

Foundational Climate Position Statement





Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei: Foundational Climate Position Statement

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei acknowledge the environmental crisis we are currently in. We understand that climate change poses a serious threat and the need for immediate and deep emission reductions across all sectors to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

Te Taiao (whenua/land and soil, wai/water, āhuarangi/climate, koiora/living beings plants and animals) is imbued with mauri – a being in its own right – to be respected as we would another person. The wellbeing of Te Taiao is paramount to and inextricable from human wellbeing. We respect the environment is a living system, of which we, the tangata whenua, are a part. Climate change will directly impact the ability for our whānau to live and flourish.

As tangata whenua of Tāmaki Makaurau and the Waitematā, we have an intergenerational responsibility to look after our tribal rohe. Passed from our ancestors, and looking forward to our tamariki and mokopuna, we endeavour as kaitiaki to ensure its wellbeing and mauri for generations to come. Our goals, aligned to our 2050 plan, is our whenua is alive with native trees, birds, and insects and for our tamariki to be

able to swim in our rivers and oceans carefree and our whānau to collect kaimoana.

We aim to be leaders in sustainable development and investment, where Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei and our iwi role model just, fair, sustainable living and regenerative practice, and do so in a way that contributes to the material and cultural wellbeing of our whānau. We aim to be world leaders in restoring the mauri of our tribal rohe. To do this, and to respond to the urgent climate crisis we now face, an ambitious response is required, now.

We don't have all the answers ready and recognise this is a journey. Doing this will require a wholesale change in behaviour and the collective action of our whānau; building from Mātauranga Māori and Ngāti Whātua tikanga; and leveraging the best available research and science.

THE NEXT YEAR: In the year ahead we will focus on four major programmes of work:



Creating a regenerative papakāinga. This initiative explores how to reduce emissions and build self-sustaining and collectively owned systems for energy, housing, wai, kai, and parakore across the papakāinga.



Transport. Exploring and building more efficient modes of transport, including cycling pathways and EV-sharing schemes for staff and at the papakāinga.



Te Taiao. Restoring eco-systems and advocating to protect intact systems.



Addressing the footprint of our organisation and tribal membership. Globally we need to half emissions by 2030. However, we want to go further.

We aim to be net zero across our organisational operations by 2030.

Over time we aspire to draw down more emissions than we produce.



The Challenge



RISING SEA LEVELS

Our global emissions, and the inertia of their impact, has already set us on a path towards sea level rises of 1.6 - 1.7 metres. Low lying areas of Tāmaki Makaurau will be most vulnerable. This includes Tāmaki Drive, Ōrākei Domain, Ōkahu Bay, the Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei urupā and land holdings in the central business district.



RISING TEMPERATURES

Climate change will result in rising temperatures and greater occurrences of extreme heat. The effects of this in Tāmaki Makaurau will be exacerbated due to our intensification of population. Temperature rises, alongside pooling of air contaminants and pollution will negatively affect Māori who disproportionately suffer cardiovascular and respiratory disease, who are overrepresented in rental accommodation, and those who spend more hours outside in the heat in construction or labouring roles. Māori with lower incomes will have fewer financial resources to respond.



DROUGHTS + FLOODS

Changing seasonal patterns will likely result in droughts, and flood risk, new or emerging invasive pests. This may impact the ability of our whānau to access clean drinking water. Flooding is also a significant risk for Tāmaki Makaurau given its proximity to harbours and waterways.

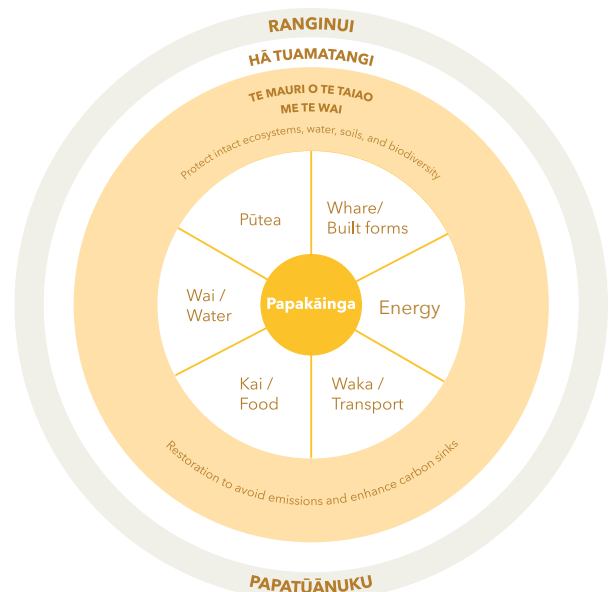


LOSS OF ANIMALS, PLANTS & INSECTS

The impacts on the environment of climate change may result in localised extinction of indigenous flora and fauna. Moana acidification will threaten marine species which will impact the ability to access kai moana for our whānau.

