Climate and Community

Research Findings

CENTRE for SOCIAL IMPACT
A Foundation North Initiative



The scale of the climate threat, and the scale of the solutions needed, means that this is an issue for all parts of civil society, and for all charitable foundations.

Climate change is a health issue, an equality issue, an educational issue, an economic issue, a cultural issue, a scientific issue, a security issue and a local community issue, as well as an environmental issue.

Children and young people are showing bold and effective leadership. There is a special responsibility on foundations, whose assets are held for the public good, to use their resources and independence to rise to the challenge.

Source: Funders Commitment to Climate Change

Objectives and Approach

1. What are the views of community organisations about climate change and priorities for action by the community sector? What barriers do they experience in taking action?

2. What are Community Trusts in Aotearoa New Zealand currently doing to catalyse a reduction in emissions and support the community response to climate change?

3. What are high-impact roles Community Trusts could play in the future in response to community organisations needs? What can we learn from the leading international philanthropies?

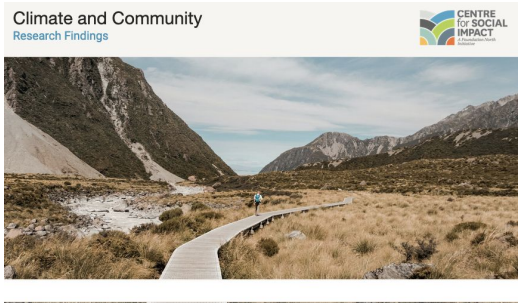
Interviews were conducted with six community organisations. A survey was sent out via Community Trusts to a sample of organisation with a range of sizes, and sectors.

Interviews were conducted with four Community Trusts. The remaining seven were sent a survey.

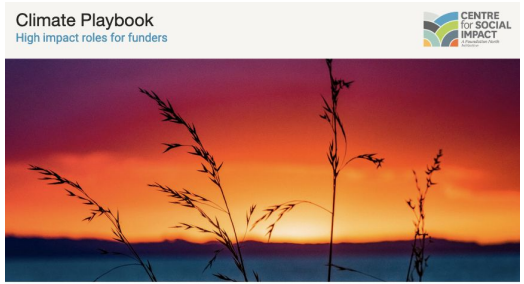
A further two interviews were conducted with Māori community advisors and an interview with Mike Smith, Chair of the iwi leaders climate group.

Outputs

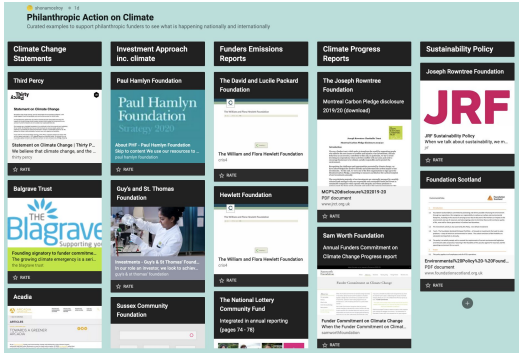
Findings



Playbook



Resources



This report

Method and Summary of findings

Context

What do community organisations think and do about climate change now?

What do community organisations and funders hope to do next?

Recommendations for funders to accelerate change

Appendix

Method and Summary of Findings

Method

Community Organisations

Interviews were conducted with six community organisations. A survey was sent out via Community Trusts to a sample of organisation with a range of sizes, and sectors.

A further two interviews were conducted with Māori community advisors and an interview with Mike Smith, Chair of the iwi leaders climate group.

Community Trusts

Interviews were conducted with four Community Trusts. The remaining Trusts were sent a survey. A total of eleven Community Trusts participated.

Community Organisations Respondents

109 responses were received by community organisations.

Six respondents stated that they did not have time to complete the survey because climate is not a priority for them.

Following data cleaning for completeness eighty nine responses were used for the majority of the analysis.

Level in the organisation

70% of responses were completed by the CEO, board member or senior leader from the organisation.

Size of organisation

63% of organisations have less than 10 staff. 34% have between eleven and fifty. Only 3% have more than fifty staff. All interviews were with larger organisations. Consistent with this 87% have an annual turnover under $2 million. 39% under $125,000

Type of organisation

The most represented groups of respondents were:

– Community and social services (34%)
– Culture, arts and heritage (12%)
– Sport and recreation (12%)
– Health and disability services (9%)
– Education and research (7%)

Region

All geographic regions were represented. The most represented areas were:

– Manawatu-Whanganui (15%)
– Otago (15%)
– All of Aotearoa (14%)
– Bay of Plenty (11%)
– Wellington (10%)
– Canterbury (9%)

Participants

Community Organisations

HuiE!, Ronja Levers

CCS Disability, David Matthews

Sustainability Trust, Georgie Ferrari

Youthtown, Fay Amaral

Salvation Army, Ian Gainsford

GirlGuiding NZ, Susan Coleman

Māori Contributors

Mike Smith
Climate Change Iwi Leaders Group chair

Helen Clarke Ngāpuhi,
Engagement Team Lead Foundation North

Rosie Nathan, Ngati Whatua, Ngapuhi, Ngati Porou
Engagement Advisor, Foundation North

Community Trusts

Dennis Turton, Trust Waikato

Leighton Evans, Rātā Foundation

Lisa Hickling, Bay Trust

Linn Araboglos, Wellington Community Trust

Chiara LaRotonda, Wellington Community Trust

Summary
Community Organisations Are Concerned About Climate

Community organisations are concerned about their communities and the impact of climate change

51% feel the impact of climate change on their communities will be severe or major

They believe vulnerable groups will be the hardest hit by the disruption of climate breakdown.

There is concern about the impact on whānau, young people, rural communities, people with disability, former refugees and people experiencing poverty.

These groups also risk further disadvantage in the transition to a low carbon society

Some think their organisations ability to fulfill their mission will also be affected, but not all

26% feel it will have a severe of major impact on mission
26% feel it will be moderate

Some are considering how they might reduce the impact on communities.

Summary
They Believe Action is Needed to Reduce Emissions

This there is a strong feeling that action is needed to reduce emissions in the community sector.

67% says its vital or very important to reduce emissions in the sector.

Some are taking some action but it's not yet the norm. Despite willingness, organisation struggle to formalise action.

38% have taken some action.

For behaviour change to happen there needs to be both motivation and the ability to act.

The most frequently mentioned barriers are 'other priorities' (53%), and a lack of time and people (44%).

To take action groups would need greater motivation to prioritise action, additional resource (staff / time) and advice.

Sustainability champions are currently isolated and looking for help. Peer connection, a compelling narrative and practical advice would assist them to lead from within.

Summary
They Want Funders To Take a Position of Leadership

Community organisations would like funders support to act, and show leadership in climate action.

Actions that can reduce the largest emissions have the greatest support.

Climate action funding (49%), Climate leadership (42%), and Community Trusts reducing the emissions in the investment portfolio (42%).

Organisations want funders to fund staff time alongside accessible support and advice

There is some support, some caution and some resistance to measuring and reporting emissions to funders

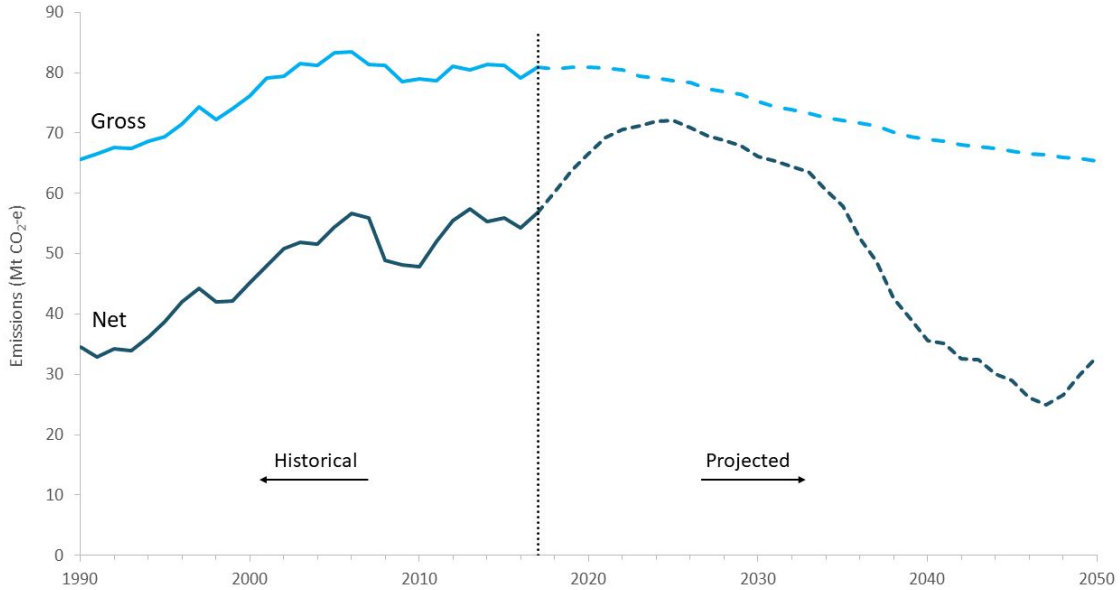
Funders leadership is needed to support communities to be resilient and participate in the transition

Organisations care more about funders investments being carbon neutral than their operational emissions

Context

This is a global challenge, NZ has made a commitment to be net neutral by 2050

New Zealand's historical and projected greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 to 2050

