

Kaupapa of National Significance – Climate Focus

The Fund aims to support and empower community-based/community-led climate action through funding initiatives that:



Contribute to long-term greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction through community-based/community-led action.



Support ecological resilience.



Support the building of community climate resilience in the face of increasing extreme weather events.



Contribute to a tika (equitable) transition, reflecting a commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and supporting Māori aspirations regarding climate action.

Fund criteria

1. The initiative prioritises communities that will be most disadvantaged by the changing climate and the transition to Net Zero (with a clear explanation of how priority communities are identified). For example, the project may:

- Increase access, inclusion, and participation for those who experience disadvantages or barriers in the transition to Net Zero.
- Support sustainable community-led advocacy and action.

2. The initiative includes plans to review and measure its impact and to produce and share its learning to contribute to a broader movement of change/climate action. For example, the project may:

- advance understanding and uptake of climate action, thereby contributing to carbon reduction goals.

3. The initiative demonstrates a commitment to working with Iwi, Hapū / Māori to address the causes and impacts of climate change. For example, the project may:

- seek to enable Māori aspirations and recognise mātauranga Māori in climate action.
- Increase understanding about how to build a Tika (equitable) Transition

4. The initiative has potential benefits at a national scale or demonstrates longer-term scalability.



Who can apply?

Applying organisations must have a charitable purpose, this usually means charitable or incorporated society status or operation as a social enterprise.

How much?

A total funding pool of \$600k over three years (may be for one year or distributed across three years).

Exclusions (what we won't fund)?

- For-profit ventures with no charitable purpose
- One-off events that are designed for the general population including climate-focused festivals, exhibitions, conferences, etc.
- Individual conservation initiatives like the restoration of one wetland or tree planting in a specific park
- Environmental education initiatives focused on the general population, including school students
- Research work, including reports on the current amount of atmospheric carbon in the region, or reports that recommend climate change action
- Individuals
- Debt servicing or repayment
- Capital/physical works

Appendix 1 - Examples and definitions:

Ecological resilience

For example, the restoration of wetlands or marine reserve establishments that not only sequester carbon but provide ecosystems. Funding advocacy to prevent damage to the sea-bed (which releases volumes of CO₂) and destroys ecosystems.

Community resilience

For example, initiatives focusing on local food supply and security, marae development (as hubs in times of disaster/emergencies) or those investing in social cohesion.

Tika transition

“A tika transition to a low-emissions economy is one that embraces tikanga Māori as a source of solutions, upholds the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and is consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”. Associate Professor Maria Bargh, 2019, ‘A tika transition’, in D. Hall (Editor.), A Careful Revolution: towards a low-emissions future.

In Aotearoa, tikanga Māori and Te Tiriti o Waitangi must sit at the heart of our climate action response.

