

Corporate Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan 2019



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Mō tātou te taiao ko te atawhai, mō tātou te taiao ko te oranga

It is for us to care for and look after the environment to ensure its wellbeing, in doing so we ensure our own wellbeing and that of future generations.

Foreword

This is the Council's first Sustainability Strategy. It sets out actions which will allow the Council to chart a sustainable way forward in the manner it conducts its business and day-to-day operations.

The Strategy's purpose is to provide an overarching framework that guides over time the adoption of economic, social, cultural, environmental sustainability, and well-being principles into Council's strategic planning and day-to-day operations. The Council needs to take strong and decisive action. The cost of taking action, investing in a sustainable future for the organisation, is demonstrably less than the cost of taking no action.

As our national economy and businesses shift towards a low-emissions future, our emission-rich business-as-usual culture is becoming increasingly less attractive and undesirable. It is crucial that the Council finds its own practical and innovative solutions to mitigating emissions, managing waste and developing a culture which embraces sustainability as something we just do anyway.

This Strategy is about engaging with staff, changing our internal culture for the better and demonstrating leadership to the community.

It starts with readily practical, pragmatic and achievable actions. The sustainability approach being adopted by the Council also complements parallel work streams within the organisation including climate change mitigation and adaptation, procurement and well-being.





Vision and Goals

Investment by the Council in a sustainable and resilient future for the District: for our people, our businesses, our infrastructure and our environment by taking responsibility and showing leadership.

This is our strategy, for getting our own house in order, showing leadership and sharing knowledge and learnings with the community. Outcomes sought from implementation of this strategy include embedding sustainability considerations into Council operations and policy development, demonstrating social and environmental responsibility through procurement, and identifying greater efficiencies and cost savings to reduce use of resources.

Overarching Goal

In developing and implementing this Strategy, Council creates a staff culture where acting and doing things sustainably becomes second nature.





What is Sustainability?

The basic concept of sustainability is composed of three pillars: economic, environmental, and social. Sustainability refers to the quality of a state or process that allows it to be maintained indefinitely.

At present, the way humanity is living is not sustainable. We need to take stewardship of the planet. This includes the resources it contains and the people who live here, to ensure that we can hand over to those who follow us.

The Council has made a commitment to reduce our environmental impact and to show leadership to those who work and live in Waimakariri District.

The Sustainability Strategy aligns to Council's procurement, climate change and environmentalthemed work streams.



Background

The Strategy broadly aligns with the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, goals which set out a universal agenda by bringing together the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

While the Strategy is a non-statutory document, it is designed to fit with and complement key national policy directives, including the Local Government Act 2002. The government is also committing the country to a low-emissions future by 2050. The Strategy anticipates future legislative requirements including emissions reporting, sustainable procurement and tougher measures addressing waste production and disposal. Additionally, the Strategy aligns with Treasury's Four Well-beings Framework.

Tackling waste is a growing challenge in Waimakariri District and staff are rightly concerned about the volumes of waste being produced by Council activities. We can start solving our waste problem by becoming more efficient with the resources we use.

Procurement is also of growing importance. Good public service outcomes delivered by the Council depend on good procurement to cover all aspects of the acquisition and delivery of goods or services.



Sustainability principles sit within **Council's Infrastructure and Procurement** Strategies. Progressively, sustainability elements will become more consistently embedded in a wider suite of Council documents, processes and procedures.

The Strategy also complements the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and

Why do we need this strategy?

Bold and transformative steps are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path.

The government is transitioning the country to a low emissions economy by 2050. The Council in response needs to be prepared and anticipate substantial change, to help avoid future significant and unplanned costs.

Waste management is a massive and complex global issue. The country cannot continue to export its waste. Councils play a key role in developing clever and innovative approaches to managing waste streams within the District and to landfill. The 'circular' economy model, based on nature-inspired cycles, is now seen as an alternative for creating prosperity from waste.

Transport is the second largest and fastest growing greenhouse gas contributor nationally. Hence, a wide range of low emission and active transport alternatives for staff are needed for both commuting options and for moving between Service Centres or getting to our customers.

