
- The climate system is very complex and there are uncertainties about future changes

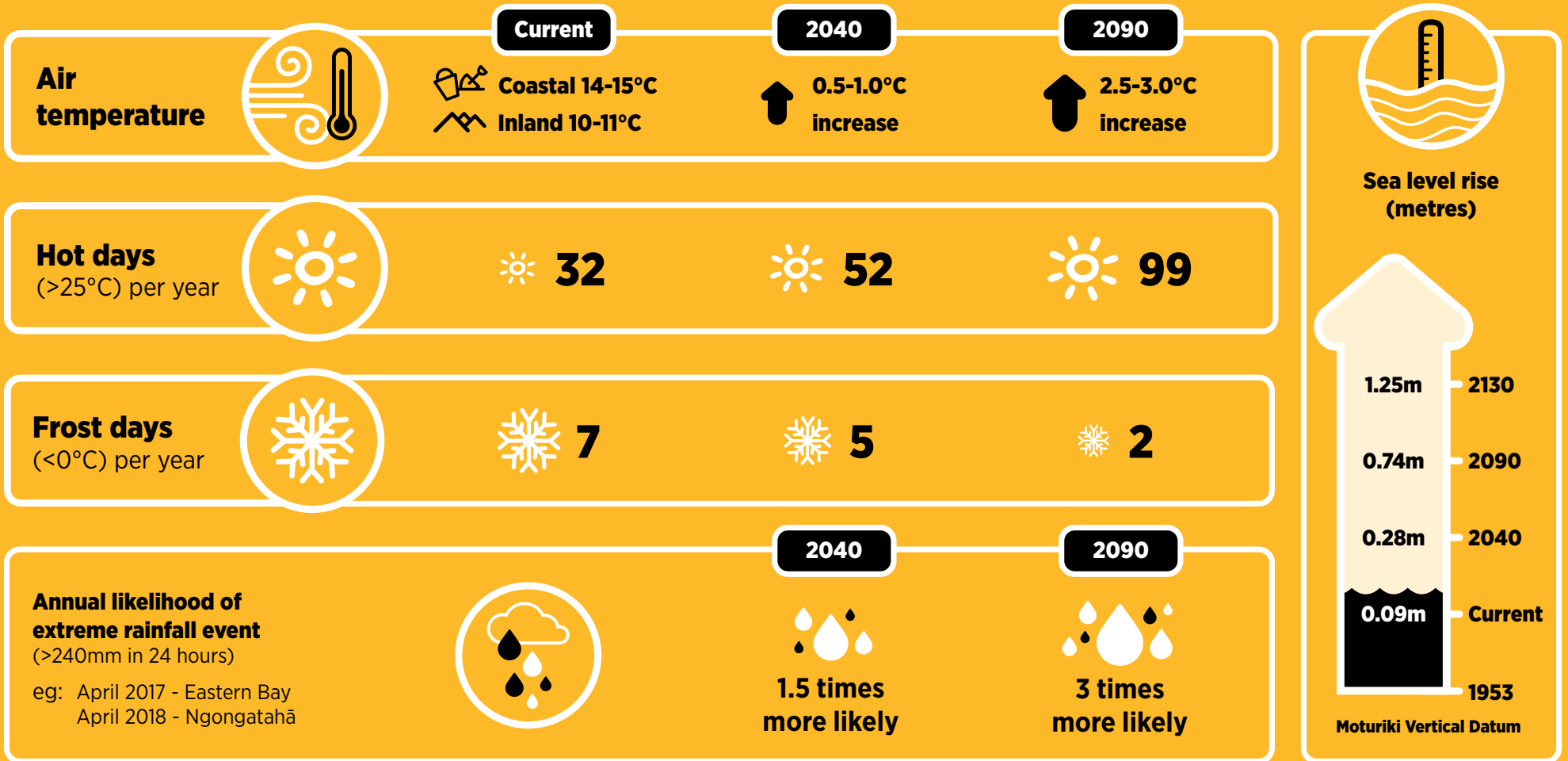
In summary, climate change will affect all of New Zealand but this impact will vary across different areas of New Zealand.

