



CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE DRAFT STRATEGY
OUR SUBMISSION:

“Today, at the global level, we face a rapidly accelerating climate emergency, daunting because we have procrastinated way too long. We now have one last chance to truly change our course. This is the decisive decade in the history of humankind. That may sound like an exaggeration, but it's not. If we continue on the current path, we condemn our children and their descendants to a world that is increasingly uninhabitable, with exponentially growing levels of disease, famine, and conflict, and irreversible ecosystem failures. “

Christiana Figueres, the architect of the historic 2015 Paris Agreement. TED Talk

Although Christiana Figueres above states the importance and urgency and Jacinda Ardern famously said in August 2017; "This is my generation's nuclear-free moment, and I am determined that we will tackle it head on", there has been little action in Aotearoa to follow this rhetoric.

Embarrassingly, in fact we are way behind other countries in reducing our emissions, including the USA.

We are a team of three who have dedicated our lives and careers to community, environmental and social betterment. We started Flourish Kia Puāwai as a social enterprise to both continue our work and to focus our passion towards a regenerative future, one that not only addresses climate breakdown but supports co-creation of a better future for all. We have experienced and worked in the disaster recovery of the Christchurch Earthquakes, we have seen increased fires and the impact of hotter summers. We have dedicated a programme of action towards doing our bit for improving lives and tackling climate change at the grassroots.

We are being courageous and the rest of Aotearoa and the world needs to be too. Let us not be conservative and narrow in our response but lead the way as Aotearoa has done with many other important issues in history.

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Over all we support this well put together Strategy.

The Christchurch City Council has already made some key actions that we highly regard, such as declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency in 2019, establishing the Sustainability Fund and the Procurement Policy.

What we particularly like

- Initial impressions of the strategy are positive – it seems to be well covered (broad and inclusive). Impressed with the work and partnership with Ngai Tahu but the partnership isn't explicit at the high level part of the Strategy.
- CCC showing Leadership is so important, we need a creative approach that is not risk averse, but ready to tackle the issues.
- The goals are good enough. The programme level is more indicative of CCC intent which is more useful to us in reviewing the document. We support the goals, programme areas and 'what next' actions in general, taking in our concerns and suggestions below.
- The inclusion of principles is valuable and the ones that have been included are suitable and inclusive. How will these principles be embedded and evidenced in the mahi?

What we have some concerns about

- The series of indications of work is challenging to respond to without the details. A sceptic could see this as saying all the right things but the how, who and what will be the real test and at this more detailed stage can we have our say?

- The Climate Change Commission's Draft Strategy will be going to Parliament and a version adopted by the end of this year. The Commission has acknowledged that it will be local government that will bear the brunt of most of the changes to be made. How will CCC respond to this? How will CCC partner and work with government? No mention of this in the current strategy.
- Please include the intersection between climate change and the biodiversity crisis, they are interwoven. This hasn't been clearly expressed in the Strategy and as Council declared in 2019 it is a Climate and Ecological Emergency.
- Make a commitment to not shift Council's emissions reductions on to future generations through using the emission trading scheme and reliance on tree planting.
- A large part of the draft strategy talks of engaging with the community and working in partnership to build a city that is more resilient to climate change. We do not want to see a 'pass the responsibility' to community nor under resourcing or undervaluing the communities' involvement. The community sector must get appropriate funding and reimbursement so that we can play a strong part.
- The High level needs more detail about how the strategy will actually help us get to our goals of halving emissions by 2030 and being net neutral by 2045.
- Value the importance of the work for the future of the city long term - not leaving either huge costs or a big mess for future generations.
- Companies that Council owns or have a role in must also take on this policy and declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency. This is clearly not evident in the Air New Zealand's purchase in Tarras to build a new airport. This is essential and MUST be mandated!

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- There is a lot about working with communities. While it doesn't define what a community is, we get the sense that it's all about communities of place. We would like to see an explicit commitment to working with communities of identity and interest as well. As an example, the disability sector should be included in all planning, to ensure mitigation and adaptation measures do not create barriers. But there are all sorts of other non-locality-based communities who might experience particular impacts from climate change and our city's responses.
- There's no mention of the impacts that changing technologies always have on existing employment. Many people (usually more lowly-paid workers) are displaced when sunset industries wind down, and may not have the skills to transition to emerging industries. The 'economic transformation' programme talks about improving access to re-training, but we think it needs more than that - perhaps some sort of programme to help people whose work field no longer exists to identify where they might transition to, mentoring, etc. Just making training available isn't enough. The strategy has an 'equitable and inclusive' principle included that is supposed to cover the whole strategy, but we think sometimes this needs extra emphasis.



What's important to us/should be better covered

Education, Funding and Community Engagement are mostly covered and lost in the programme area/s. They need to come to the fore.

Education - We need better climate education so that each individual, household and sector can confidently and knowledgeably transition to more sustainable practices.

1. We support a range of education programmes both delivered by the Council and Community.
2. Climate action needs to be more visible in the city.

Funding - Funding and resourcing appropriately is vital. This cannot be taken lightly because as we progress with climate breakdown it will cost more to not be effective than to resource solutions and mahi upfront.

1. Increase resources within Council for those working in this area and engagement. It is noticeable that staff are already stretched in areas of engagement, school engagement and rangers.
2. Increase accessible funding for grassroots climate action (like us who can really be a big part in driving lifestyle change), not just tech solutions.
3. The Sustainability Fund needs to grow every year to respond to growing issues and solutions.
4. We need to keep up with the most current National and International goalposts and be able respond to opportunities on the ground. In order to do this the plan and budget needs to be flexible.
5. The Christchurch Biodiversity Fund provides grants to private landowners to protect and enhance sites of ecological significance. This criteria needs to include community organisations wanting to restore and enhance Council parks and reserves too.

