

P24-006 Environmental Sustainability Policy

Approved by the Council on 5 November 2024

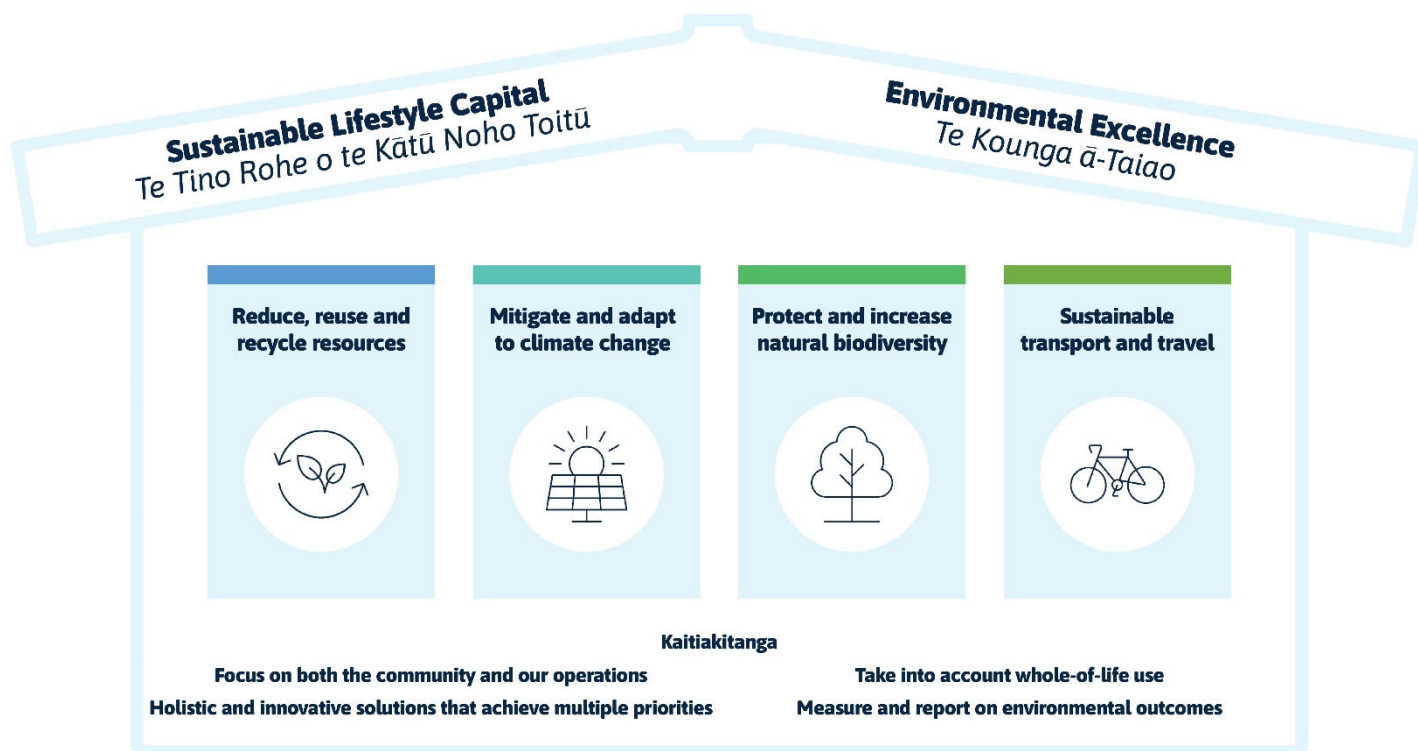
POLICY PURPOSE

1. New Plymouth District Council is committed to supporting the environmental sustainability of the New Plymouth District community and to demonstrating leadership and operational excellence in becoming an environmentally sustainable organisation.
2. The purpose of this Policy is to:
 - a. Define four environmental sustainability pou for prioritising Council actions,
 - b. Establish principles of how Council should work towards these four pou, and
 - c. Direct the incorporation of the environmental sustainability pou and principles into Council functions.
3. This Policy supports Council's *Sustainable Lifestyle Capital Te Tino Rohe o te Kātū Noho Toitū* vision and its *Environmental Excellence Te Kounga ā-Taiao* goal, its role in promoting environmental well-being and sustainable development under the Local Government Act 2002, and its obligations to kaitiaki participation in Council decision-making.

