

Climate Crisis

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why did the Regional Council declare a climate emergency?

We've had strong feedback from our community that we need to do more work to address the climate crisis.

We're also aware of the advice from the United Nations and scientists that there is a small window for action to avoid the most damaging effects of climate change.

By declaring a climate emergency the Regional Council is showing that we are taking the climate crisis seriously and will take urgent and meaningful action. Our declaration commits us to:

- Providing an annual progress report in relation to existing work and additional future programmes relating to climate change
- Including climate change as a primary factor for consideration in its decision making processes
- Committing to developing a comprehensive programme of work in response to climate change, including regional leadership for climate change awareness and action
- Developing a programme of community engagement on climate change mitigation and adaption
- Further reducing the Council's greenhouse gas emissions and report annually on progress
- Advocating the Ministry for the Environment to include greenhouse gas emissions in the consenting process under the Resource Management Act.

There is a small window for action to avoid the most damaging effects of climate change.

Q. How does a 'Climate Emergency' differ from a 'State of Emergency'?

A State of Emergency is declared under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 (CDEM Act), in response to a critical event (such as an earthquake or flood) which requires an immediate civil defence response.

It gives rise to formal duties and powers to support the civil defence effort for a fixed period of time only.

The climate emergency declared by Hawke's Bay Regional Council does not have legal effect, does not give rise to formal duties or powers under the CDEM Act, and is not for a fixed time. It is, however, an important acknowledgement that climate change needs to be prioritised in Regional Council policy, decision-making, and action. It also signals our intention to work alongside the community to achieve climate change mitigation (reducing greenhouse gas emissions) and adaptation (adapting to the effects of climate change).

Scientists predict:



**A 0.5-0.8m
rise in sea-level
by 2090**



**A 3% decrease
in annual rainfall
by 2040**

Q. What will happen now that a climate emergency has been declared?

The Regional Council is taking action to make sure that climate change is a focus in all decision-making and a priority throughout relevant policies, plans and activities.

The Regional Council will continue to work with the community on climate change mitigation and adaptation, and develop further initiatives next year, in 2020.

Q. How will climate change impact us?

Based on current knowledge and using a mid-range scenario of greenhouse gas emissions, the following climate changes from baseline (1990) conditions are predicted for Hawke's Bay:

- A **rise in temperature** of 0.9°C by 2040 and 2.1°C by 2090. The greatest rate of warming is expected in mid-summer
- A **decrease in the daily range of temperature** and fewer frosts
- A **decrease in annual rainfall** of 3% by 2040 and 4% by 2090. Winter and spring months are expected to get drier while summer and autumn may get more rainfall
- An 8% **increase in extreme rainfall** with every 1°C rise in temperature
- A **rise in sea-level** of 0.5-0.8m by 2090
- An increase in **extreme winds** in winter and a decrease in summer.

Q. What is the Regional Council doing?

We know that as leaders of our region, we need to step up and work with our community to understand and respond to the climate crisis.

We're already working on lots of projects around the region, and will update this page when we begin new initiatives. Here are some examples of the work we're currently doing:

- **Transport:** [Public transport](#), [cycle ways](#)
- **Energy:** [Sustainable Homes](#)
- **Water management:** Freshwater security, [Flood control schemes](#)
- **Development:** [Coastal Hazards](#), [Heretaunga Plains Urban Development Strategy](#)
- **Education:** [Enviroschools](#)
- **Catchments:** [Trees on farms](#), [managing erosion](#)
- **Environmental monitoring:** [Water](#), [air](#), [climate](#)

Q. How can I get involved?

We are stronger together and all must play our part to harness the opportunities and overcome the challenges of climate change.

There are many ways to reduce your environmental footprint and grow resilience. You can:

- **Calculate your emissions footprint** and get advice on how you can make it smaller
- **Leave the car at home** and carpool, catch the bus, hop on a bike, or walk
- **Be energy efficient** at home – saving energy saves money and can help the healthiness of your home. Solar panels and insulation are some examples, and are part of our [Sustainable Homes programme](#). You can get free energy advice from [EECA](#).
- **Reduce your rubbish.** Consider cutting out single-use plastic in favour of re-usables. Find out more about the kerbside collection service in your area, start composting, and buy pre-loved items from second hand stores.
- Enjoy **local fresh food** by growing your own at home or buying from local markets, and eat less meat to dramatically lower your household footprint.
- **Plant trees**
- **Reduce the number of flights** you take and offset your emissions when you fly.

Scientists predict:



A rise in temperature of 2.1°C by 2090



An 8% increase in extreme rainfall with every 1°C temp. rise

Q. Where can I find out more?

There's lots more information about what you can do on the [Ministry for the Environment's website](#), and local research and initiatives coming out of the [Deep South science challenge](#).