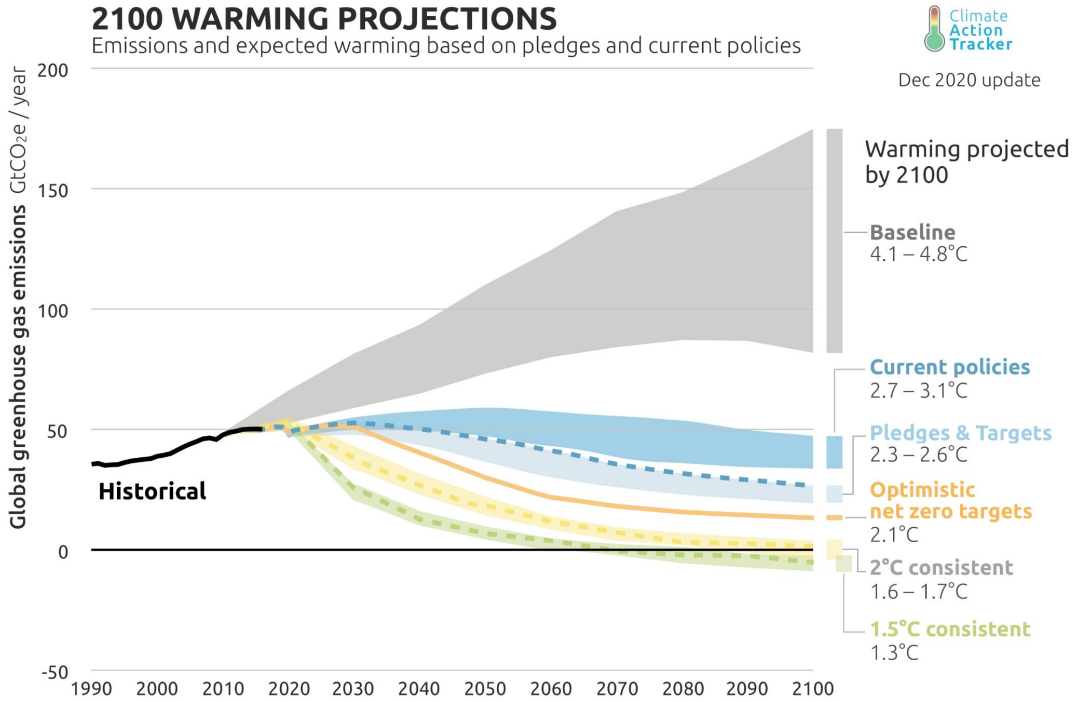


The question is not *if* we change but *how* and how *fast*

These choices will greatly impact *who* is affected, and *how much* it affects our communities

Source: Ministry for the Environment, Emissions reduction targets

Inaction, or slow action, will mean that we all experience worse affects, especially in communities that already experience inequality



The actual temperature increase has been at the higher end of estimates made based on CO2 emissions. Just below 1°C degree from 1900 to 2010.

Current policies will led to a further 1°C rise by 2040 and up to 3°C by 2100.

Under this scenario the weather will shift dramatically. Frost days fall by 50-60 days in the North Island, inland Marlborough, Canterbury, Otago and Southland.

Rain will increase in the west and decrease in the east. We will experience more floods and more drought.

Source: Dr Jim Salinger, Climate: Recent past, present and future, Climate Aotearoa, and NOOA

There are two main approaches to climate action. Incremental changes will not be sufficient, it will take bold and ambitious action



Mitigation

Reduce emissions that cause the change

Is the global ambition to reduce emissions. It has a long-term effects. It prioritises reduction of emissions in energy, buildings, transport, industry, agriculture and waste.



Adaptation

Reduce the impact of the change

Is the reduction of local vulnerability. It has short-term effects. It prioritises low lying and coastal areas, infrastructure, agriculture, water and health.

There are significant co-benefits contributing to outcomes already sought by funders, making it an intelligent investment



IMPROVED HEALTH & WELLBEING

Changes leading to reduction of pollutants and reduction of sedentary behaviours leading to improved health outcomes.



SOCIAL INCLUSION & JUSTICE

Social inclusion and social justice can be achieved by engaging groups that are traditionally excluded to address inequalities.



ECONOMIC RESILIENCE & REDUCED INEQUALITY

Potential to create new high quality green jobs and to support the transition through training and support.



INCREASED RESILIENCE TO NATURAL DISASTERS

Where adaptation reduces risk of extreme environmental conditions and increases preparedness of a city to respond.



IMPROVED RESOURCE QUALITY, EFFICIENCY & SECURITY

For example improved food, water or energy security. Improved air or water quality. More efficiently feed and provide for human needs.



ENHANCED WELLBEING OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Such as ecosystem preservation and biodiversity improvement, including connectedness between green spaces.

Sources:
Tyndall Centre for Climate Action, The Co-Benefits of Climate Action. Kera Sherwood-O'Regan and Dr Rhys Jones, From Threat to Opportunity: Climate and Health in Aotearoa, Climate Aotearoa

Taking action on climate can contribute to greater equity, community resilience, and health and wellbeing



Food sovereignty is restoring the community control of food

Increased food sovereignty and security in rural areas can improve health outcomes, increase social capital and improve environmental conditions.



Transport was 20 percent of GHG emissions in 2018

Reduction in emissions reduces respiratory problems and mental health conditions. Greater, active travel could reduce risk of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and other chronic conditions. Improved access to green space increases mental wellbeing.



Agriculture is 48 percent of NZ overall emissions

Dietary risk factors are responsible for more than 10 percent of the overall burden of disease. A move to plant-based diets could reduce mortality by up to 12 per cent and cut greenhouse gas emission by up to 84 per cent.

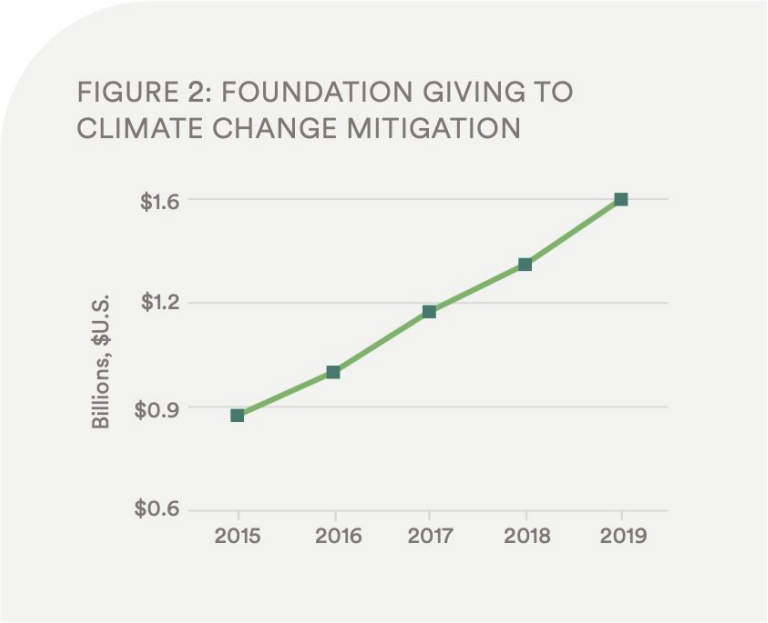


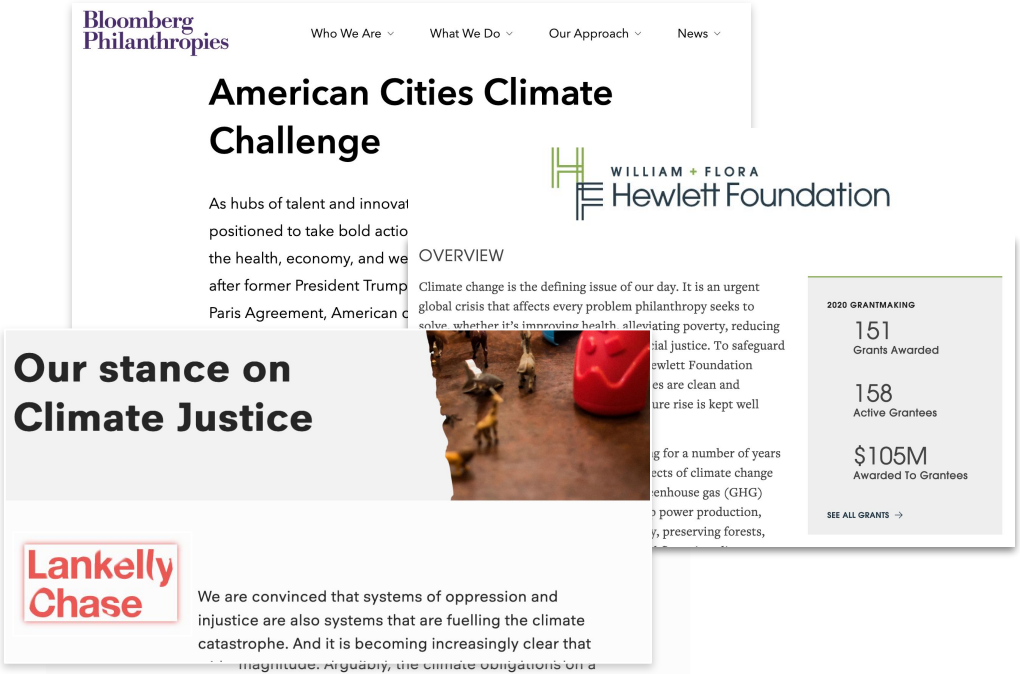
Housing utilities are 24% of household emissions

Creating healthy energy-efficient homes could reduce CO2 and better health outcomes, reduce hospital admissions and days off work, especially in Māori, Pacific and low income households.

Source: Kera Sherwood-O'Regan and Dr Rhys Jones, From Threat to Opportunity: Climate and Health in Aotearoa, Climate Aotearoa

Global philanthropies are increasingly seeing climate as a cross-cutting and strategic issue





Source: Kera Sherwood-O'Regan and Dr Rhys Jones, From Threat to Opportunity: Climate and Health in Aotearoa, Climate Aotearoa

However, Aotearoa NZ lags behind in terms of funding and leadership for climate action

4 %

Funding to the Environment

The percentage of funding in 2017-18 from 66 philanthropic funders going to environmental outcomes

$394,000

Funding for Climate Action

The amount of philanthropic dollars specified as funding Climate Change activities in 2017-18 from the identified environmental philanthropic funders, of which 46% was the Tindall Foundation.