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE DRAFT STRATEGY OUR SUBMISSION:

Community engagement – The drafting of the Strategy itself could have had more community input.

1. Community input, engagement, support and accountability must be a priority in how this work is delivered.
2. We support Christchurch residents to take their own climate change action, with advice and tools on sustainability by resourcing local community organisations to support this, take a lead in certain areas.
3. Youth Engagement so younger generations have the knowledge and are empowered to join our movement for climate justice.

Clear timeframes – Where are any timeframes for the work - on mitigation, leadership group, communications plan, identified focus areas and so on.

1. Be brave, take risks, move from the reliance on and safety of Business as Usual.
2. Have strong targets and timeframes. If we miss them that's okay because we've probably done more than we would have with softer targets. The city needs to be transformed in order to meet the crisis. Plan and act like it.

Transport - More than half of the emissions in Ōtautahi are from transport. One of the strongest actions we can take to mitigate climate change is to reduce the use of private cars and encourage public transport and active transport.

We therefore support all proposals to increase cycling and public transport use.

1. To support the ongoing recovery of eastern Christchurch, we ask that the Avon-Ōtākaro cycle route is prioritised to early 2025. There is a need for increased community and Councillor education in the benefits of providing a cycling infrastructure for the good of peoples' health and for the health of the planet.
2. In order to future-proof our public transport system and help meet our climate targets in the Paris Agreement, we support any action towards investigating other public transport systems such as light rail and commuter rail;
3. The move to Electric Vehicles (EV) shouldn't be the main or only focus.
4. Public Transport needs to improve and increase in rail and light rail to move people and goods.
5. Review transporting goods across the region and whether that is done more efficiently undertaken by electric trucks, rail or shipping, or combination.
6. Existing cars need to be used until their end of life.
7. No new airport expansions or airports. NO airport at Tarras, Otago.
8. Design active transport systems that work for disabled people
9. Greater focus on a liveable, compact, accessible and equitable city.
10. Continuing to expand road capacity is incompatible with addressing climate change.
11. We must also take into account any unintended consequences of mass EV adoption and co-create policy with those affected, including an increased safety risk of pedestrian injury to blind or low vision communities, from the lack of audible sound emitted from EVs.
12. In active transport (walking, biking) ensure government works in proper partnership with local government to make this happen.
13. Utilise Behaviour Change expertise to help increase uptake of cycling of all ages.

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Otakaro Avon River Corridor – This large piece of mahi and opportunity to take a lead in a key solution for Climate Change in our City is not clearly evident in the Strategy.

1. We strongly support the proposed new co-governance model for development of the land. Such a model must be representative of the community and have strong community membership. It must follow Avon-Otakaro Network's vision led by the late Evan Smith.
2. All developments must put the environment first and take an inclusive-use approach.
3. The proposal to create a riverside landing at Dallington does not follow the Council's original response to the Regenerate Christchurch plan, when it decided to create the first landing in Avonside. We recommend a more robust decision-making approach to look at need along the red zone and include consideration of Avonside and New Brighton communities' needs.
4. We strongly support the development of the Green Spine and ask that the Council ensures that it does not shrink. The original plan by Regenerate Christchurch is robust, having had strong community input and consultation. As envisaged by Urban Star Watch, lighting in the Green Spine must be appropriate.

Infrastructure - 100% renewable energy and the infrastructure to make that happen including;

1. Accessible solar panels for households that can effectively feed back to the grid,
2. Increase the energy efficiency of current social housing stock and better green standards for new housing.
3. New housing to have solar integration, rainwater collection and greywater systems.
4. Increase sustainable wood and decrease concrete in home and commercial building.
5. An immediate ban on any existing and new coal mining on council land.
6. Immediate phase out of fossil fuel heating in any Council buildings.



Parks and Recreation - Urban reforestation and the planting of natives wherever possible will support the proposed Climate Change Strategy. There are many community and environmental organisations, such as ourselves, that council could have productive partnerships with to deliver this - providing they are properly resourced.

1. Support more reforestation in urban areas. We have two good ideas of how to do this!
2. Enhance and protect existing forests and stands of native trees. Bring back protection of important trees and expand the criteria
3. Plant more natives in parks and East Christchurch berms.



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Waste systems - We support Council's approach to waste disposal, recycling and organics, and recommend adding a complementary feasibility study in creating a plastics recycling facility here in Christchurch.

1. Ōtautahi can make a just transition from a throwaway culture to a low waste, low carbon circular economy by strengthening and resourcing local communities to produce locally grown kai and locally made goods, and to develop innovative, brave new solutions to prevent and reduce waste.
2. Investigate feasibility of establishing a plastic recycling plant here in Ōtautahi rather than transporting across Aotearoa or overseas.
3. Support and enable recycling (that isn't taken by yellow bins) to be collected in more community spaces (all schools and/or all council community centres) and send through to those schemes that recycle it, such as, Colgate and Terracycle.



Water - Drinking water and Stormwater, floodplains are all part of Climate Change impact, mitigation and adaptation. Water is life and we need to protect it for health and public use.

1. If Council has any role in protecting the blatant theft of water for commercial use and/or pollution of our waterways then you need to take a lead.
2. We look forward to the day when the Christchurch drinking water supply will once again be chlorine-free.
3. We support the proposal to create an excess charge for those households using significantly more water than average.
4. With regards to stormwater and floodplains we support Council's intentions, so long as protecting and enhancing the environment and ecosystems are prioritised, especially when constructing stop-banks and developing the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor.
5. There is a need for increased community education and awareness to reduce pollutants across the city, and we would support CCC working with appropriate groups to deliver that.
6. We also recommend enabling the increase of rainwater collection and greywater use across the city.

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