

PALMY
2021-31



**TE MAHERE
TAIAO TOITŪ**

**ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

NGĀ RITENGA MAHI TOITŪ
SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES CHAPTER

TE KANORAU KOIORA
BIODIVERSITY CHAPTER

Ahunga rautaki



Strategic direction



Te toitūtanga taiao: Te ahunga rautaki a te Kaunihera

Environmental sustainability and Council’s strategic direction

The Palmerston North City Council vision is He iti rā, he iti pounamu Small city benefits, big city ambition. The Environmental Sustainability Plan primarily contributes to the Palmerston North City Council’s goal of becoming an Eco city. The plan describes Council’s activities for the first three years of the 2021-2031 10-Year Plan in two chapters: Sustainable practices and Biodiversity.

Ngā tino Priorities

The priorities of Goal 4: An eco city are:

1. He kauanuanu, he hapahapai i te mauri o te awa o Manawatū

Respect and enhance the mauri of the Manawatū River
2. He mahitahi ki te hāpori ki te whakaiti i te tukutanga o te waro

Work with the community to reduce carbon emissions
3. He whakahaumanu i te kanorau koiora māori

Regenerate native biodiversity
4. He whakapau pūtea ki ngā momo pūnahahanga e whakamarohitia ai, e whakapūmautia ai te taiao

Invest in infrastructure that services to protect, enhance and preserve the environment

5. He whakamahi i te mana ā-ture o te Kaunihera me ana kaupapahere kia toitū ai te whanaketanga o te tāone i te wātonu, ā, haere ake nei

Use Council’s legislative powers and policies to ensure urban development is sustainable now and into the future
6. He whakaako i te hāpori, mātua rā ko ngā kaupupuri whare, ki te whaihua o te whakapau moni kia hoahoaina ai he whare toitū, whare kākārīki hoki

Educate the community, in particular, property owners, on the benefits of investing in sustainable building design and green buildings
7. He whakaatu i te hautūtanga me te mahi tika, mā te whakawhanake me te whakatinana i tētahi mahere taiao toitū mō te Kaunihera me ōna takunetanga, taiwhanga anō hoki

Demonstrate leadership and best practice by developing and implementing an environmental sustainability plan for the Council, Council-run events, and facilities

Te take o te mahere Purpose of the plan

The 10-Year Plan levels of service for this plan are:

- Work with iwi and community groups to re-establish bush, particularly along waterways, and to control introduced predators
- Foster sustainable practices and behaviours so that city residents and organisations become more sustainable

Ngā hononga ki mahere kē Links with other plans

The actions in the Water plan also contribute to the achievement of this plan. This is because Council’s efforts in improving stormwater and wastewater management have an impact on the water quality of the Manawatū River and our urban streams, and hence will help improve native biodiversity.

The actions of this plan also contribute to the achievement of the Climate change and Resource recovery plans. This is because many actions in the Sustainable practices chapter of this plan are targeted at assisting the public to reduce waste to landfill and improve energy efficiency (hence reducing carbon emissions).

Te mahitahi me Rangitāne o Manawatū Rangitāne o Manawatū partnership

Council will work in partnership with Rangitāne o Manawatū and:

- support Rangitāne o Manawatū in the retention and expression of mātauranga Māori and Rangitānenuiarawa¹
- identify and pursue shared environmental aspirations
- strengthen Māori community involvement in biodiversity projects

These commitments will guide the implementation of all aspects of this plan.

Ngā puka Kaunihera e whai wāhi mai ana ki tēnei mahere Council documents that contribute to this plan

The implementation of this plan is shaped by these Council-adopted documents:

- Citywide Vegetation Framework
- Stormwater Drainage Bylaw
- Urban Cycleway Master Plan
- Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and Bylaw
- Water Conservation Management Plan
- Water Supply Bylaw

Te ine i te angitutanga Measures of success

Council will monitor these measures of success and report on these through the City Dashboards:

- Increase in consultations by Eco Design Advisor
- Increase in schools and learning centres participating in Enviroschools Programme
- Increase in sustainable living education seminars
- Improvement in Council’s environmental performance (e.g. per capita / average basis) in terms of:
 - Energy efficiency
 - Water consumption
 - Waste generation
 - Waste diversion
 - Carbon emissions from transportation
- Increase in native birds
- Increase of native canopy cover
- Decrease in predators
- Improvement in water quality

¹ Rāngitanenuiarawa is the Rangitāne expression of kaitiakitanga, or customary authority and guardianship, and affirms their customary leadership in ensuring the health and regeneration of their tribal rohe.