1.5%

Funding to Climate related activities

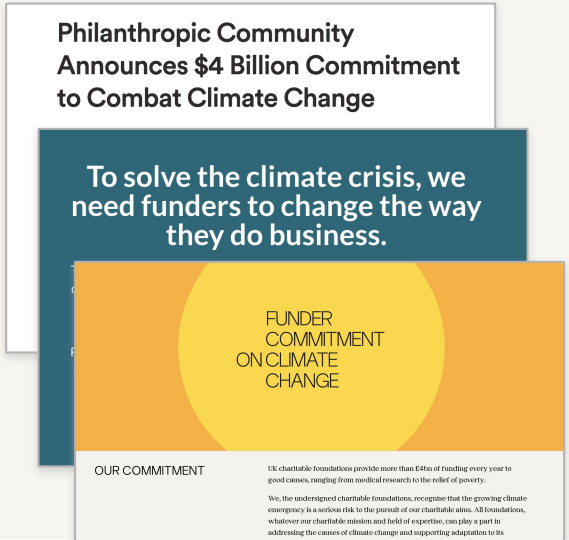
If ‘climate related’ funding is included with a broad interpretation including all Education & Movement Building, Bush Preservation, Land, Ocean and Coasts, and specified Other activities. Globally around 2% of philanthropic funding is committed to Climate Change, and while this is not nearly enough, it is very much more than current funding in NZ.

Source: Philanthropy NZ Environmental Funders Report 2019

Globally, funders are leading collective action to accelerate change, NZ funders can do the same to gain momentum quickly

Leadership through shared Commitments

Funders signing voluntary commitments to demonstrate leadership and increase collective accountability



Shared expertise for Investment & funding

Pooled advice for effective climate action, including action taken by charities, on investment and funding activity.



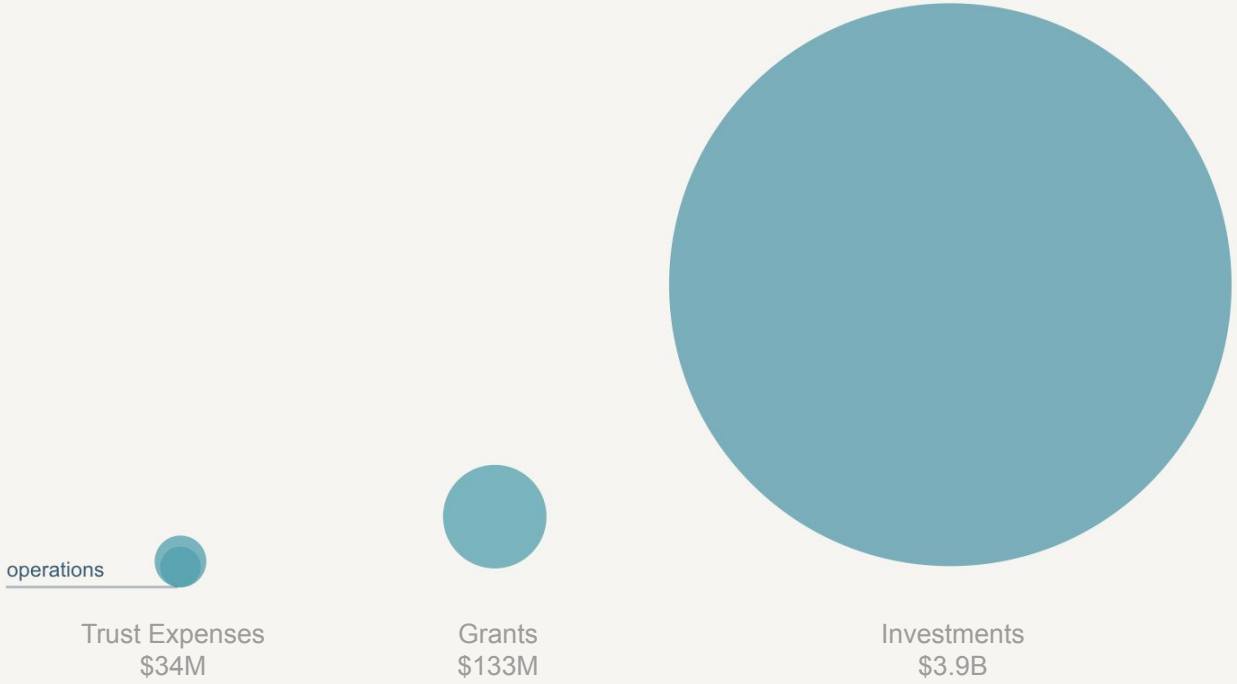
Co-funding action

Co-funding climate action through shared funds or intermediaries is common. Less so is co-funding supports for community orgs to change behaviour.



These actions strategically focus on the areas with the greatest potential for impact, in emissions reduction and impact on communities

There is less action focused on operational emissions



Community Trust activities under management

Source: Community Trust report

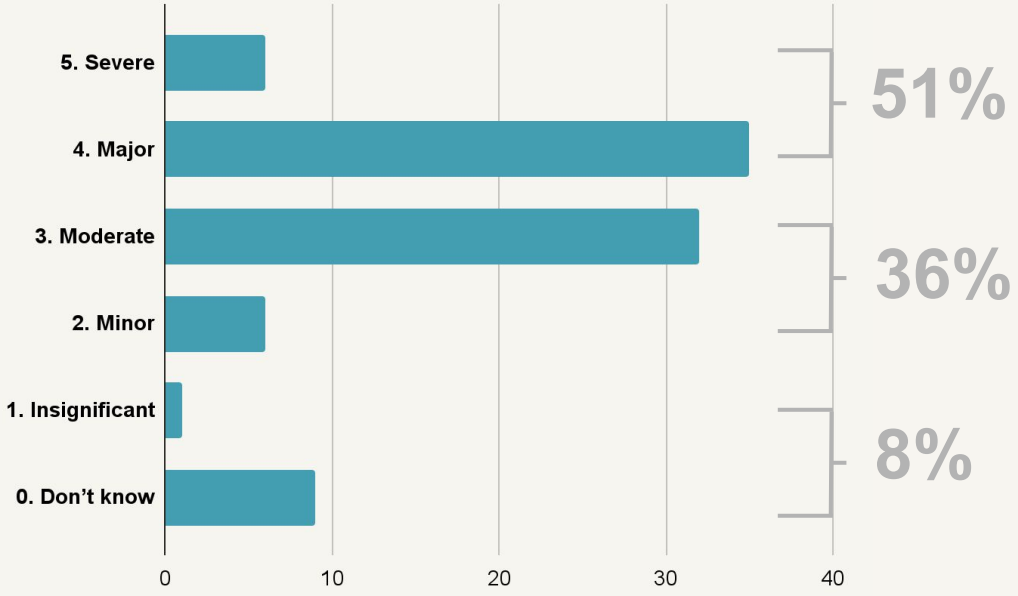
Context Recap

1. Inaction, or slow action, will mean that we all experience worse affects, especially in communities that already experience inequality
2. There are significant co-benefits contributing to outcomes already sought by funders, making it an intelligent investment
3. Taking action on climate can contribute to greater equity, community resilience, and health and wellbeing
4. Global philanthropies are increasingly seeing climate as a cross-cutting and strategic issue
5. However, Aotearoa NZ lags behind in terms of funding and leadership for climate action
6. Globally, funders are leading collective action to accelerate change, NZ funders can do the same to gain momentum quickly
7. These actions strategically focus on the areas with the greatest potential for impact, in emissions reduction and impact on communities

What do community organisations think and do about climate change now?

Community organisations are concerned about the impact of climate breakdown on our communities

What do you think the impact will be of climate change on the communities you support (including the transition to low carbon society)



The community sector is concerned about both the impact of climate change, and the impact of a transition on vulnerable communities.

Not many are yet participating in discussions outside of their organisation about how climate will affect those communities.

> "We had several hui with staff from the Climate Commission to give them feedback on their draft advice, with a focus on how communities are reflected in it." - *Social services manager*

Source: % of respondents, Community Organisation survey 89 respondents

Especially the vulnerable communities that will be hardest hit, and are already experiencing the impact

“Low income communities are least able to adapt to climate change, or make positive actions to lower their impact on the climate.”

WHĀNAU

“ We saw anxiety and stress increase for many of our Northland families during last year's drought, compounding already difficult living situations particularly for those whanau living rurally/in the mid to far North. While we were focusing on working with tamariki in these areas, reports from the schools where we were providing services indicated that anxiety and emotional dysregulation (two areas that we address through our music therapy services) were increasing for all members of the whanau.

“ Direct impact of climate change will be moderate. Imposed regulations/rules/laws to combat climate change will have a major impact, families budgets are already stretch in our area and many of the options being considered to combat climate change will have a significant financial impact on our families and therefore us.

“ Our area will suffer from extreme drought and potential fires. The social impacts of climate change will severely impact the whanau and rangatahi that we work with. We had a taste of this during the COVID-19 lockdowns. The lower socio-economic grouping will be hardest hit - often they have less resilience and fewer options.

Source: Community Organisation Survey

And who are at risk of being further disadvantaged in the transition to a low carbon society

RURAL COMMUNITIES

Any stress on the people will impact more severely on our community which is scattered, isolated, prone to discrimination and health problems.