There is strong evidence to show that work is generally good for people's physical and mental health and wellbeing. The workplace environment must be conducive to wellbeing. The planned repurposing of the Rangiora Service Centre in 2020/21 financial year is a key action in this direction.



Climate Change

While this strategy focuses on organisational sustainability, whatever actions and services the Council undertakes or provides involves emissions and is linked to climate change.

Climate change is a game changer for Council business. Climate change will present increasing risks and challenges to nearly every aspect of Council's operations into the future.

Exposure to climate impacts are projected to worsen in many parts of the country including Waimakariri District. We need to mitigate our emissions as much as is feasible while continuing to provide vital community services.

Our youth, the members of the community who will inherit our legacy, are campaigning for reduced emissions, smarter transport, liveable cities and independence from fossil fuels.

This Strategy is complementary and consistent with Council's climate change response work stream.





How will we get there?



2020/2021

The initial focus of the Strategy is environmental sustainability.

Widening our scope

Further development of the Strategy is expected to include an audit of existing practice for wider Council business including network infrastructure, roading, libraries, swimming pools, reserves and forestry. To 'walk the talk', Council will set emission reduction targets and measure and monitor these annually. Innovative solutions to reduce GHG emissions from Council operations will also be introduced.

2021/2022



Engaging with the community

The Council will begin working more closely with local businesses, Ngai Tūāhuriri and the community to develop an action plan to reduce district-wide GHG emissions.

Resources and budget requirements to deliver this wider work programme will be sought through the Long-Term Plan process in 2021. In the meantime, additional resources to fund the other years of this Strategy will be sought through the Annual Plan process and by leveraging funding from other sources where possible.



What we have been doing?

Cross-organisational workshops

Staff were asked to respond to key questions such as what 'sustainability means to me?', 'who are the key influencers?' and 'what am I prepared to do to make a difference?' Staff want Council to make change with genuine and measurable actions, with solutions that are costeffective and affordable.





Sustainability champions engagement

The Champions are members of staff with a strong interest in, and enthusiasm for, sustainability outcomes. They promote the Strategy at team meetings to colleagues and support the undertaking of practical and pragmatic actions.

Education for sustainability

Sessions have been held throughout 2019 on the topics of waste, electric vehicles, energy efficient home design, emissions mitigation, growing and planting, natural foods and the business case for solar electricity generation.

Emissions inventory

Council has committed to manage and reduce its GHG emissions from its organisation-wide activities. The GHG emissions inventory results for the base 2017/18 financial year have provided Council with an emissions profile of the Council's Service Centres.

'Billy' the Black Billed Gull

Under New Zealand's conservation status, black-billed gulls are considered 'nationally critical'. Their population has declined by about 70 per cent in the last 30 years and they are the most threatened gull species in the world. They are known to nest in large, densely packed colonies on open shingle margins or islands in the Waimakariri and Rakahuri (Ashley) Rivers.

We think they're pretty special and this is why they were chosen as the face of the organisation's sustainability journey.

We called our sustainability champion 'Billy'. Billy has been leading the way during the development of the Council's Sustainability Strategy and for various initiatives to promote culture change.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

Waimakariri District Council - a 2017/18 snapshot of our organisation.

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The inventory provides a base year for data allowing Waimakariri District to understand its emission profile and to track and compare GHG emissions over subsequent years. The inventory also provides a starting point for action to enable the Council to make informed decisions when managing GHG emissions.

Council's total emissions in the 2017/18 financial vear were calculated to be 507 tonnes of CO2-e. The major contributing sources are vehicle travel (363 tonnes, 72 per cent), electricity (73 tonnes, 14 per cent) and air travel (56 tonnes, 11 percent).



While waste makes a small greenhouse gas contribution, it remains a significant sustainability issue in terms of volume and visibility.

Close to **0%** of **electricity is consumed by**: (mostly) domestic and



Corporate emissions by source:

international flights in 2017/18.

The emissions generated from air travel compare almost exactly with emissions generated from the Rangiora Service Centre's electricity usage.