NGĀ RITENGA MAHI TOITŪ SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES CHAPTER

Kupu whakataki Introduction

There are opportunities for individuals and organisations to incorporate more sustainable practices into the way we live. Our homes and businesses can be warmer, drier, and more efficient. We can minimise the use of resources and reduce waste generation. We can choose more energy efficient transport and services. The Council can make these choices alongside the Palmerston North community.

The purpose of this chapter is for the local community, and especially property owners, to understand the benefits of investing in sustainable building design and green buildings. We want Council to role-model sustainable practices and to share lessons learned with local communities.

Kei hea tātou i tēnei wā? Where are we now?

- Council fosters sustainable practices and behaviours so that city residents and organisations become more sustainable.
- Council supports community groups to foster sustainable practices through Strategic Priority Grants.
- Council supports the Horizons Regional Council in delivering the Enviroschool programme in schools and early childhood centres that are centred around living landscapes, zero waste, energy, water, and ecological design of buildings.

- The eco design advisor programme provides free advice to residents on how they can make their homes warmer and drier while also reducing their power bills and environmental footprint. It is subscribed to and rated highly positively by users.
- Events held on Council land and/or funded by Council aim to be “zero waste”. Council works with the organisers of events to switch to compostable tableware and to guide public patrons to separate waste at source. Thus, reduced cross-contamination and increasing diversion rates of recyclable materials and compostable waste from landfill.
- Council facilitated provision of electric vehicle charging stations in convenient locations in the city centre.
- Procurement guidance documents detailing sustainable procurement criteria covering environment, social and economy have been developed.
- Council’s 2020 Vehicle Fleet Renewal Programme has begun rationalising the Council’s vehicle fleet, including the incorporation of electric vehicles as budget allows.
- Council has reviewed workplace travel management plan, encouraging more staff to carpool and use active transport to commute to work.
- Monitoring of sustainability outcomes are ad-hoc and sporadic.



He aha ngā hiahia hei whakatutuki? What do we want to achieve?

- Environmental education targeting schools, early childhood education and the general public are effectively delivered toward achieving Council's goal for Palmerston North to become an Eco city.
- Council staff internalise best practices in sustainability in day-to-day decision making, activities and operations towards reducing impacts on the environment (air, water, and land) in a cost-effective manner.
- Council continues to improve on sustainable practices, and to share lessons learned with partners and stakeholders in the community and commercial sector.
- Council uses modern 'smart city' practices to allow cost-effective outcome monitoring.
- Council initiatives reflect mātauranga Māori and Rangitānenuiarawa.

He aha ngā mahi e tutuki ai ngā hiahia? What actions will we take to get there?

Ongoing actions	Start date	Involvement of partners
Provide support to environmental groups through Strategic Priority Grants	All 2021/2022	Environment Network Manawatū (ENM) and member groups
Provide free independent advice to residents about how to make their homes more sustainable through the Eco Design Advisor service		
Monitor the energy use of Council facilities		EECA
Collaborate with Massey University to research local sustainability issues		Massey University
Implement sustainable practices throughout the Council		
Continue rationalising the Council's vehicle fleet, including the incorporation of electric vehicles		
Prepare a bi-annual city sustainability report		Environment Network Manawatū (ENM) and member groups
New and one-off actions	Completion date	Involvement of partners
Work with community partners to deliver sustainable education outcomes	2021/2022	ENM and member groups, Horizons Regional Council
Develop implementation framework and guidelines to internalise and implement sustainable practices across all Council activities, including energy efficiency and conservation, waste management and minimisation, and water use and conservation, and sustainable transport	2021/2022	EECA WaterNZ WasteMinz Waka Kotahi NZTA
Document and disseminate lessons learned from Council's sustainability journey, including case studies demonstrating best practices	2023/2024	Council Controlled Organisations Chamber of Commerce ENM and member groups
Utilise IoT devices to allow more cost-effective monitoring of sustainable outcomes	2021/2022	
Support iwi led wānanga on environmental sustainability	2021/2022	
Investigate Envirohub and Resource recovery centre	2022/2023	ENM and member groups
Establish Envirohub and Resource recovery centre with support from external funders	2023/2024 (begin fundraising and establishment)	



Kupu whakataki Introduction

Horizons Regional Council and the Department of Conservation lead action to increase local biodiversity. We also have a role to protect nature in the urban environment. The purpose of this chapter is to regenerate native biodiversity and for communities to take part in and learn from biodiversity initiatives.