YOUNG PEOPLE

Climate change greatly impacts everyone especially young people. There is a large amount of stress and anxiety and therefore our services aim to relieve this anxiety

PEOPLE IN POVERTY

The communities are already affected by poverty, inequity, lack of choices etc - so climate change would not be high on their list. But we recognise as a responsible and caring organisation that we need to do what we can to alleviate the effects of climate change.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

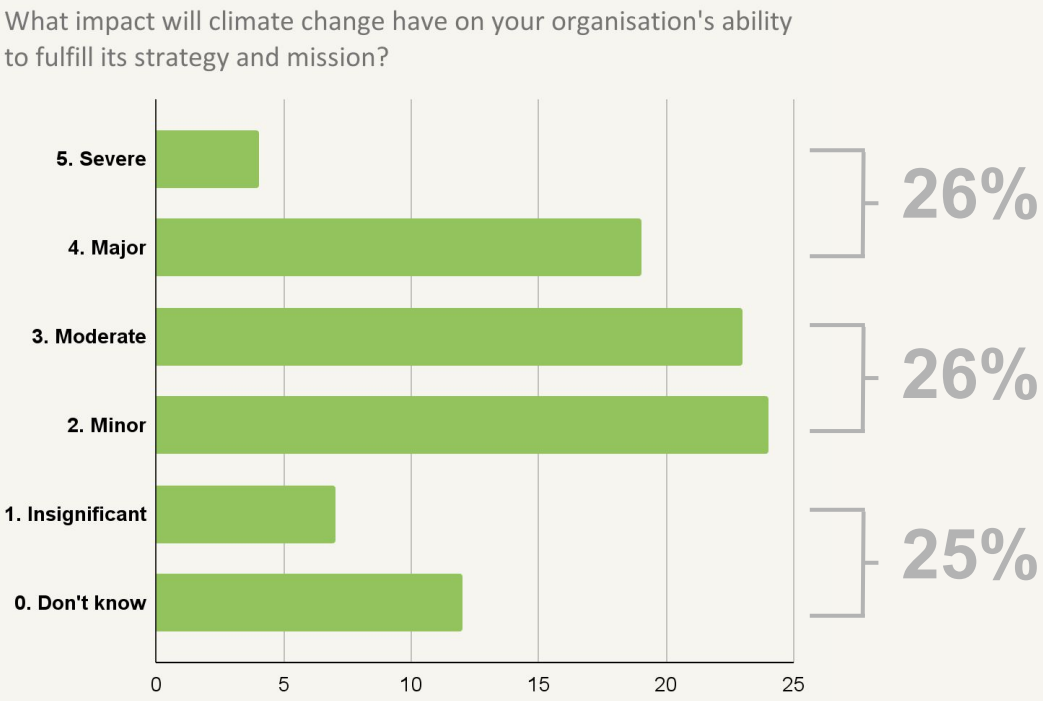
It is imperative that the disability community, which is already very disadvantaged financially and in terms of accessibility is not further disadvantaged by measures to combat climate change. This is especially true in terms of accessible affordable housing and transport costs.

FORMER REFUGEES

Our communities, especially the former refugees are among the low income earners. The transition to low carbon society will affect them because of economic limitations and behavioral change (awareness, knowledge, attitudes, rationale...)

Source: Community Organisation Survey

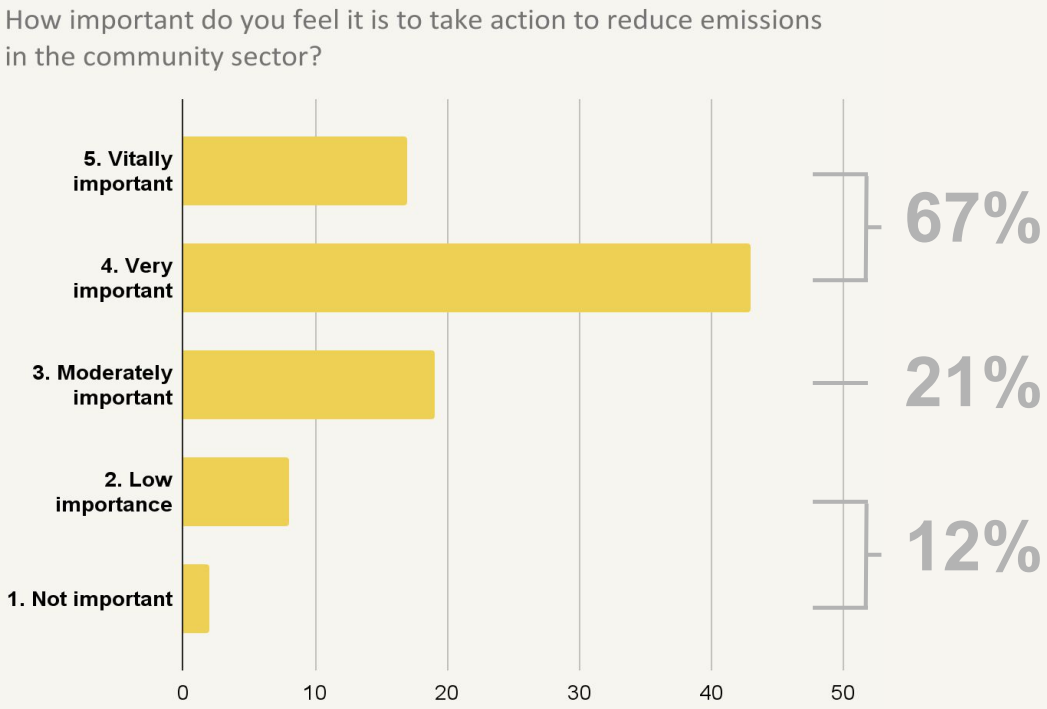
Many, but not all, are concerned that climate breakdown will negatively affect their ability to fulfill their mission



Those that are most concerned are environmental charities and charities that work with whānau, tamariki and others in need. They anticipate climate change and the transition to low carbon society is likely to make the lives of the people that they help harder.

Source: 89 responses, Community Organisation Survey

This there is a strong feeling that action is needed to reduce emissions in the community sector



The majority feel taking action to reduce emissions in the community sector is vital or very important. Some are already considering their role in reducing emissions.

Some are already thinking about how their core missions aligns to climate action.

Source: 90 responses, Community Organisation Survey

Some are taking action, but it's not the norm yet. Despite willingness, organisations struggle to formalise action

62%

Not taking action

- **17%** Not thinking about it just yet
- **26%** Would like to take action but haven't yet started
- **19%** Have identified changes that could be made

38%

Taking action

- **25%** Are taking action but its not a formal plan
- **13%** Have a plan in place and have been making changes

0%

Measure emissions

Organisations that have taken formal action are most likely to have a sustainability policy (8) or they have completed staff training on sustainability (6).

Informal measures include reducing travel and working from home, and better management of waste.

Source: Community Organisation survey 89 respondents

Some are considering how they might reduce the impact on communities

EMISSIONS REDUCTION & MISSION

We endeavour to save heritage buildings. We believe they can play an role in reducing emissions by converting empty heritage buildings to accommodation especially in inner cities. Conversion rather than demolishing and replacement with new buildings is better for the environment.

A JUST TRANSITION

There are opportunities for (communities) to majorly benefit if we have a *just transition* which focuses the investment into communities who have otherwise been excluded from the benefits of societies economic growth (which is leading to climate change). As an organization, we think that we need to adapt the way we design and deliver our initiatives in a way that more better reflects the low carbon future.

LOW INCOME COMMUNITIES

Low income communities are least able to adapt to climate change, or make positive actions to lower their impact on the climate. Our mission is to enable them to take a positive action and make them more resilient to any adverse effects of climate disruption.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADVOCACY

We are here to amplify the voice of girls, and support them to take action on issues they care about. Girls care about climate change and so we see advocacy in this area is a natural extension of our work.

Source: Community Organisation Survey

Action is driven by Champions inside organisations. They need peer connection, advice, and a compelling narrative to lead

Change in organisations is most often driven by a single person that has taken personal responsibility to move the agenda forward. This can be the CEO but may also be an empowered senior manager.

They do so because of a personal belief that climate change is an existential threat. Generally they:

- Take responsibility for their own learning i.e. reading and taking sustainability courses
- Are testing different narratives and points of influence. They actively seek resources here.
- Are isolated and don't have peer connections to others champions also doing this work



"This conversation has been encouraging. I have renewed energy to push ahead. It would be hugely beneficial if you just put us in touch with other people that are working on this."

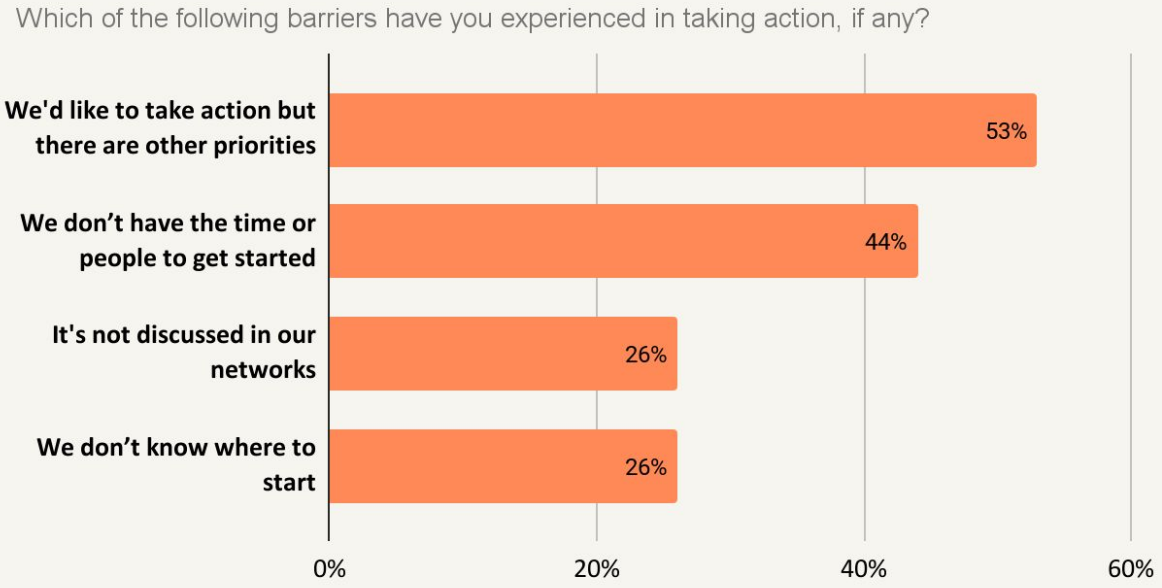
"I've brought in external people to talk to the senior leadership board and to test appetite for action on emissions. They gave us some clear directions and now we have commitment to further work."

"I won't advocate in areas that I don't think I could get buy-in, either from senior leadership, or the operational managers that need to take a lead in implementing the changes."

"I've been working on this for a while. The organisation moves slowly. I need to influence the board, and take them on a journey about why this is important. It's hard because there is so much information. It takes a lot of time, and it's not my day job, to get good information about why it's important and relevant."

Source: Community Organisation survey interviews

The most frequent barriers are having other priorities and not having the time or people. Knowledge and networks are also blockers.



Organisations struggle with both *Motivation* and *Ability* to take action on climate. A smaller number also mentioned that it's not a priority for their board or funders and that there is not a sense of urgency for action.

Attitudes are not universal across community organisations. Half can be considered motivated and moving to action.

