

Proposed Emissions Targets

Meeting: Kaipara District Council
Date of meeting: 29 September 2021
Reporting officer: Katy Simon, Climate Change Advisor

Purpose | Ngā whāinga

To set emissions targets for Kaipara District Council.

Executive summary | Whakarāpopototanga

Corporate emissions reduction targets are required to set direction for Council's climate change mitigation work. The proposed emissions targets align the Council with central government emissions reduction targets and will help meet Council's Climate Smart Community Outcome. Adopting emissions targets is an important strategic step in Council's climate change work programme. Emissions targets will guide the upcoming Climate Action Plan and Climate Smart Policy.

Recommendation | Ngā tūtohunga

That the Kaipara District Council

- a) Adopts the following corporate emissions reduction targets:
 - I. Reduce corporate net emissions by 30% by 2031, compared to 2018-2019 baseline;
 - II. Reduce corporate emissions to net zero by 2050.

Context | Horopaki

The adopted climate change work programme puts Council on track to reach the Climate Smart Community Outcome. Under the draft *Kaipara Ki Tua: Climate Smart Strategic Framework*, the climate change work programme has two mitigation goals:

1. that Council contributes to climate change mitigation by reducing corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and
2. that Council supports communities and businesses to reduce their GHG emissions.

The proposed emissions reduction targets align Council with central government direction and ensures that the transition to zero emissions is ambitious, achievable, and realistic.

Discussion | Ngā kōrerorero

Staff presented the proposed emissions targets at the September 2021 Council Briefing. This briefing report and accompanying presentation reviewed other councils' emissions footprints and emissions reduction effort and the methodology and key decisions behind the proposed targets.

The key considerations presented at this Briefing included:

- Climate Change Response Act (the Act, 2002) national targets, other council examples (**Attachment A**) and [Science Based Targets initiative](#) (SBTi) were reference for Council's proposed targets.
- Council's proposed targets align with the Act and ensure Council transitions to zero emissions in a way that is ambitious, realistic and achievable.
- Council's proposed targets include methane emissions.
- Council's proposed emissions targets include an interim target.

- The proposed targets will be supported by additional activity-specific reduction goals and actions. These goals and actions will follow even shorter time periods (likely 1-2 yr, 3-6 yr, 6-8 yr). Staff will identify and commit to these goals and actions as part of the Climate Action Plan.
- This scope of this decision is set to corporate emissions targets and does not extend to specific emissions reductions actions or requirements for emissions considerations in decision-making. The upcoming Climate Action Plan and Climate Smart Policy will address these requirements.

Please refer to the [September Briefing agenda](#) and [presentations](#) for further information.

Options

The following table details the three identified options.

Options	Advantages	Disadvantages
Option 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce corporate emissions to net zero by 2050. • Reduce corporate net emissions by 30% by 2031, compared to 2018-2019 baseline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets the highest level of accountability compared to Options 2 and 3. • Establishes a more easily conceptualised 2031 milestone. • Sets the most urgent direction and signals the need to prioritise emissions reduction. • Requires the most commitment to a sustainable transition change from Executive Team and staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk that the 2031 interim target is not met due to insufficient staff capacity or unanticipated costs. • Requires the most commitment to a sustainable transition change from Executive Team and staff.
Option 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce corporate emissions to net zero by 2050. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puts Council in line with central government direction. • Sets a long-term direction for zero emission. • Maintains a future opportunity to establish additional interim target. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defers interim direction to the Climate Action Plan and requires the Climate Action Plan to set an interim goal. • Increases requirements for staff to set direction.
Option 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status quo. Do not adopt any emissions targets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council could still pursue emissions reduction via the Climate Action Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Climate Action Plan would not have a clear long-term outcome. • Council would not be in line with central government direction.

The recommended option is **Option 1**.

Policy and planning implications

The proposed emissions targets will set direction for the upcoming Climate Smart Policy in terms of when and how to consider emissions reduction and carbon pricing in Council's decision-making processes.

Financial implications

The financial implications of adopting emissions targets will depend on the identified goals, actions and timeframes in the Climate Action Plan. Financial implications (both positive and negative) will be a key consideration in identifying and pursuing emissions reduction actions.

There are additional possible financial implications regarding the increasing prices of carbon units and future carbon caps under the Emissions Trading Scheme. These financial implications will be investigated, together with required considerations for Council as part of the Climate Action Plan and Climate Smart Policy. A decision to adopt emissions targets and direct a transition to zero emissions would trigger investigation of carbon pricing mechanisms and forecasting and proactive integration of carbon pricing into Council's decision-making.

Risks and mitigations

The primary risk is that Council is unable to carry out identified actions in the Climate Action Plan and therefore does not meet emissions reduction goals nor the proposed interim emissions target. This would likely be due to insufficient staff capacity and/or unanticipated costs. Staff will pursue agile working and aim to integrate and align with existing work to mitigate capacity and resourcing issues.

Impacts on Māori

Decision on corporate emissions targets does not pose any significant impacts on Māori. Staff will work with Mana Whenua partners during the development of the Climate Action Plan to identify ways to best consider impacts on Tangata Whenua and to support positive and equitable outcomes in the transition to zero emissions.

Significance and engagement | Hirahira me ngā whakapāpā

The decisions or matters of this report are considered to have a low degree of significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. No feedback is required, and the public will be informed of Council's decision via the agenda and minutes publication of this meeting, on the website and through other channels if appropriate.

Next steps | E whaiake nei

Depending on the decision made at this meeting, staff will incorporate any targets set into the climate change work programme as required and will report back and/or seek direction on the more detailed aspects of how to achieve the set targets as outlined in this report.