Recommended measures to reduce emissions are included in the detailed Action Plan. This provides a means to encourage staff to contribute towards reducing emissions during their day-to-day work practices, through informed choices. It also allow us to influence our suppliers, customers and clients.

The Council currently has no obligation to report its emissions. This inventory has been undertaken on a voluntary basis and is intended primarily for an internal audience.

Council fleet uses:



Action Areas

This is a strategy for 'getting our own house in order' and is action orientated. Its outcomes and objectives will be delivered through an Action Plan. Each action supports a preliminary cost benefit analysis.

Making known financial savings from operating more sustainably can be the greatest motivation for implementing sustainability strategies for some organisations.

Most actions are new and may require additional resourcing. This will be sought through future Annual and Long Term Plans as well as through central government funding initiatives.

This is a strategy for: 'getting our own house in order'.

The Action Plan focuses on:

- Educating staff, enabling behavioural change and making sustainability easy to do;
- Embedding sustainability as decision-making criteria across Council functions;
- Identifying greater efficiencies, cost savings to repurpose or reducing use of resources;
- · Demonstrating social and environmental responsibility through procurement;
- Identifying targets and focusing resources based on opportunity areas.

Sustainability Culture

Whv?

Mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions is crucial both globally and locally, to head off anticipated climate changes. There is a pressing need to embed in council a culture that seeks to reduce emissions across all operations, reduce energy usage, manage waste better and efficiently reuse resources.

Sustainability is not just about the environment. Maintaining and enhancing staff health and wellbeing is crucial to create the conditions for every staff member to enjoy an optimum work and life balance.

Goal 1

Sustainability is embedded in council processes and operations as 'something we just do'. Staff are aware of and fully embrace sustainability on a day-to-day and practical level in the workplace.

Goal 2

Staff have access to affordable and equitable provision of services and opportunities to promote their individual and collective well-being.





Did you know?

Since September 2018 we have undertaken two waste audits (Rangiora Service Centre and Farmers Building) and run eight monthly education sessions on topics as varied as the 2017/18 organisational emissions inventory, waste sorting, planting and growing, electric vehicles and energy efficient homes.

The Strategy has also been socialised with Council units and it has been presented to all staff and elected members prior to its public release.

Mobility and Travel

Why?

Transport is the second largest contributor nationally to the country's emission profile and is the fastest growing source of GHG emissions. The Council's own vehicle fleet is the biggest contributor (almost 75 per cent) to our own emissions profile.

Because of the District's geography, WDC staff are often required to travel long distances by car to undertake their duties. However, there is a range of active and low-emission travel options to be explored further including active modes (walking and cycling), ride sharing, the public transport network and low-emission vehicles to substantially reduce our travel emissions.

Goal

Staff have the support and opportunities to access low emission mobility options for both corporate business and commuting staff travel.

Did you know?

Battery electric vehicles are significantly cheaper to run than petrol/diesel cars.

They emit 80 per cent less CO₂ than an equivalent petrol vehicle because electricity generated here in NZ is typically at least 80 per cent renewable.

They also emit 60 per cent fewer CO₂ emissions over their full life cycle than petrol vehicles, even when raw material extraction, battery manufacture, vehicle manufacture and shipping is taken into account!

Procurement

Why?

Procurement and contract management practices provide a key opportunity to maximise value for money and quality service delivery as well as deliver sustainability benefits.

Nationally, councils are now giving greater consideration to incorporating sustainable procurement principles in tendering processes. This includes undertaking cost-benefit analyses or weighted attribute assessments of potential goods and service suppliers.

The Council will encourage procurement decisions that have a positive impact on the natural environment and biodiversity, including the prudent use of natural resources, the minimisation of waste or hazardous substances, and efforts to reduce GHG emissions.

Goal

The Council recognises that procurement practices provide key opportunities to maximise value for money and quality service delivery, as well as deliver tangible benefits for the local community, economy and environment.



Waste Management

Whv?

Waste constitutes a relatively low source of emissions, nationally just five per cent of the country's emissions. The Council's corporate emission proportion is less than one per cent. However, waste is becoming a massive and complex global issue and the problems we face are significant.