20%
Uncertain
but somewhat supportive

47%	Reducing emission (very important or vital)
0%	Impact on mission (major or severe)
0%	Impact on communities (major or severe)
38%	Impact on communities (Don't Know)

50%
Motivated
and moving to action

85%	Reducing emission (very important or vital)
62%	Impact on mission (major or severe)
38%	Impact on communities (major or severe)

20%
Willing
but struggling to get started

77%	Reducing emission (very important or vital)
53%	Impact on mission (major or severe)
12%	Impact on communities (major or severe)

10%
Low priority
have other priorities

11%	Reducing emission (very important or vital)
44%	Impact on mission (major or severe)
33%	Impact on communities (major or severe)

Source: Community Organisation survey , 86 respondents

Context Recap

1. Community organisations are concerned about the impact of climate breakdown on our communities
2. Especially the vulnerable communities that will be hardest hit, and are already experiencing the impact
3. And who are at risk of being further disadvantaged in the transition to a low carbon society
4. Many, but not all, are concerned that climate breakdown will negatively affect their ability to fulfill their mission
5. Some are taking action, but it’s not the norm yet. Despite willingness, organisations struggle to formalise action
6. Action is driven by Champions inside organisations. They need peer connection, advice, and a compelling narrative to lead
7. Attitudes are not universal across community organisations. Half can be considered motivated and moving to action.

What do community organisations and funders hope to do next?

Te Ao Māori doesn't separate climate change from concepts of Whakapapa, Kaitiakitanga and Papatūanuku

> ***The way we consider the harm that people are inflicting on the land, air and sea is about papatuanuku and kaitiakitanga. It cannot be separated.***
>
> ***How would you consider this issue if, instead of thinking about emissions, you thought about your mother suffocating?***
>
> ***You wouldn't ask to measure how much oxygen she was getting, you would care for her, you would treat it as an emergency.***

Whakapapa and Kaitiakitanga

"An imbalance of power is leaving behind potentially transformative ideas and approaches that are held in Māori culture and communities. The concept of Kaitiaki is used everywhere and this would be a more appropriate way of living on and managing the land."

"The language (of carbon emissions) is impenetrable and is a barrier to participation by communities. Individuals in communities are trying to build their capacity to participate."

"The work that is happening in the community is about whakapapa and connecting with the whenua, but you won't hear conversation about carbon emissions. Any discussion about recycling, waste sorting or EVs is seen as a rich urban persons concern."

"Hapu and whanau are reconnecting with the stories and skills to observe, know and live on the land. They are cleaning their waterways, learning about how the whenua feed the hapu."

Māori communities are leading change at the level of whānau, hapu and iwi level and would like wider systems to engage with them

"Lift your chin and look at the horizon - the decisions will be different." *Mike Smith*

We have to be expansive in our thinking

We cannot simply decarbonise the status quo. It needs a transformation of culture that underpins the emissions, pollution and destruction of biodiversity.

The economic orthodoxy is to look for the return on investment for changes in emissions. Is there a 3-year return from this investment? This short-term thinking is part of the root cause. We need to stop looking at our feet and start to look 10 - 50 years out.

"Risk averse organisations that don't take action. They'll accept it, finally, when the waves are lapping at their door." Mike Smith

"There is frustration at the pace at which governance and systems change. People are just getting on and doing, and are frustrated with people talking, and either ignoring, or giving lip-service to Māori perspectives on the environment.

"There are a lot of changes, and these are chaotic for community. From Carbon Act to 3 waters reforms, to waste management changes such as new landfill. Iwi, hapu and whanau can't keep track of what it means to them. The language and legislative and regulatory environment is impenetrable." Helen Clarke

Source: Māori advisors interviews; and Interview with Mike Smith, excerpts of interviews have been included has been verbatim

This needs a partnership approach that is respectful of Rangatiratanga and Te Ao Māori perspective on the environment

Blockers to change

When I look at the main blockers (to action on climate change) they are (1) vested interests who are intransient, and (2) The fear of politicians that citizens will not accept the changes needed.

The most effective action is led by communities, and led by Māori communities. By acting the communities are creating the political mandate. We need to show them that leaders will be rewarded for taking bold action.

Philanthropic support should support local communities, regional communities, national communities that have the appetite to push the agenda. The ones that are politically independent. This is where the big quantum changes will come from.

Rangatiratanga

Rangatiratanga is about sovereignty, self-determination, and self-management. It is about people's right to participate in making decisions about their lives.

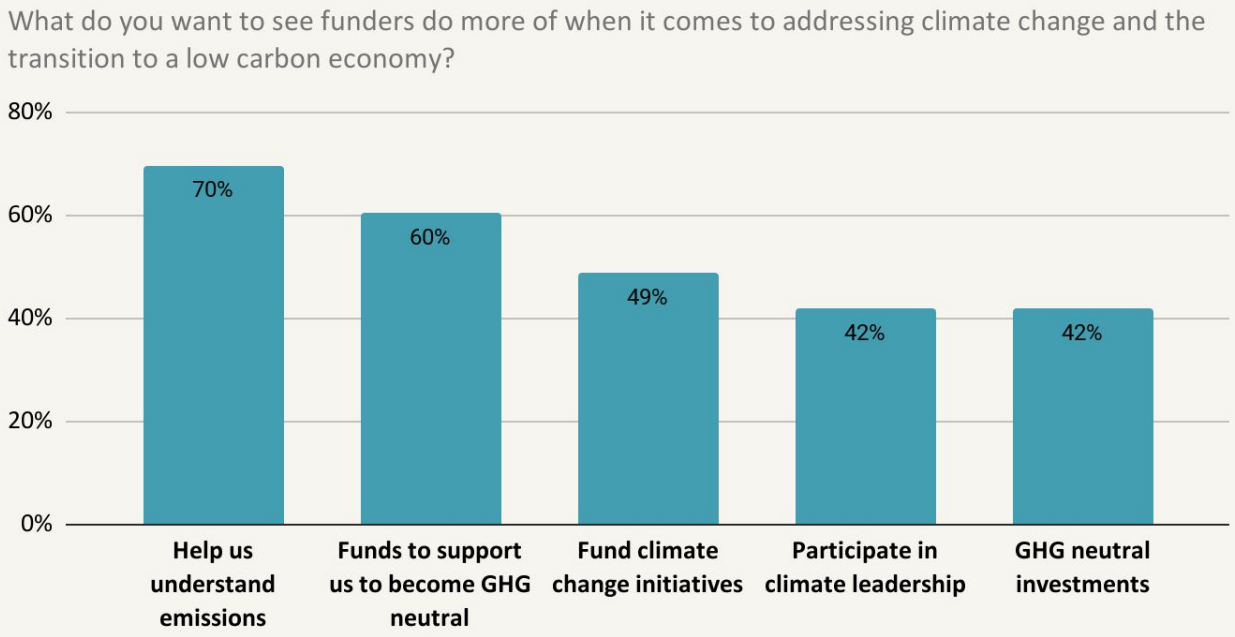
Rangatiratanga and climate change requires authentic relationship with Māori. Mike Smith calls on funders and others in positions of leadership to engagement with Māori at the highest levels on the ladder of participation:

1. Citizen control: free informed consent
2. Delegated power
3. Partnership

Anything less than partnership - from consultation to pre-set agenda would be crowding out of Māori voices.

Source: Māori advisors interviews; Interview with Mike Smith

Community Organisations would like funders to help them reduce their emissions, and to take a leadership role in climate action



The top two most frequently roles are about helping organisations to understand their emissions, and funding to make the changes necessary.

The next two are about funders taking a leadership role and funding climate action.

Having carbon neutral investments was also a priority.

Others that were less important were Funders have GHG neutral operations (33%), Offset our emissions (17%) and No Role (8%).

Source: Community Organisations Survey, 86 Responses

Community Organisations feel the most important role for funders is the effective use of funding, leadership and guidance

A theme throughout these responses was a wish to work in partnership with funders to make change happen. A wish to be part of the solution and hope that resource, guidance and leadership can come from fundersl, and work can be collaborative, and community-led. The most frequent themes, in order, were:

1. **Fund climate action and emissions reduction**
2. **Educate, support and guide**
3. **Be a leader for climate action**
4. **Consider and support the most disadvantaged**

Please get knowledge, expertise and resources out to communities. Please work locally to build capacity - and to identify and build on existing knowledge and expertise within communities.

There should be constant conversation about climate change and moving to carbon neutral. It should be part of every funding application. Every organisation should be accountable.

Supporting local community organisations through education and understanding the benefits of transitioning to a low carbon society and how they can contribute to climate action.

Source: Community Organisation survey, categorisation of 67 qualitative statements

What do you think is the most important role for philanthropy in climate action and a just transition to a low carbon society?

“(Funders need to) understand that they can work collaboratively with community organisations to support positive change. To have a wide view of what climate action is (i.e. sometimes it is social and economic community action that leads to more resilient communities more equipped to start taking climate action themselves).”

“Consider the most disadvantaged and needy of our society and how they can afford to be low carbon when paying the rent and buying food is already a major struggle.”

“(Funders should) support community-led behaviour change by community groups with experience in positive community engagement and behaviour change, so that each community can find the most authentic way to transition for that community and support all of the community during the transition.”

Source: Community Organisation survey

To take action community organisations would need resource, as well as advice



Community organisations would like support to do two things:

1. **Understand and reduce their emissions**
2. **Work with their communities and advocate for change**

Few ask for information or training. The largest proportion stated they would need funding for:

- internal resource to lead and implement change
- advisory support to develop policies and baseline measurement

Some also needed external experts to guide the board, leadership and staff through the process.

Source: Community Organisations Survey, frequency of relevant phrases used in open responses, 68 Responses

Funders are also on a journey with the majority committed to taking more action in the next 12-months

More than half of Community Trusts either have, or plan to have in place in the next 12-months:

1. **A Climate Action Plan**
2. **A Responsible Manager in place**
3. **A Public Statement on Climate Breakdown**
4. **Increase in Funding to Climate Action**
5. **Participate in Policy Conversations**

Around a third are also commitment to reviewing their Investment Policy to reduce the emissions from the portfolio.

Most Community Trusts do not yet feel that they understand the impact of climate change on the communities they serve, or have a plan of action.

Although the sample was small (so comparison is limited) Community Trusts were less likely than community organisations to say that climate change will have a ‘severe’ or ‘major’ impact on communities.