POLICY STATEMENTS


4. The environmental sustainability pou are the main areas of environmental sustainability that Council resources and efforts will concentrate on.
5. The environmental sustainability pou are underpinned by principles that define how the Council shall work towards these environmental sustainability pou.
6. The diagram below provides an overview of these environmental sustainability pou and principles.

Diagram: High-level summary of the Policy's pou and principles



Environmental Sustainability Pou

7. The following four environmental sustainability pou are the main environmental sustainability areas that Council will concentrate resources and efforts towards. The focus points outline key actions required to achieve the environmental sustainability pou, and the strategic alignment outlines key strategic decisions, document and plans relevant to the pou.

 <p>Reduce, reuse and recycle resources</p>	
Focus points:	<p>NPDC will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce and reuse energy, water and material use • Reduce whole-of-life energy, water and material requirements • Incorporate circular design principles and design out waste • Favour reuseable, renewable, and then recyclable products over non-sustainable resources
Strategic alignment:	<p>Iwi and Hapū Management Plans Waste Management and Minimisation Plan District-Wide Emissions Reduction Plan Water Conservation Programme Sustainable homes advice and support schemes</p>



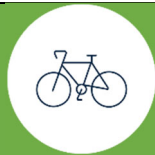
Mitigate and adapt to climate change

<p>Focus points:</p>	<p>NPDC will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce greenhouse gas emissions across projects and operations, including emissions arising through the supply chain • Reduce fossil fuel use by electrifying energy uses and supporting renewable energy generation • Support the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, particularly in their use of infrastructure and services • Undertake climate change risk assessments in line with the National Adaptation Plan direction • Consider the resilience required for assets using climate change forecasts, factoring in the criticality of the asset, the expected lifespan of the asset and the associated costs
<p>Strategic alignment:</p>	<p>Iwi and Hapū Management Plans Climate Action Framework District-Wide Emissions Reduction Plan District Plan Infrastructure Strategy Integrated Transport Framework Stormwater Vision and Roadmap Sustainable homes advice and support schemes Water Conservation Programme</p>



Protect and increase natural biodiversity

<p>Focus points:</p>	<p>NPDC will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect existing ecosystems and biodiversity • Avoid polluting the environment • Remediate where pollution and contamination has occurred • Restore the natural ecosystems and biodiversity of the District • Use nature-based solutions and components where appropriate
<p>Strategic alignment:</p>	<p>Iwi and Hapū Management Plans District Plan District-Wide Emissions Reduction Plan Planting our Place Programme Reserve Management Plans Stormwater Vision and Roadmap Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Water Conservation Programme</p>



Sustainable transport and travel

Focus points:	<p>NPDC will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce transport and travel emissions by increasing utilisation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sustainable transport (including walking, cycling, scooters and electric vehicles) and ○ Shared transport (including public transport and carpooling) to Council facilities, events and workplaces • Support and encourage flexible and sustainable working, travel and commuting arrangements
Strategic alignment:	<p>Iwi and Hapū Management Plans Let's Go work programme Integrated Transport Framework Parking Strategy District Plan District-Wide Emissions Reduction Plan</p>

8. There are other areas of environmental sustainability that Council is not directly focused on. These areas and initiatives may be supported as co-benefits or consequential benefits of initiatives but should not be primary drivers for decision-making in Council operations unless specifically directed by legislation, Elected Members, iwi and hapū partners or the Chief Executive.

Principles

9. The environmental sustainability pou above are underpinned by the following five principles. These define how the Council should work towards these pou.