The country must find smarter ways though to manage and process its own waste streams. The Council can play a key role in developing clever and innovative approaches when it comes to review its Waste Management & Minimisation Plan and to managing waste streams within the district and to landfill.

Goal

Waste is reduced to manageable levels with clever and innovative recycling and repurposing approaches developed to better manage our waste streams to landfill.



Did you know? Plastic waste is a big problem as much of it does not breakdown.

About 8 per cent of New Zealand's waste stream by weight is attributable to plastic. Plastics are lighter than many materials. By volume it is estimated they may use up to 20 per cent of landfill space.

Approximately 252,000 tonnes of plastic waste is disposed of to NZ landfills each year. Much of this is packaging from imported goods.

Energy

Why?

Renewable energy generation opportunities exist in Waimakariri District to reduce the Council's electricity emissions footprint such as the installation of solar photovoltaic panels. Electricity consumption alone accounts for 15 per cent of the Council's Service Centre emissions.

To decrease these emissions, and over time those emissions from wider council activities. utilisation of a range of renewable energy and electricity generation sources to reduce operational costs and our carbon footprint will be investigated,

the proportion of renewable electricity supply to run our operations and to provide our services will deliver tangible benefits to the Council and local community and help reduce the Waimakariri District's emissions footprint.



Did you know?

In the average New Zealand household home heating accounts for 34 per cent of the energy used.

This is followed by hot water (29%), appliances (13%), refrigeration (10%), lighting (8%) and cooking (6%).



Action Plan

This is a summary of the key actions in this strategy. The actions cut across our business and include a mix of planning and information gathering tasks. More tangible operational projects are also included.

Short-term actions are expected to be complete within about six months. Medium-term actions are expected to be complete within about 12-18 months. It is intended that longer-term actions will take 2-5 years to complete.

The Action Plan is a living document. As we find out more about how our organisation operates, we redefine and re-prioritise these actions. Further detailed cost benefit analyses may be required as these projects are developed.

Council will also set emission reduction and other targets when the strategy undergoes its first review in 2020.

Sustainability Culture

Action	Parties Involved	Priority by Wł
SC1 Establish a Coordination Group for implementation of	Management Team (on advice from Unit	Short te to medi term
the Strategy	Managers)	Oct 20
SC2 Give consideration as to how sustainability responsibilities are allocated.	Management Team (on advice from Unit Managers)	Short te to longe term
	inanagers,	Dec 20
SC3 Continue staging education- for-sustainability events	Policy	Ongoin
SC4 Continue regular meetings with Sustainability Champions	Policy	Ongoing
SC5 Provide training on Council's sustainability principles as part of induction programme for all new staff	Human Resources	Short te Dec 20
SC6 Undertake research into a whole-of-life assessment for all practical sustainability initiatives	Policy	Medium term June 20
SC7 Analyse emissions inventory data to produce an all-council operations emissions profile	Policy	Medium term June 20

ty and Vhen	Estimate Cost/ Funding Source	Benefit
term dium 019	Within existing budgets	Sustainability actions will be seen to be happening; individual actions can be monitored
term ger 021	Tasks allocated to staff as per forward work programmes	Ensuring we have the resourcing to maintain momentum of sustainability 'journey'
ng	Within existing budgets	Building ongoing awareness and understanding
ng	Within existing budgets	Champions promote Strategy at grassroots level and support behavioural change in staff
term 019	Within existing budgets	Staff are more productive and have fewer sick days off
m 2020	Existing budget. External consultant may need to be commissioned	Allows for best option to be chosen
m 2020	\$5-15K (dependent on contractor)	Further inventory analysis will allow WDC to set targets in widened scope of Stage 2 Strategy