These impacts will present many challenges but also opportunities. The effects of these impacts will vary depending on how different sectors, such as horticulture, agriculture and tourism, respond to changing climate conditions.

Climate change is a complex issue where responses and allocation of resources need to be carefully considered. A key challenge is identifying where Council has the most ability to influence management of the issue when set against the backdrop of Central Government action – what is the best role we can play in building and supporting community resilience in the face of a changing climate?



Ngā pānga pea o te huringa āhuarangi ki te rohe Likely climate change impacts for the Bay of Plenty*



*Based on current greenhouse gas emission rates. We may be able to slow or reduce the scale of these changes if sufficient local and global action is taken to decrease emissions.

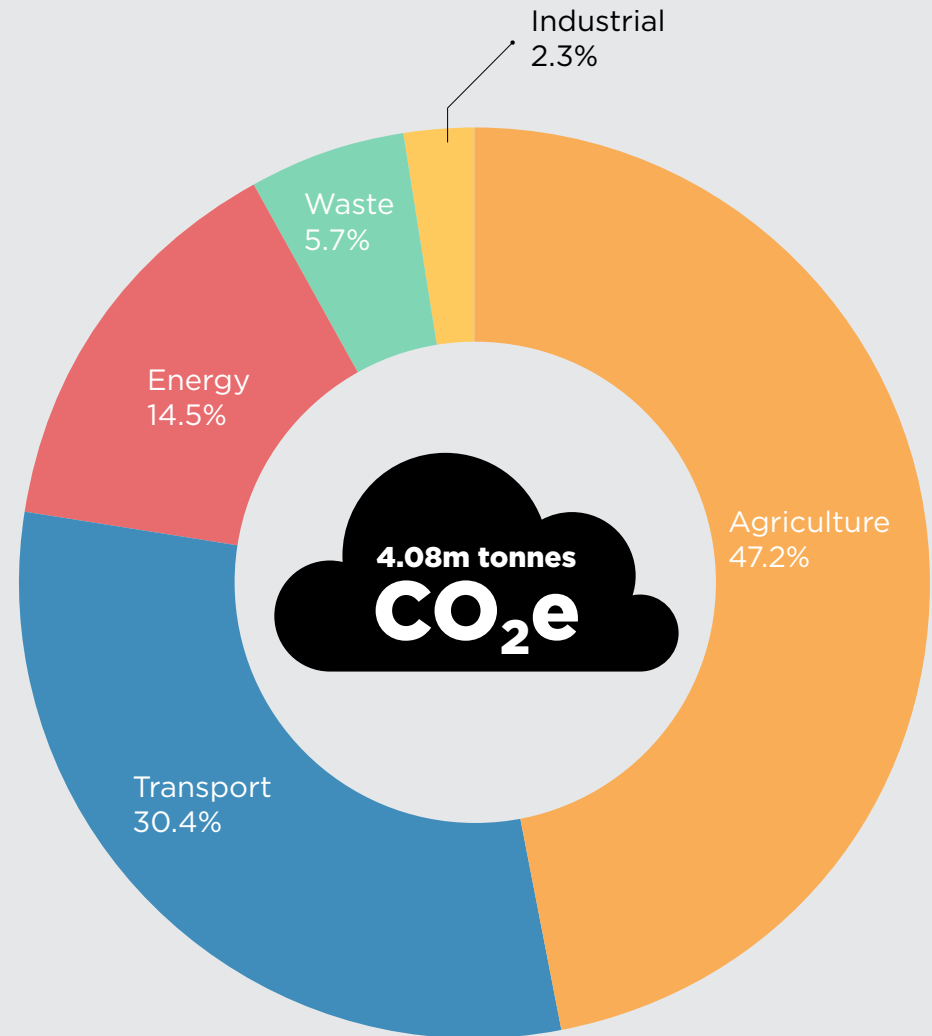
Ngā tukunga haurehu kati mahana i te rohe Greenhouse gas emissions in the Bay of Plenty

In 2017, we collaborated with the region's local authorities on a technical report outlining the Bay of Plenty Community 2015/16 Carbon Footprint. By establishing this emissions baseline we are able to understand the key areas where we need to focus action to reduce emissions.