Those that are making progress have strong CEO commitment and a board that is supportive of the need for action. However, even those that see the importance of action struggle to prioritise climate action among competing priorities.

Source: Community Organisation interviews and survey

Community Trusts experience the same barriers to action as community organisations

When asked ‘What is needed to enable your organisation to start measuring and managing emissions?’ the most frequent stated are:

To give it greater priority as an organisation (7)

Greater knowledge and buy-in at the board (6)

Access to expertise (5)

More capacity internally to carry out the work (4)

> Emissions and climate has historically been seen as a subset of environment, it’s been in a silo. We’re now working on more integration
>
> Existing (measurement) tools don’t quite fit for either CTs or Community Organisations
>
> Internal capacity and knowledge about climate to make intelligent choices needs to be built
>
> Its an isolated job: Connection and learning between people responsible within Trusts would be beneficial
>
> Balancing the immediate needs of communities with actions needed for long term survival and resilience of communities

Source: Community Organisation interviews and survey

What do community organisations and funders hope to do next? Recap

1. Te Ao Māori doesn't separate climate change from concepts of Whakapapa, Kaitiakitanga and Papatūanuku
2. Māori communities are leading change at the level of whānau, hapu and iwi level and would like wider systems to engage with them
3. This needs a partnership approach that is respectful of Rangatiratanga and Te Ao Māori perspective on the environment
4. Community Organisations would like funders to help them reduce their emissions, and to take a leadership role in climate action
5. To take action community organisations would need resource, as well as advice
6. Funders are also on a journey with the majority committed to taking more action in the next 12-months
7. Community Trusts experience the same barriers to action as community organisations

Recommendations for funders to accelerate change

The recommendations represent three key objectives



Leadership and acceleration

The key aim being to take a collective leadership role and respond to the hope of community organisations. This includes:

A public Commitment to demonstrate leadership and provide accountability.

Shared resource for intelligence, policy and implementation support.

A Climate Champion Network.

Māori engagement to understand Te Ao Māori on climate, and develop practise.



Action in Community

Philanthropy can collaborate with community organisation to support better outcomes for community in mitigation and adaptation by:

Supporting more effective public participation and amplifying the voices of marginalised groups.

Supporting action for a Just Transition, improves outcomes, and reduces risk of greater inequality.



Targeted support to reduce emissions

Prioritise the ‘Motivated’ cluster of community organisations that also have higher emissions, to prototype support for emissions reduction efforts.

Support should focus on making measurement easy (and tools free), with expert advice for implementation.

A Funders Commitment To Accelerate Action

One

Funder's Collective Commitment

An opt-in commitment similar to the *Funder's Commitment to Climate Action* with a common framework covering the full spectrum of funder actions and reporting whilst giving funders the freedom to set individual action plans.

Why?

There is a mandate for action.

Community organisations are concerned about climate change. Half of community organisations are 'Motivated' for change and, of these, 63% would like funders to take a leadership role.

A public commitment has been shown to generate momentum with funders, provide a common framework for action, and create the external accountability needed to make it a priority.

Two

Shared intelligence and resource

Co-investment in climate and behaviour change expertise to provide guidance on action plans and policy for funders.

This can result in funders roadmap for net neutral with common frameworks, policies and emissions measurement. It could cover investments, operations, funding support for community organisations. this could also involve the creation of a 'NZ Community Drawdown' resource on high impact interventions.

Why?

Funders need expert advice on specific policies, will measurement for funders, many of which will be common across funders. Currently prioritisation and resource are limiting factors. A shared resource and learning would provide efficiencies and accelerate action. For example, what should funders acts and advocate for from funding advisors?

A Funders Commitment To Accelerate Action

Three

Māori engagement

CEOs and Responsible Managers should consider climate within the scope of Community Trust's work on Te Tiriti. CEOs can engage with Māori leaders to understand the issues and approaches that Māori consider important, and how to support, Māori-led action for Whānau, Hāpu and iwi.

Why?

The Māori people that we talked to emphasised that climate change should be considered as part of the Te Tiriti journey of Trusts and requires authentic engagement and partnership with Mana Whenua.

Mike Smith of leader of the Climate Change kaupapa of the the Iwi Chairs Forum has offered to engage with CEOs on the Māori aspirations and perspective on climate and climate action.

Four

A Climate Champions Network

Accelerate action across funders and community organisations by supporting the people that are making things happen.

Connected people can access peer support to accelerate learning and the adoption of new practices. It could also offer formal and informal learning opportunities. This servant leadership needs to be nurtured, and these connections will be pivotal in building a movement.

Why?

Climate Champions are the advocates in organisations that make change happen, whatever their role. They are currently isolated and work hard to make the case for change, adn implement changes.

Action in community to amplify voices and ensure a Just Transition

Five

Public participation and amplifying marginalised voices

Pilot partnerships with leading sector organisations to engage in the policy and advocacy needed to ensure the inclusion of vulnerable groups in the national and regional discussions and decisions on transition.

This may be national peak body or other leading sector organisations that have an existing role advocating on behalf of groups and working to reduce inequality. A three-way partnership with climate advocacy groups may be needed to provide access to sound information.

Why?

There is a significant risk that the voices of the most vulnerable are left out of plans and policy for the transition. This could lead to greater inequality.

Six

Support a Just Transition

Funders should consider collaboration on key issues that will have an outsized impact communities in Aotearoa NZ, especially those that may impact those that already experience inequalities.

Shared funding, research, learning and policy advocacy and partnerships could support more communities across Aotearoa be prepared for the changes ahead.

Why?

There is a critical need for the transition to be both fast and fair is recognised in the Paris Agreement. The evidence shows that the shift to a resilient, low-carbon economy will boost prosperity and be a net driver of job creation. However, there will be transitional challenges for workers and communities. Some communities will be more vulnerable to changes than others. Supporting a Just Transition

Targeted support to reduce emissions

Seven

Pilot targeted support approaches

Funder's could maximise their impact by focusing on on the organisations with a high motivation to act, and relatively high emissions. This could reduce emissions more rapidly than a less targeted approach.

Developing effect support will require trial and error. Co-funded pilots will reduce risk for funders.

A suggested pilot is to select a number of organisations (national) for an eco-audit, action plan and implementation support. Learning through testing would be used to optimise larger scale interventions and learning can be cascaded.

This should follow behaviour change theory and involve multiple interventions that increase the motivation and ability to action from a personal, social and systems perspective.

It is also recommended to explore partnerships with peak bodies in sectors where there are likely higher emissions (such as sport facilities, social services and housing etc.) to lead sector specific initiatives to increase motivation to act, and to develop sector specific guidance and tools to support emissions reduction.

Why?

67% feel it's vitally or very important to reduce emissions in the community sector. However, not all have the same motivation, nor do they have the same emissions profile. The biggest barriers is resource and expertise, not information, and so any solution must also offer advise.

Recommendations for funders to accelerate change Recap



A Funders Commitment To Accelerate Action

1. Funder's Collective Commitment
2. Shared intelligence and resource
3. Māori engagement
4. A Climate Champions Network



Action in community to amplify voices and ensure a Just Transition

5. Public participation and amplifying marginalised voices
6. Support a Just Transition



Targeted support to reduce emissions

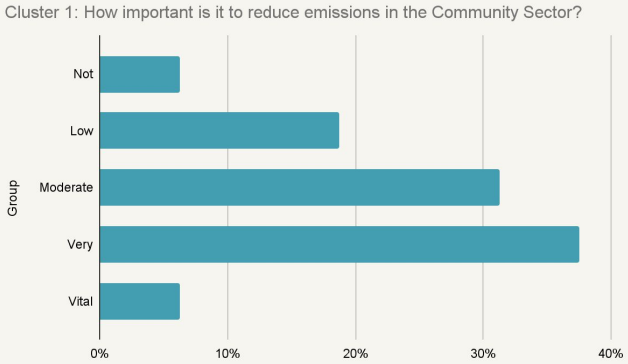
7. Pilot targeted support approaches

Appendix

1. The profile of clusters in Community Organisation attitudes

Uncertain

They are most likely to say they ‘don’t know’ about the impact of climate change. There is some support for action, but moderate motivation.



> I seriously doubt we would (take action) unless someone solved our financial sustainability challenge, thereby allowing time to think about this!

Attitude

Generally this cluster are the most uncertain about the impact of climate change. They feel:

- Taking action to reduce emission is important.
- There will not be a big impact on community or they don’t know. (41% insignificant or minor; 41% don’t know)
- There will not be a big impact on their ability to fulfill their mission (56% insignificant or minor; 38% don’t know)

Action

None in this group has an organisational plan for sustainability. 13% say they’ve taken some action.

44% are not thinking about it yet. 35% would like to take action but haven’t.

Barriers

This group cite the least number of barriers to getting started. The top are ‘don’t have the time or resource to get started’ (41%) and ‘it’s not discussed in their networks’ (35%)

They don’t consider it a barrier that they ‘don’t know where to start’(12%)

Funder Action

45% are not supportive of emissions measuring, with a further 12% hesitant and only 18% supportive.

65% think that funders should support them to understand their emissions, and 29% say funding for emissions reduction.

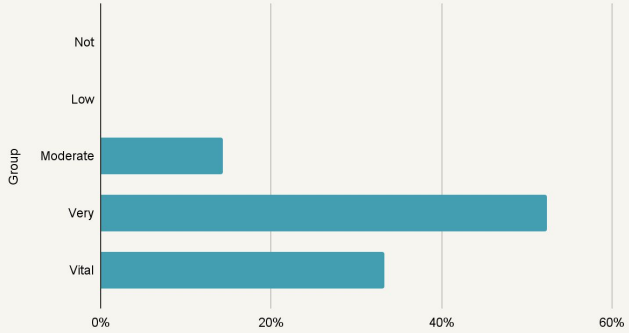
Funders operations and investments are carbon neutral have support from 24% each. 18% think there is no role for funders.

They much less likely to say emissions offset (0%), climate change funding (6%) and leadership (18%) than other clusters.

Motivated

Feel there will be a large impact on community and mission, and are highly supportive of action to reduce emissions. They are most likely to have taken action.