Sustainability culture continued

Action	Parties Involved	Priority and by When	Estimate Cost/ Funding Source	Benefit
SC8 Encourage turning off of lights, PC monitors and appliances when not in use or overnight	Property	Short term Dec 2019	Minimal / personal staff responsibility	Electricity usage is reduced
SC9 Remove wooden stirrers and other disposable features in cafes	Records	Short term Dec 2019	< \$200 capex for new utensils else within existing budgets	Decreases consumption of consumables but may increase hot water usage
SC10 Eliminate all unnecessary printing of official documentation, incoming and outgoing correspondence	All	Short-term Dec 2019	Within existing budgets	All consents should be accessible in electronic form. Documentation can be accessed via tablets and video screens if necessary
SC11 Introduce a 'food swap' initiative, the swapping of surplus home produce, for staff	Sustainability Champions	Medium term Dec 2020	Essentially undertaken in staff free time	Provides a springboard for further similar initiatives
SC12 Consider Council/District wide opportunities and develop an urban and rural forestry strategy	Greenspace / ITS	Medium term June 2020	Costs will vary by circumstance. Will require budgeting	Aligns with One Billion Trees Programme to deliver improved sustainability outcomes for NZ
SC13 Recycle and reuse materials for Rangiora Service Centre (RSC) repurposing	Property / RSC Refurbishment Steering Group (RSG)	Medium term June 2020	Portion of \$6.735M to be allocated	Repurposing RSC materials vastly decreases 'embedded' carbon footprint

Sustainability culture continued

Action	Parties Involved	Priority and by When	Estimate Cost/ Funding Source	Benefit
SC14 Install appropriate (LED) lighting and energy efficient HVAC in repurposed SC	Property / RSC RSG	Medium term June 2021	Portion of \$6.735M to be allocated	Immediate annual electricity usage savings noted
SC15 Investigate rainwater collection system in repurposed Rangiora SC	Property / RSC RSG	Longer term June 2022	Subject to budget. Portion of \$6.735M to be allocated	Water usage is reduced
SC16 Ensure the RSC repurposing provides a work environment which optimises natural lighting and improves indoor air quality	Property / RSC RSG	Longer term June 2022	Uncertain what portion of \$6.735M allocated	Improves staff well-being
SC17 Monitor and report on energy, water and other savings through Annual Report	Policy	Medium term June 2020	Within existing budgets	Benefits and successes can be highlighted to the community

Mobility and Travel					
Action	Parties Involved	Priority and by When	Estimate Cost/ Funding Source	Benefit	
MT1 Reduce where practical road travel within and outside District through ridesharing, videoconferencing and meeting scheduling facilitation	AII / ITS	Medium term June 2020	Within existing budgets. App to be investigated. Facilitate further rollout of phone system based collaboration	Immediate fuel savings noted	
MT2 Reduce where practical air travel to conferences and events as above	AII / ITS	Medium term June 2020	Within existing budgets	Money not spent saved	
MT3 Promote (and reactivate platform) staff participation in ride sharing as option for commuting	Roading and Transport / ITS	Medium term June 2020	Within existing budgets	Immediate fuel savings noted	
MT4 Undertake research into staff travel options (E-bikes, E-scooters and ride sharing) to support travel plan development	Roading and Transport / Policy	Medium term June 2020	Within existing budgets	Fuel savings	
MT5 Develop sustainable staff commuting options through development of a 'Green Travel Plan'	Roading and Transport / Policy	Medium term June 2020	Within existing budgets	Staff are presented with a range of low-emission options and can make appropriate choices	

Mobility and travel continued

Action	Parties Involved	Priority and by When	Estimate Cost/ Funding Source	Benefit
MT6 Adopt best practice staged replacement for all its vehicle types, to achieve the most reliable, safe and sustainable fleet	Finance	Medium term June 2020	Will require \$X Capex	Savings realised as per recommendation in Utilisation & Fleet Review (2018) and recent 2019 report
MT7 Complete the Shared Use Path cycleway linking Waimakariri District with Christchurch	Roading and Transport	Medium term Dec 2021	\$2.11m. Funding allocated in 2018-21 LTP	Fuel savings and health benefits
MT8 Investigate and report to MTO on electric vehicle charging stations at WDC Service Centres	Roading and Transport	Longer term June 2020 and 2021 for RSC	Will require \$X Capex. Maybe partnering opportunities for upfront investment	Visible demonstration of commitment and supported staff transition