Agricultural and transport emissions are the two major emissions sources for the region. In 2015, our agricultural emissions were on par with the national average whereas our transport emissions per person were above the national average. There is some variation in the carbon footprints at a city and district level, depending on population size and the dominant sectors/industries in a particular area.

Within our region, we are working with the other Bay of Plenty local authorities to take action on climate change. Whakatāne District Council adopted a Climate Change Strategy in October 2020 and Rotorua Lakes Council adopted its Climate Action Plan in February 2021, both of which set district targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions. Action on climate change will be a priority in Tauranga City Council's sustainability framework. We will be working with our colleagues to support the delivery of actions within each district and ensure the local and regional approaches are working in harmony and enhancing overall outcomes.

A project to update the Bay of Plenty Carbon Footprint with more recent data is included in this Action Plan.



Summary of overall gross emissions by source, excluding forestry, 2015/16 - Bay of Plenty

Aronga ā-motu

National direction

Climate change continues to be a key focus in Central Government policy development, both as direct climate policy and in other areas such as the current resource management reforms and implementation of National Policy Statements for Freshwater Management and Urban Development.

The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 (the Act) came into force in November 2019 and provides New Zealand with a framework towards reducing emissions by 2050 and achieving a climate resilient future. The Act includes the following national targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions:

- Reduce net emissions of all greenhouse gases (except biogenic methane) to zero by 2050; and
- Reduce emissions of biogenic methane to 24–47% below 2017 levels by 2050, including to 10% below 2017 levels by 2030.

The Act also established the Climate Change Commission, which finalised its first package of advice to Central Government in May 2021. This advice will inform the first three emissions budgets (2022-2025; 2026-2030; 2031-2035) adopted by Government at the end of 2021 to set Aotearoa on the path to deliver on the national targets.

Under the Act, the first National Climate Change Risk Assessment was published in 2020, identifying the key climate risks for Aotearoa. The Government is currently drafting the first National Adaptation Plan, due to be released in 2022, outlining the national response to these risks.

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is another key piece of legislation which requires local government to consider climate change. The current Resource Management system reforms will replace the RMA with three proposed pieces of legislation to be introduced in 2022-23: the Natural and Built Environments Act, the Strategic Planning Act and the Climate Change Adaptation Act. The reforms are expected to provide greater clarity around the roles and responsibilities for local government in relation to climate change.

A large white circle containing the text 'ZERO CARBON ACT NZ' in a bold, sans-serif font. 'ZERO' and 'CARBON' are in red, and 'ACT NZ' is in dark blue. The 'O' in 'ZERO' has a white diagonal slash through it.

**ZERO
CARBON
ACT NZ**

Ngā hinonga o te mahere mahi

Action Plan projects

The following table outlines specific climate change focused projects we are undertaking over the next three years.