Cluster 2: How important is it to reduce emissions in the Community Sector?



> There should be constant conversation about climate change and moving to carbon neutral. It should be part of every funding application. Every organization should be accountable.

Attitude

Generally this cluster feel:

- climate change will have a severe and major impact of community (63%).
- None in this cluster believes the impact will be minor or insignificant.
- 38% feel that it will have a major or severe impact on their mission. (31% moderate, 29% minor /insignificant).

Action

This group is the most likely to have taken concrete action. 60% have taken some for of action. 24% have a formal plan.

Some activities by this group included training, policy and responsible manager and staff rewards for reduction of organisational emissions.

Barriers

This group are much less likely to consider ‘a lack of urgency’ as a barrier (5%) or that it’s not discussed in their networks (5%) or that it’s not a priority for their board (5%) or funders (12%).

They are likely to find that other priorities (60%), a lack of time or resource (33%). Compared to other groups they are less likely to say they don’t know where to start (19%).

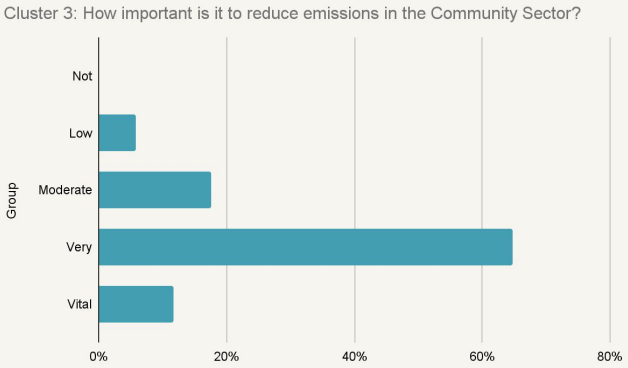
Funder Action

This cluster is the most supportive of emissions reporting (45%). A further 26% are willing to consider it with support of staff time and advice. Only 7% are not supportive. 67% would like funders to support them to understand emissions.

76% would like to see funding of climate action. They also support funders moving to lower emission investments (59%), taking leadership (55%).

Willing

Supportive of emissions reduction, and believe there will be an impact on communities, but they face many barriers to taking action



> (We'd like funders to) understand that they can work collaboratively with community organisations to support positive change. To have a wide view of what climate action is (i.e. sometimes it is social and economic community action that leads to more resilient communities more equipped to start taking climate action themselves)

Attitude

Generally this cluster feel:

- The impact on communities will be major (53%) or moderate (41%) impact on communities
- When it comes to reducing emissions in the community sector a great majority feel it is very important.

Action

76% of this cluster has not taken any action yet. 35% would like to but haven't started. Only 6% have a plan.

Barriers

This group cite the greatest number of barriers - on average twice as many as any other group.

The largest of these is 'We'd like to take action but there are other priorities. (82%). Closely behind are don't have the time or people to get started (76%); it's not a priority for the board (65%), and; they don't know where to start (59%).

In the external environment its not not discussed in their networks (71%) and it's not a priority for funders (47%).

Funder Action

29% are supportive of reporting emissions. 35% are hesitant due to a lack of resource or knowledge. Others simply say they don't know how to do it (24%).

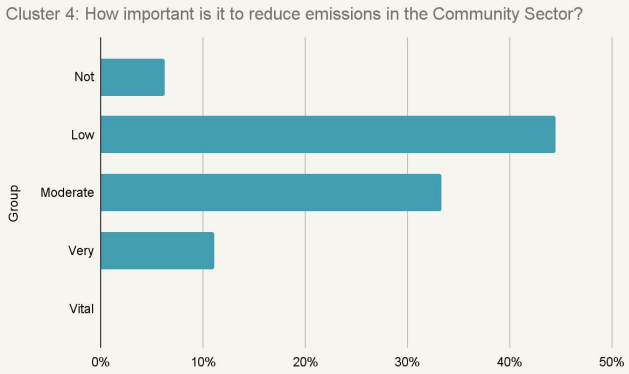
100% want support to understand emissions and 82% would like funding for transition to net neutral operations.

41% would like funders to help offset, more twice as many as any other cluster.

They are the most supportive of funders taking a leadership role (59%) and 47% would like funders to fund climate action.

Low priority

Whilst they think there will be an impact on the community, and their mission however, they are least likely to say it's important to reduce emission in the community sector.



> (funder should) financially support charities that give necessary services that benefit our society, as it solves important issues like poverty, loneliness and addiction.. it is more important than measuring our carbon emission

Attitude

Organisations in this cluster are most likely to say there will be a moderate impact community (56%) and on mission (56%).

The remainder of the group are think its major or severe impact on community (44%) and on mission (33%).

This cluster is the least likely to say that reducing emissions in the community sector is important.

Action

This group are mostly not thinking about taking action on sustainability issues yet (56%). A further 33% would like to take action and 11% has taken some action. None have a formal plan.

This group are the least supportive of measuring and reporting emissions with 56% stating 'Not Supportive'.

Barriers

The group don't cite many barriers. The most frequently cited was 'We'd like to take action but there are other priorities' (44%) and 'there is not a sense of urgency for change' (33%) and it's not a priority for their board (33%).

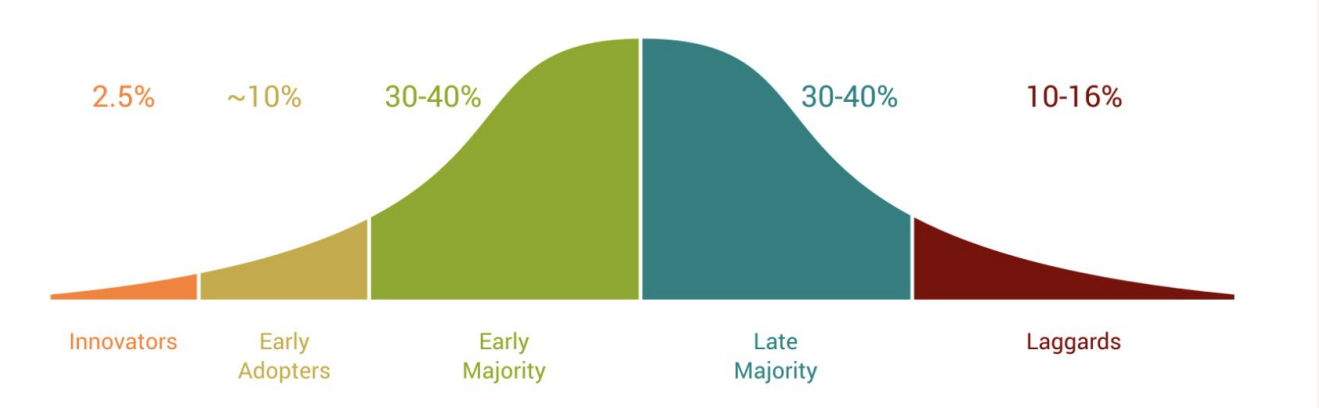
A minority feel they don't have the time or resource (22%) and it's not discussed in their network.

Funder Action

This group is the most likely of the cluster to say that Community Trusts have no role accelerating a movement to net neutral (33%).

44% would like funders to support community organisation to understand their emissions. This is lower than the overall average by 71% across the whole sample.

The community sector adoption of sustainability mirrors the adoption of other innovations



Innovators

Are risk takers who have the motivation and ability to try new things, even if they fail

Environmental groups

Early Adopters

Are selective about what they adopt. They know the latest developments and are seen as leaders.

Environmental groups

Early Majority

Take their time and are willing to embrace new practices if they understand how it fits with their strategy /business

'Motivated' cluster - 50%

Late Majority

Adopt in reaction to peer pressure, emerging norms, or necessity. Uncertainty must be resolved before they adopt.

'WIlling' and 'Uncertain' clusters - 40%

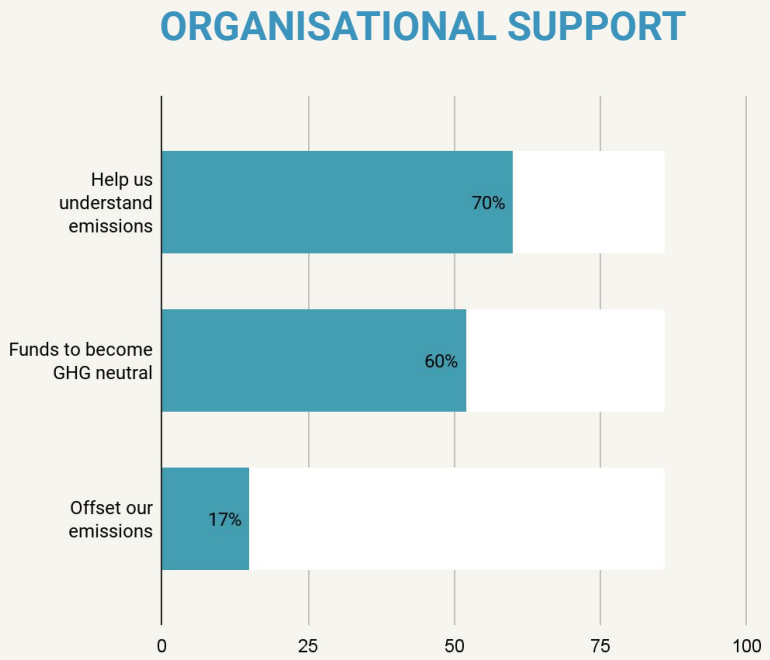
Laggards

Are traditional or unmotivated for action and/or don't have the ability to make changes

Low Priority cluster - 10%

2. Further information to inform the support provided to Community Organisations to reduce emissions

Organisations want funders to fund staff time alongside accessible support and advice



What do you want to see funders do more of when it comes to addressing climate change and the transition to a low carbon economy?

Providing support, advice, education and strategic direction. Funding around key projects to help reduce our carbon footprint could be beneficial.

To help with the costs of charities in understanding their own settings, and what they can do to make a positive contribution.

Make goals easy and achievable. No clinical jargon. Just easy steps we can take to reducing emissions, and easy to understand reasoning why we need to do so.

Give guidance for how a small economically run organisation can implement climate action initiatives.

Off-setting only as a last resort…

Fund organizations to make the changes - it's important - let's do it!