<p>Kaitiakitanga</p>	<p>Kaitiakitanga is an inherent intergenerational responsibility and right of those who are tangata whenua to ensure the wairua and the mauri of environmental and cultural resources within their rohe are healthy and strong, and the life-supporting capacity of these ecosystems is preserved. Kaitiakitanga entails an active responsibility to preserve and protect the whenua, waters, taonga species, wāhi tapu/wāhi taonga, urupā and sites of significance to Māori, today and for generations to come.</p> <p>Council recognises that mana whenua kaitiakitanga obligations are inextricably affected by the statutory powers and functions of the Council. Council therefore has a responsibility to uphold Te Tiriti partnerships with iwi and hapū on environmental matters within their rohe in accordance with kaitiakitanga. Council will support mana whenua in their kaitiakitanga responsibilities. Council will engage kanohi ki te kanohi and take guidance from Iwi and Hapū Management Plans on environmental sustainability matters.</p>
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<p>Focus on both the community and Council operations</p>	<p>Council’s purpose is to deliver infrastructure and services for the community to promote wellbeing. Council needs to take into consideration both how the community uses infrastructure and services as well as Council’s internal operations when considering sustainability. Council must maximise net sustainability improvements overall rather than focusing solely on internal operations.</p>
<p>Holistic and innovative solutions that achieve multiple priorities</p>	<p>Where possible, solutions that achieve more than one pou should be favoured. Nature-based solutions should be explored as such solutions can successfully mitigate and adapt to climate change, increase natural biodiversity, require fewer resources to construct and do not require end-of-life disposal.</p> <p>Trade-offs between pou may need to occur at times, and consideration should be given to mitigations or offsetting (if possible) when they occur.</p> <p>Council will also look to innovative solutions that achieve the environmental sustainability pou. This includes trialling new products and approaches that have more sustainable outcomes.</p>
<p>Take into account whole-of-life use</p>	<p>Council should focus on whole-of-life use. This includes factoring in the upstream resources as much as possible in construction (supply chain), its use over its expected life, and how it may be treated at the end of its life. This includes focus on whole-of-life greenhouse gas emission use and circular design principles. Consideration should be given to whole of life environmental costs and risks (including financial and resources).</p>
<p>Measure and report on environmental outcomes</p>	<p>Council shall measure progress towards the implementation of the pou using relevant data where possible. Sustainability data, including (but not limited to) greenhouse gas emissions and waste minimisation and diversion, shall be sought from Council suppliers so that Council can determine its full environmental impact.</p> <p>Reporting on Council’s greenhouse gas emission data shall be provided annually to Council.</p> <p>Consideration shall be given in planning documents, including the Long-Term Plan, as to potential key performance indicators relevant to the pou for Council services.</p>

Application of Policy

10. Council shall apply this Policy, within existing budgets and resources, across all aspects of its operations and functions as relevant. This Policy shall be used to inform decision-making in Council functions including (but not limited to) work programmes, advice, plans, strategies, policies, designs, project delivery, procurement and future budgeting and resourcing requirements.
11. This Policy does not impact on content-related curatorial decisions (such as exhibitions, art or book purchases) at Puke Ariki or Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre, nor the type of external events hosted at Event Venues or other Council sites. The Policy continues to apply for other operational decisions within those parts of Council.
12. Specific statutory and legal requirements may override this Policy.
 - a. This Policy does not direct any legal obligation to not be fulfilled nor to consider matters that cannot lawfully be considered.
 - b. Notwithstanding clause (a), section 5ZN of the Climate Change Response Act 2002 permits specified national emissions reduction matters to be considered in decision-making under all enactments and shall therefore be applied and relied upon when required.
 - c. This Policy does not override any consideration in any bylaw, District Plan, or other statutory document issued by Council (although shall inform the development and review of these).

POLICY REVIEW

13. This policy shall be reviewed six years from the date the Policy is adopted.