No	Project	Description	Mitigation/ Adaptation	Goal	Timeframe
1	Staff travel plan	Develop a travel plan for staff that encourages environmentally sustainable transport choices, with health and wellbeing benefits, through support for sustainable travel options for commuting to and from work, and for work-based travel.	Mitigation	1 & 2	2021-22
2	Wetland carbon sequestration study	Scoping study on the potential for coastal wetland rehabilitation to contribute to sequestration and blue carbon storage in the region.	Mitigation	2	2021-22
3	BayTrust Nature Carbon Programme	Support the establishment of the BayTrust Nature Carbon Programme, in partnership with Ekos.	Mitigation	2	2021-22
4	Electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure analysis	An analysis of the EV charging infrastructure in the region: including gaps, market failure, emerging trends, and opportunities for investment.	Mitigation	2	2021-22
5	Bus decarbonisation feasibility study	The study will examine the options for introducing decarbonised (i.e. zero emission) buses and make recommendations for further technical studies which will enable future local bus contracts to procure these vehicles. A key aspect of the feasibility study is the need to consider additional power supply requirements, charging infrastructure and well-located depot facilities.	Mitigation	2	2021-22
6	BOP regional carbon footprint	Update BOP Regional Carbon footprint with breakdown by district and greater detail around transport emissions.	Mitigation	2 & 4	2021-22
7	Primary industry greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions analysis	An analysis of primary industry GHG emissions in the region and methods to reduce emissions, including potential Council roles and next steps.	Mitigation	2 & 4	2021-22
8	Carless Wednesday Challenge	This initiative aims to facilitate a step change reduction in car dependency in Tauranga / Western Bay with a target to achieve 20% mode share, one day a week, within a year. This is a third-party project, with BOPRC share of funding dependent on funding being secured from other parties.	Mitigation	2 & 4	2021-22
9	Sustainable Homes Scheme	Support for homeowners to install solar panels, insulation and/or efficient heating through a combination of low interest loans, no interest loans, and partial grants (for low income households).	Mitigation	2 & 4	2021-23

No	Project	Description	Mitigation/ Adaptation	Goal	Timeframe
10	Regional business support	Partner with Sustainable Business Network and Economic Development Agencies on sub-regional workshops to support the new 'Climate Action Toolbox'.	Mitigation	2 & 4	2021-22
11	FutureFit carbon footprint tool	Host the FutureFit carbon footprint tool on our website and partner with our local authorities in supporting its use in households across the region.	Mitigation	2 & 4	2021-23
12	Tourism BOP Low Carbon Economy Programme	Tourism BOP project to develop a low carbon circular economy programme for the coastal Bay of Plenty to support a vision for a regenerative tourism model.	Mitigation	2 & 4	2021-23
13	Climate change region wide adaptation	Development of a regional risk assessment for climate change, leading to the development of a regional adaptation plan, working with stakeholders across the region.	Adaptation	3 & 4	2021-23
14	Climate change community and iwi-led adaptation	Support community and iwi-led adaptation planning, to understand of the risks being faced by specific communities/iwi and explore options for reducing vulnerability, through funding and advice.	Adaptation	3 & 4	2021-23
15	Lifelines utilities climate change risk assessment	A risk assessment to understand the threats that utilities networks face from climate change and its associated hazards, covering energy, transportation, three waters and telecommunications networks within the boundary of the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.	Adaptation	3 & 4	2021-23
16	Climate Change Resilience Whakatāne Tauranga Rivers Catchment Project	Process to develop a Whakatāne Tauranga Rivers Climate Change Adaptive Plan which identifies the community's preferred pathways for flood resilience.	Adaptation	3 & 4	2021-23
17	Climate change narrative and story maps	Create story maps outlining the key climate change impacts for the region identified in the NIWA report.	Adaptation	3 & 4	2021-22
18	Coast Care Life's a Beach climate change module	Update the Coast Care "Life's a beach" education resource to include a climate change and adaptation module.	Adaptation	3 & 4	2021-22
19	Priority One business support	Priority One project to understand awareness, needs and readiness of businesses with regard to the impacts of climate change.	Both	4	2021-22

Ngā tukunga paheko

Operational delivery

The following table highlights where our other core areas of work have links to climate change.

