

Submission on the Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Action Framework, from the New Zealand Green Building Council

The New Zealand Green Building Council is a not-for-profit group, campaigning for all New Zealanders to live in warm, healthy homes, and for the cleaning up and reduction of building and construction pollution, including climate change emissions associated with the construction and operation of all buildings and homes.

We're a team of people who are passionate advocates for better buildings, because we know that better buildings mean healthier, happier Kiwis.

We believe that looking after what's indoors, helps look after the great New Zealand outdoors, and provide a clean, healthy and happy legacy for our children, for our mokopuna, for generations to come.

We work to achieve healthy, sustainable buildings for all New Zealanders.

We are a membership organisation, and our membership is made up of around 500 companies and organisations in New Zealand, including councils, government departments, banks, energy companies, property and construction companies, architects, developers, designers, tertiary education institutions, and more. This includes much of the NZX50.

The New Zealand Green Building Council supports the intent of Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Action Framework.

Climate change is the most serious and pressing issue of our time, and the science is clear. Overall, we support the effort to make Auckland carbon neutral by 2050 and keep temperature increase within 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Despite our support, we see a lack of direct, specific actions and believe more ambitious targets are appropriate.

In particular, we wish to see more specific, measurable, ambitious and timebound goals for transport, and homes and buildings.

Transportation funding for active and public transport should increase. For active transport, funding should quadruple by 2023. For public transport, we would like to see funding double by 2023. The benefits of enacting both these measures should include wellbeing, health, air quality, and climate improvements.

New Zealand's built environment accounts for 20 per cent of the nation's carbon emissions. Stats NZ recently found that climate change emissions from the construction sector jumped 66 per cent in a decade.

Unless Auckland Council makes significant progress in tackling building and construction emissions, Auckland will simply not achieve the goal of zero carbon.

We suggest multiple ways forward:

1. All homes that receive Retrofit Your Home loans must verify how they perform against the healthy home standard.

2. Encourage the use of and triple the funding for services such as FutureFit and HomeFit. These services encourage and support the decarbonisation of homes.
3. By 2021, we ask the Auckland Council to provide 20 per cent remissions on development contributions for buildings that are climate resilient and have a lower carbon footprint. A straightforward way to identify these buildings that qualify would be homes that are verified 7 Homestar and above or buildings that achieved a 5 Green Star.
4. Auckland Council should encourage CCOs to incentivise resilient homes. For instance, by granting all homes that are confirmed water-efficient receive 10 per cent off infrastructure growth charges.
5. All large developments, of over 200 homes, which will become major Auckland communities, such as the Auckland Hamilton growth corridor, are climate resilient, liveable, economically viable and strong stakeholder engagement is undertaken. With strong stakeholder engagement, we can ensure large developments are held to the best standard. We ask that these areas are checked independently against international best practices such as Green Star or LEED.
6. We suggest the adoption of the Te Aranga design principles.
7. Auckland Council should lead by example, and lead from the front. To do this, we suggest Council:
 - a. Certifies all building programmes worth \$10 million or greater to a 5 Green Star standard
 - b. Certifies all fitouts worth \$3 million or greater to Green Star Interiors standards
 - c. Verifies all community, office, and CCO buildings 1200sq metres or greater to Green Star Performance and aim to achieve a 4 star standard by 2025

As the climate changes, the needs of a city will also change. We suggest that the Auckland Council pushes central government to amend the Building Code every three years with a goal of all new homes and buildings constructed to zero carbon by 2030. This will drastically reduce the energy load on the grid, demanding less energy consumption.

New Zealand is a wealthy country, with a relatively high level of per capita climate change emissions. And, in many ways, Auckland is the capital city of the Pacific. As a close friend of our Pacific neighbours, who are already bearing the brunt of climate impacts, it is our responsibility to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, in line with a temperature rise of no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.