

NGĀ MAHI ĀHUARANGI - OUR CLIMATE ACTION

Community Trust South is a signatory of the Funders Commitment on Climate Action. This commitment is in recognition of the important role community funders play in building better outcomes for our environment and communities. The seven part commitment is guided by Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Mātauranga Māori aspirations.

It focuses on a just transition, collaboration, and leadership. Significantly, it includes reporting back to our communities and stakeholders the actions that Community Trust South takes. The following is a report on actions made towards the seven commitments.

01 Reflecting Te Tiriti o Waitangi and supporting Māori aspirations regarding climate action

We commit to the spirit of partnership with Iwi, Hapū / Māori to address the causes and impacts of climate change. We will seek to enable Māori aspirations and recognise mātauranga Māori in climate action, respecting whakapapa, tino rangatiratanga, rite tahi (equity) and kaitiakitanga.

In 2023, as part of the Strategic review, guiding principles were developed. These principles outline the way in which the Community Trust will operate and where focus will be. One of these guiding principles states: We acknowledge our region's history and heritage and will continue to do so. We acknowledge and appreciate our ongoing relationship with mana whenua, ngā Papatipu Rūnaka o Murihiku and Māori. We will ensure our decision making, actions and funding approaches are respectful, appropriate and tikanga.

The Trust continues to build partnerships with Iwi, Hapū/ Māori to understand Māori aspirations through regular face to face meetings.

02 An equitable transition

We will take action on how we invest and fund, to enable greater equity in the transition to a low carbon society. We will support initiatives that foster equitable transition, and we will support vulnerable communities burdened by the impacts arising from the transition.

Community Trust South's new strategy aspires for our communities to be connected to their environment and it is thriving for future generations. Emissions are reducing and the South is a leader in carbon reduction and green technologies. These aspirations alongside the guiding principles of Equity ensure that CTS is committed to ensuring support to those priority populations who will be most impacted by the effects of climate change.

03 Enable leadership

We will support and grow the leadership in our communities, especially in Tangata Whenua, rangatahi and marginalised communities to accelerate an equitable transition. We will actively support community-led action and systems change to enable an equitable transition.

This year CTS has sought to provide leadership learning opportunities to those in for - purpose organisations working in Governance roles. This has been a partnership with the Institute of Directors and the Chamber of Commerce Southland. Alongside this CTS continues to offer individual scholarships to support people in our region to continue developing their leadership skills and experience.

04 Commit and share resources

We will take opportunities to contribute to and support mitigation and adaptation to climate change impacts. We will commit resources to accelerate work addressing the causes and impacts of climate change and identify opportunities to co-fund initiatives.

We continue to be an active member of the Combined Community Trusts Climate Action Working Group which is developing education and responses to climate action for the for-purpose sector including contributing to the Kaupapa of National Significance Fund. The aim of the fund is to support and empower community based/community led climate action initiatives.

05 Learn and grow

We will create opportunities for our trustees, staff and communities to learn more about climate change causes, impacts and solutions, including through mātauranga Māori. We will share opportunities to develop the knowledge and skills needed to act.

Partnering with Great South to deliver Decarbonisation Workshop series is an example of how targeted support can enable communities to take meaningful steps towards reducing their carbon footprint. By focusing on for-purpose (not-for-profit) organisations in Waihōpai, this initiative addresses the need for accessible support and the opportunity for organisations to learn about how to embark on their own Climate journey.

Through standing Board meeting agenda items on Te Ao Māori and Climate Action Trustees and staff have opportunities to grow their knowledge of climate change.

06 Decarbonise our investments and operations

We will take action to minimise the carbon footprint of our own operations. We will proactively address the risks and opportunities of the transition to a low carbon society in our investment strategies.

The Trust continues to assess and monitor its carbon footprint and work towards reducing the emissions of its operations. Total GHG emissions in FY24 were 22.35 tonnes CO₂e. This is a 35% decrease on FY23 and a 24.5% decrease on the base year.

The Trust has undertaken a review of its Statement of Investment Policies and Objectives and has updated this to include its commitment to net zero greenhouse gas emissions within its portfolio by 2050 or before.