Kei hea tātou i tēnei wā? Where are we now?

- Almost all (98%) of the original bush cover of the Manawatū has been cleared.
- As a consequence of habitat loss and introduced predators (including rats, mustelids, possums, and wild and domestic cats) many species have significantly declined or even become extinct (some globally, some only locally).
- Intensive pest control of the Turitea Reserve and other bush remnants has reversed species decline, with a significant improvement in bush vitality and native fauna within the managed area. This has had a broader impact as well, with some native birdlife (particularly Tui) noticeably increased across the rohe.

- Community predator control projects have continued to grow in number and scale.
- The Green Corridors project has begun the process of creating a biodiversity corridor connecting the city with the Turitea Reserve.
- The Central Energy Trust Wildbase Recovery Centre has recently opened, providing members of the public to interact up-close with rare native wildlife.
- Fifteen habitats of local significance are protected in the District Plan.
- The city's urban streams are highly channelised and are in poor condition. In most cases, the area surrounding these streams are privately owned, and as such there is limited scope to introduce natural features such as wetlands or meanders.
- Many, but not all, of the city's streets contain street trees. More affluent and established streets have more street trees. Less than 12% of street trees are native species.
- The Turitea windfarm is under construction.



He aha ngā hiahia hei whakatutuki? What do we want to achieve?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mātauranga Māori is a fundamental foundation for understanding and managing indigenous species in Aotearoa New Zealand and is incorporated into Council practice. ➤ Council initiatives reflect mātauranga Māori and Rangitānenuiarawa. ➤ The Māori community are involved in city biodiversity projects. ➤ The urban environment provides opportunities for people to experience nature. ➤ Pests in the Turitea Reserve and adjacent forests are further suppressed, allowing those ecosystems to continue to recover. ➤ Where possible, locally extinct species are reintroduced. ➤ The Turitea Stream is connected to the river and city through an extensive green corridor network; native bird wildlife is increasingly established within the urban area. ➤ Community predator control is widespread, minimising the impact of introduced predators across the city. ➤ The city's urban waterways are attractive places to visit, and the mauri of these waterways is enhanced where practicable. ➤ More native-friendly species are planted within the city, providing year-round food sources for native wildlife. ➤ All Significant Natural Areas within the city boundary are identified and protected. ➤ The mauri of urban streams is enhanced, and native aquatic life is thriving. ➤ All streets have street trees, where practicable. ➤ Income from the Turitea Windfarm is used to invest in reserve development, with a priority for biodiversity related projects. ➤ There is increased biodiversity in Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge (see the Manawatū River plan for details).

He aha ngā mahi e tutuki ai ngā hiahia? What actions will we take to get there?		
Ongoing actions	Start date	Involvement of partners
Develop an action plan for the long-term enhancement of the mauri of our urban streams	All 2021/2022	Rangitāne o Manawatū, Environment Network Manawatū and community member groups
Monitor toutouwai reintroduction and develop plan for further translocations		Rangitāne o Manawatū, Massey University, Department of Conservation
Support Predator Free Palmerston North community efforts		Rangitāne o Manawatū, Predator Free Community Groups
Enhance freshwater bodies such as wetlands and urban streams, and provide more opportunities for people to interact with these sites		
Implement Hei Manga Oranga – Urban waterways programme		
Control animal and plant pests in Council reserves		
Restore biodiversity in the Stoney Creek Catchment		Stoney Creek Catchment Care Group, New Zealand Landcare Trust, Environment Network Manawatu, Rangitāne o Manawatū
New and one-off actions	Completion date	Involvement of partners
Expand the Green Corridors programme to allow for the increased maintenance requirements	All 2021/2022	Green Corridors, Horizons Regional Council, Environment Network Manawatu
Plant native bird friendly trees in Council reserves and roadsides, where appropriate		
Give effect to the requirements of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity by identifying and protecting significant natural areas, and responding to the 10% native forest cover target		
Support and advocate for the Massey University Botanical Gardens Master Plan		





Te Kaunihera o Papaioea
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Our north arrow draws directly from “North” in our city’s name. An upward arrow perfectly symbolises our ambition for a city that’s smarter, continually growing and evolving, innovating, collaborating and finding enlightened ways to work with nature.