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1 Introduction

The Kaipara District Council annual Environmental Awards formally acknowledge the work of individuals and organisations who protect and enhance our District's unique environment. This Policy provides an assessment framework to assist in determining the successful award recipients.

2 Objective

The objective of these awards is to recognise and celebrate the people and/or organisations who have made a significant contribution to ensuring the natural environment thrives in the Kaipara District.

3 Definition

The Resource Management Act 1991 definition of environment includes the following: -

- (a) Ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities; and
- (b) All natural and physical resources
- (c) Amenity values
- (d) The social, economic aesthetic and cultural conditions which affect the matters states in paragraphs (a) to (c) or which are affected by those matters

Sources: <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1991/0069/latest/DLM230272.html>

4 Process and Assessment

There are five categories of awards to cover the broad range of environmental projects and activities happening in the Kaipara District.

The Categories are:

- **Environmental Action in the Community** – this award recognises individuals or groups who are working collaboratively within our community to protect and improve the Kaipara's environment.
- **Environmental Action in Education** – this award recognises those that are driving learning and action to bring about change on environmental issues. The award is specific to schools, Kura kaupapa Māori, early childhood centres or tertiary institutions, and can include the whole school, groups or individuals.

- **Environmental Action in Business/Industry** – recognises businesses (individual or collective) that demonstrate a notable contribution to the sustainable development of natural resources in the Kaipara.
- **Environmental Youth Leadership** – recognises an individual or group whose leadership, support of others and willingness to share ideas and resources is making a significant contribution to the Kaipara's environment. This award is only open to young people under the age of 25 years and/or a youth group/programme.
- **Kaitiakitanga** – recognises the unique relationship tangata whenua have with natural and physical resources in accordance with tikanga Māori, and is open to whanau, hāpu, iwi and Māori organisations.

The Environmental Awards process will take place annually. Council will call for nominations from the public and advise the details of the process and associated timeframes at that time. Nominations may be made by any person or organisation.

Assessment Criteria:

Categories	Criteria – <i>Nominees for this award will demonstrate the following:</i>
Environmental action in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How working collaboratively within their community was critical to the success of an environmental project • An effective project with measurable outcomes that helps to protect and improve Kaipara's environment.
Environmental action in education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of student engagement and empowerment, • An effective project with measurable outcomes that helps to protect and improve Kaipara's environment. • Inclusion of the wider community.
Environmental action in business/industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That use of systems, technologies, processes or practices help to protect, and/or improve the environment and waste minimisation • Best practice in industry beyond regulatory requirements.
Environmental youth leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership and support by or for young people to achieve a collective goal. • A commitment to a project that supports the protection and improvement of Kaipara's environment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willingness to share ideas and resources to help transfer knowledge and to lead the way by implementing good environmental practices.
Kaitiakitanga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An effective project with measurable outcomes that illustrates inter-generational environment stewardship. • Including growing current and future capacity of tangata whenua, to protect and improve the Kaipara environment. • Kaitiaki leadership and commitment to empowering Iwi/Hapu /Whānau to take action on Kaipara's environmental issues.

The awards are intended primarily to acknowledge and celebrate the work of groups or individuals whose contributions are of a voluntary nature or beyond their normal employment situation, however contributions made by individuals through their paid employment can be considered in particular circumstances.

It is not necessary to have the consent of the person being nominated for one or more of the awards. If the nomination is successful, consent will be obtained from the intended recipient before any public announcement is made.

The Awards and Grants Committee (or committee provided with this responsibility) of Council with the appropriate delegations and Terms of Reference will consider all nominations and determine the winner(s) in each category. The assessment will be undertaken in accordance with this Policy.

The decisions of the Committee will be reported to Council. Council will, at its discretion, host a formal ceremony to acknowledge the recipients.

Present Elected Members are not able to be nominated for an award. Individuals who have served on Council in the past can be nominated.

Elected Members and Council staff can nominate recipients.

If a person has previously been the recipient of an award, this does not necessarily preclude them from being nominated again.

If an award recipient is subsequently found guilty of a criminal offence, at the Mayor's discretion and on a case-by-case basis, that person's name may be removed from the Environmental Awards Honours Board.