Procurement					
Action	Parties Involved	Priority and by When	Estimate Cost/ Funding Source	Benefit	
PR1 Ensure Procurement Strategy adequately links to the Sustainability Strategy	Policy / PDU	Short term Dec 2019	Within existing budgets	Strategic documents are in alignment	
PR2 Adopt best practice principles in line with Government Procurement Rules 2019	PDU	Short term Dec 2019	Within existing budgets	Will enable low-emissions and low-waste goods, services and works to be identified. Note move towards zero emissions and designing waste out of the system (rule 20 in Rules)	
PR3 Ensure that levels of service are clearly specified and monitored in relation to corporate cleaning contracts	Property / Greenspace	Short term Dec 2019	Within existing budgets	More efficient management of SC waste streams	
PR4 Develop appropriate criteria for (pragmatically) assessing sustainability elements in tenders and related documents	PDU	Medium term June 2020	Being pragmatic allows WDC to source best small or local contractors	Contractors with biggest sustainability profile do not necessarily deliver the biggest benefits	
PR5 Ensure sustainable procurement principles are socialised in advance with our (potential) external contractors	PDU / Roading and Transport	Medium term June 2020	Within existing budgets	Allows for effective selection of GHG-reducing materials and methodologies	

Waste Management					
Action	Parties Involved	Priority and by When	Estimate Cost/ Funding Source	Benefit	
WM1 Introduce communal 3-bin system across the three Service Centres plus Ashley, Farmers, Parkside and Torlesse buildings	Property	Short term March 2020	Within existing budgets. Capex for new bins	Waste volumes are expected to be reduced	
WM2 Introduce simultaneously recycling bin system for paper hand towels in Council facilities	Property	Short term March 2020	Within existing budgets. Capex for new bin system	Paper towels make up ca. 30% of corporate waste	
WM3 Introduce food scrap collection in 3x Service Centres, Ashley, Farmers, Parkside and Torlesse buildings	Property	Short term Dec 2019	Ca. \$2,000 to establish	Food waste is usefully repurposed and doesn't end up as landfill	
WM4 Develop a waste management plan for the repurposed RSC	Property / Solid Waste Assets / RSC RSG	Medium term June 2021	Portion of \$6.735M to be allocated	Opportunity for promoting and profiling exemplary waste reduction practice	

Energy Management						
Action	Parties Involved	Priority and by When	Estimate Cost/ Funding Source	Benefit		
EM1 Investigate more energy efficient lighting in Service Centres	Property / RSC RSG	Short term June 2020	Within existing budgets	Electricity usage savings noted (analysis required)		
EM2 Investigate more energy efficient lighting in associated buildings	Property / RSC RSG	Medium term Dec 2020	Within existing budgets	Electricity usage savings noted (analysis required)		
EM3 Initiate solar power array project for the Rangiora Wastewater Treatment Plant in 2019/20 FY	3 Waters	Medium term Dec 2020	Est. \$0.6M capex (tbc)	Capital investment reduces operating costs and carbon emissions		
EM4 Set targets for reduction of energy use (and water use) in 2020/21 FY	3 Waters	Medium term June 2019	Within existing budgets	Energy and water usage savings will be noted		
EM5 Investigate other energy and water saving devices where identified through audits and management programmes	3 Waters / Wastewater Asset Managers	Medium term Dec 2021	\$20,000 capex. Existing budgets	Energy and water usage savings will be noted		
EM6 Investigate installation of a solar power system in repurposed RSC	Property / RSC RSG	Longer term June 2025	Part of \$30m upgrade	Retrofitting/building with solar electric panels could save \$X p.a		

Monitoring and Review

This is a living document. The projects in the Action Plan will be reviewed annually to improve the information Council holds.

This document reflects the developments occurring within our core statutory documents: the Annual Plan, Long-Term Plan, Infrastructure Strategy and District Plan.

The objective is to review regularly the Council's performance in energy use, GHG emissions, solid waste generation and water use and to report annually on our performance. Every third year (Long-Term Plan year), a full emissions inventory is to be carried out.



The review process will also allow for more specific actions as a result of hot spots identified in the initial emission inventory audit. It will also take into account developments in the national low-emissions economy, climate change, wellbeing and waste work programmes.



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