Our Worldview

Responding to climate change and the health of Te Taiao requires a holistic response that recognises the interconnected web of relationships and reciprocity between the environment and people. This is contained within te hā tuamatangi, the Earth's last breath or planetary boundaries. This is the ceiling or limit, which if breached threatens humans and our ecosystems existence. We also acknowledge the realms of Atua Māori: If Papatūānuku, Ranginui and their tamariki are not thriving, neither are our whānau.





Principles for what we will do

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei is principled and strategic in what we choose to focus on and what we stand for. As a priority, we will undertake action that:

- Restores the mauri of Te Taiao as kaitiaki, through climate action
 - Responds intimately to our whānau needs to ensure that climate action is tika, restorative, and equitable
 - Responds systemically. We recognise the problems we face are systemic, and we will work at a system level to create positive environmental outcomes
 - Embody leadership and rangatiratanga to honour our responsibility as the ahi-kā-roa in Tāmaki and the Waitematā. We will take an ambitious approach as the tangata whenua
- In addition, the following principles will guide how we act:
- Mātauranga-lead action, grounded in Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei tikanga
 - Reflect on the past, to guide future actions. Titiro whakamuri, kia koke whakamua
 - Responding to the climate challenge with urgency, leveraging the best research and science
 - We begin this as an honest journey of learning but always improving
 - Our solutions will build on our collective ownership of resources, and build capacity and capability for our whānau and iwi

To effect change Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei will work across: the papakāinga, our rohe and the motu and Te Moananui a Kiwa (the Pacific). Across these levels we will:

- **Focus on our** own whare. Evaluate risk and reduce emissions across the papakāinga and the iwi. This includes reducing our major emission areas – transport use and energy use
- **Leverage** the power of our assets, our landholdings, and our procurement
- **Support** whānau to advance climate solutions, such as changes in consumption (such as diet), home improvement (such as energy source) and day to day behavior (such as transport), and parakore
- **Demonstrate** and fund practical and/or innovative solutions to climate issues
- **Advocate** to persuade, support and compel others to change through communication, lobbying and working with central and local government. Lend our support to other impactful initiatives.





We have identified 7 major areas where Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei can lead in the restoration of the mauri of te taiao through climate action:



1. RESTORATION AND PROTECTION OF TE TAI AO

Protect intact and functional ecosystems and biodiversity in the rohe. This includes restoring hauora and mauri to the bay's ecosystems including daylighting streams and reinstating the wetlands, aligning with natural water courses, expanding planting efforts and protection of biodiversity (such as the seed library).



2. WAKA/ TRANSPORT

Reduced emissions from transport including moving to shared and public transport use, electric vehicle use for our whānau, developing the papakāinga to enable more cycling and walking, reduction of impervious surfaces for parking, and advocating for improved cycle ways throughout Tāmaki Makaurau. We will significantly reduce corporate transport use and emissions and waste created through inefficient transport.



3. ENERGY

Reduced emissions through a resilient energy network, energy-efficient and cooling housing developments, and supporting whānau to access low emission, affordable energy. We will reduce emissions related to energy and gas use at Eastcliff Retirement Village.



4. KAI/ FOOD

Invest in food security, build on the planting production at Pourewa to give more whānau access to healthy and affordable kai, explore carbon neutral methods for kai delivery, support diet changes to reduce emissions, reduce food waste, and advocate for appropriate land use.



5. PŪTEA

Effective management of our assets and land holdings to reduce risk and reduce emissions. This includes understanding how Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei best manage the impact of rising sea levels on land holdings.



6. WHARE/BUILT FORMS

Support healthy affordable homes for whānau. Strive towards a built form that is uniquely Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei and supportive of our principled, strategic approach to climate action.



7. WAI / WATER

Develop a resilient water access scheme and effectively manage wastewater at the papakāinga. Support whānau to consider waste.