Team	Description	Mitigation/ Adaptation	Goal
Bay of Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bay of Connections work programme is founded on projects that advance the vision of New Zealand's low carbon economy and include: a Regional Cycle Network; forums on Low Carbon Construction and Decarbonising Industries; and a regional waste stocktake and workshop. 	Mitigation	2 & 4
Biosecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regional Pest Management Plan considers the impact of the changing climate on the types of invasive pests that we will be required to manage. The control of introduced browsing animal pest species has a positive impact on native forest understorey plants, allowing them to regenerate and store carbon. 	Both	2 & 3
Corporate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toitū CarbonReduce certification: annual audit of our corporate emissions and preparation of an associated emissions management and reduction plan to identify opportunities for carbon efficiency in energy and resource use. Current actions include energy audits of our offices, a fleet utilisation study for our Council vehicles and electrification of our car fleet. Developing a strategic procurement framework that supports low carbon and sustainable purchasing decisions for products and services. BOPRC supports staff working from home and has also signed up to the Greater Tauranga Travel Pledge, with a commitment to encourage more people to adopt sustainable transport options. 	Mitigation	1
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising awareness on climate change action across all our communities. Supporting work across a range of areas with links to climate change, such as transport issues and climate change resilience and adaptation. The Youth Engagement Plan will look across council's work and concentrate on areas of greatest interest to youth, with climate change and public transport likely to be a strong focus. 	Both	4
Data Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing development of reporting and response processes to dealing with drought within the Bay of Plenty. This includes methods to quantify drought, development of communication channels with those impacted by drought, and methods to manage use and impacts. Ensuring the BOPRC environmental monitoring network strategy and operation reflects requirements to support climate change. 	Adaptation	3 & 4
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate risk reporting. Socially responsible investment policy. 	Both	2 & 3
Integrated Catchment Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rotorua Catchments Activity supports both mitigation and adaptation activities. Solutions to improve the nutrient footprint to the Rotorua lakes are largely centered around the retirement of land and reduction in stock numbers. The Te Arawa Lakes Programme considers how climate change will impact on lake water quality and the target Trophic Level Index set for each lake. 	Both	2 & 3

Team	Description	Mitigation/ Adaptation	Goal
Integrated Catchment Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Coastal Catchments Environmental Grants Policy supports activities around estuarine and harbour margin sites (eg Tauranga Moana, Ōhiwa and Waihi Estuary), particularly around creation of salt marsh habitat by re-connecting low-lying land with tidal flows. These support adaptation to rising sea levels, and mitigation by sequestration of carbon in the saltmarsh wetlands. Coast Care dune restoration. Sediment reduction initiatives (riparian management, detainment bunds, treatment wetlands). Planting of native species with an associated estimate of carbon sequestration from Council supported planting. 	Both	2 & 3
Policy and Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of climate change through current and future plan and policy changes, and spatial planning. Under implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, freshwater must be managed as part of the New Zealand's integrated response to climate change, including when setting limits on resource use and environmental flows and levels, and more broadly (e.g. new On-site effluent treatment system designs will need to take climate change into consideration). The Regional Policy Statement contains provisions around the likely impacts of climate change in the Integrated Resource Management and Natural Hazards Chapters. The Natural Hazards Programme considers the impacts that natural hazards may have on people, property and the environment, which may be further worsened by climate change. The Regional Coastal Environment Plan considers the planning and management of the effects of climate change on the coastal environment. 	Adaptation	3
Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of electric buses as part of our public transport fleet. Free fare trials for school and tertiary students using public transport. Review of the Regional Land Transport Plan greenhouse gas emissions target and investment programme. Public Transport Services and Infrastructure Business Case setting out a 10-year investment strategy for investment in more frequent and reliable low carbon bus services. Travel Demand Management and Behaviour Change programme to understand and change current car-dominated demand. Updating the Regional Public Transport Plan to set policy and strategy for the bus network, and promote key policies which aim to increase travel at the expense of the private car. 	Mitigation	2
Rivers and Drainage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure Strategy identifies climate change as a significant issue that will impact on flood protection and control works, including stopbanks, which Council is responsible for maintaining. River Scheme Sustainability Programme. Assessing the level of risk due to climate change and more frequent adverse events and determining the appropriate response, such as through the design of new infrastructure and engagement with the community. 	Adaptation	3
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use models and expert opinion to understand the potential impacts of climate change on a range of domains including; freshwater quality and quantity, biodiversity, terrestrial biodiversity, animal and plant pests, estuaries, marine and coastal areas, and natural hazards. The Science Plan has a particular focus on identifying: (i) whether potential thresholds or tipping points exist; (ii) cumulative impacts; and (iii) multiple stressor responses. This information can be used to inform proactive management. 	Adaptation	3 & 4



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