Source: Community Organisation survey , 86 respondents

The support needs of organisations depend on the size and complexity of organisations

The support needs of organisations vary depending on size and complexity.

Support for champions includes influencing leadership - trustees, senior leadership and operational managers. They frequently seek external speakers to provide an influencing role.

They also need practical expertise such as people to provide an audit of emissions and sustainability. The scope of this assistance can be

Knowing where to go for this support, and a budget for this, are barriers experienced even by large organisations.

A number of organisation also talked of the uncertain funding environment being a barrier to emissions reduction.

Organisations with concerns about ‘survival’ or a high demand for services were less likely to say that they would be able to make changes.

They suggested that a change to the funding environment, such as multi-year funding, incentives to consolidate back-off functions etc. would assist with prioritisation and ultimately emissions reduction.

Conversely, some organisations had made choices for financial reasons that have also have a positive impact on emissions even though this was not the driver for change e.g. moving the manufacture of uniforms on-shore.

Source: Community Organisation survey interviews

There is some support, some caution and some resistance to measuring and reporting on emissions

36% SUPPORTIVE

17% WILLING

17% UNCLEAR

16% HESITANT / RESISTANT

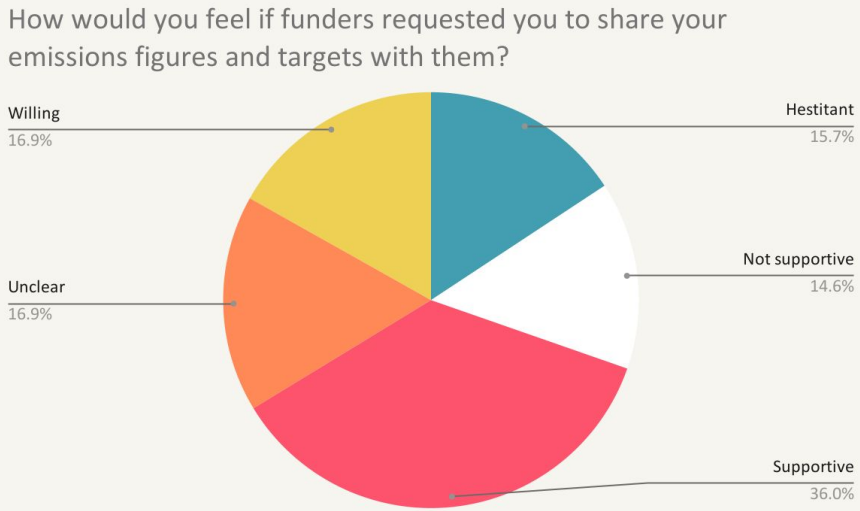
15% NOT SUPPORTIVE

To do this they would need:
(1) to see the organisational value
(2) feel they knew how to do it
(3) be resourced to do it

The WILLING group were supportive in principle provided there was sufficient support to implement measurement

The UNCLEAR group did not indicate whether they were supportive or not supportive. Many stated it was not possible for them to do so

The HESITANT / RESISTANT group expressed serious reservations about both the value and feasibility of measuring and reporting



Source: Community organisation survey. Respondent selected 'supportive' or , 'not supportive' or provided comment. The comments were labeled and categorised.

Ability to act would require resource (staff / time) and advice

What would you need to get started in the next 6-months?

Funding and staff resource (27)

Access to advice (18)

Organisational discussions (5)

Some didn't know

RESOURCE

"Specific funding to employ a specialist contractor to implement core policy changes

Finance to release a staff member to focus on this.

If we had some funding to get someone on board to drive the action, I believe we would make good progress. We have agreement that we want to take action, and a draft plan/policy but not the capacity to prioritise the action (which can be time consuming)

We already have a sustainability programme, but have to rely on volunteers, with volunteer numbers dwindling.

Funding, advice, a free way to measure our emissions and set a baseline

We would need about $30,000 and an adviser to direct us with where we can cut emissions

ADVICE

"The most useful thing would be a free expert to come and look at our organisation and work thru all the issues and lead the board and management staff thru the process needed to setup our organisation so it is fully prepared, making the changes needs and proactive on this problem.

An understanding of what steps we should be taking as an organisation... if we could have an 'audit' of the measures with some clear strategies our team would be very keen in implementing them

Workshops to build knowledge (and) understanding. A paid co-ordinator role.

Sample action plan that can be adapted for our organisation and support (funded) to identify baseline levels and how we can mitigate these

Source: Community Organisation survey 86 respondents

Any intervention about emissions reduction would also need to target motivation

Some say organisational emissions are relatively small, so measurement would not be valuable

> “(We) Do not see that we as an organisation have a need. The only emissions we have is getting to work as volunteers and the heating and lighting we enjoy.”
>
> “I may be ignorant of the issues but apart from some of our volunteers driving to our centre to do their shifts, I believe we have a small footprint.”
>
> “Our emissions are insignificant”
>
> “We don’t emit anything as such. We are very small. Our role is to educate. “
>
> We rent a small room in a community house and our biggest source of emissions is from the vehicles of our volunteers as they deliver and pick-up kits, which they do in their own vehicles.

Others don’t see this as a priority

“(We) do not see an immediate need (to act). Other problems need to be addressed first.”

This is something we are not even close to thinking about as the ongoing struggle to be financially sustainable in order to continue providing our service is always paramount.

Source: Community Organisation survey , 86 respondents

3. Further information on Community Trusts and Climate action

Trusts recognise that climate breakdown is a risk, but are not sure how big a risk it presents to their communities

> ***If you don't have climate change as your biggest organisation and community risk that you need to action then you may need to examine how you determine risk***

Most Community Trusts do not yet feel that they understand the impact of climate change on the communities they serve, or have a plan of action.

Those that are making progress have strong CEO commitment and a board that is supportive of the need for action.

There are examples of CEOs developing knowledge of leadership for sustainability issues through high-quality online learning.

However, even those that see the importance of action struggle to prioritise climate action among competing priorities.

Although the sample was small (so comparison is limited) Community Trusts were less likely than community organisations to say that climate change will have a 'severe' or 'major' impact on communities.

Trusts are asking themselves the edges of responsibility for emissions, and the community broadly

What is the role for philanthropy and community trusts?

Where does our responsibility end? At grantees, the community sector or communities?

How do we make this a priority because there is no planet B?

I'm concerned if we set targets that don't stand up to scrutiny, that's a reputation risk.

What is the roadmap to reduce our own emissions?

Climate change and inequality are the two biggest threats to society. Yet we're still not moving on it fast enough… how do we get people to move faster, including us?

There should be a standard way of doing this, we all have the same model, why would we take different approaches?

What are the key questions we need to ask about emissions reporting related to our investments?

Source: Community Trust interviews

Community Trusts are taking a variety of actions but practice is still emerging

			Actions taken or planned in next 12-months
INVESTMENTS	**Investment Policy**	4+	Shifting investment to a low or net neutral emissions portfolio
FUNDING	**Climate Action Fund**	2	A dedicated fund targeting action with the biggest impact on reducing emissions
	Increase in Funding to Climate Action	6+	An increase of funding for activity that reduce emissions
OPERATIONS	**Climate Action Plan**	6+	Action plan inc. reduce emissions from operations, grantees and investments
	Emissions Measurement	3+	An annual calculation of operational emissions, with targets for reduction
	Responsible Manager	6+	A manager with named responsibility for execution of the action plan
COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS	**Collect data from applicants**	1	Asking for current status of sustainability action or planning
	Support to Reduce Emissions	2+	Providing access to advice and information about action to take
LEADERSHIP	**A Public Statement**	6+	A public position statement on climate change and climate action
	Signatory to Commitments	1+	Signed up to an external commitment to action
	Participate in Policy Conversations	6+	Participate in external conversations about climate change policy

4. International Examples to Inspire Recommendations

Further examples can be seen in the accompanying Playbook

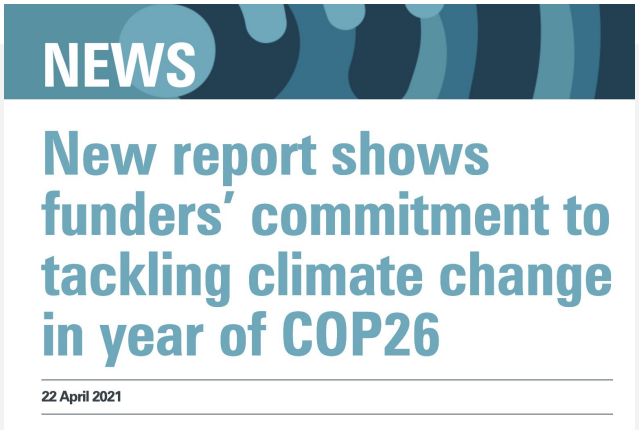
A Shared Public Commitment to Action

COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT

A demonstration to other funders and the community as a whole. A collective commitment can show to others what is important and create shared accountability.

A common framework, with flexibility to set individual action plans, would ensure that this can be inclusive enough to involve Trusts of different sizes and stages.

Annual accountability reporting (centralised) can also provide transparency about progress made against those plans. Over time the requirements may become more prescriptive.


NEWS

New report shows funders' commitment to tackling climate change in year of COP26

22 April 2021

A Shared Public Commitment to Action



Sixty eight funders based in the UK have signed a collective commitment to recognise the important role of funders, and to commit to action and reporting.

> We, the undersigned charitable foundations, recognise that the growing climate emergency is a serious risk to the pursuit of our charitable aims. All foundations, whatever our charitable mission and field of expertise, can play a part in addressing the causes of climate change and supporting adaptation to its effects.

Funders Commitment on Climate Change Year One Report, April 2021
Esmee Fairbairn Update Report, 2020

1. EDUCATE AND LEARN
   Educate and learn about climate change impacts and solutions
2. COMMIT RESOURCES
   Commit resources to tackling and adapting to climate change impacts
3. INTEGRATE
   Integrate climate considerations within existing programmes
4. STEWARD INVESTMENTS
   Steward investments for a post carbon future
5. DECARBONISE OPERATIONS
   Ambitious action to minimise the carbon footprint of operations
6. REPORT ON PROGRESS
   Annual reporting against goals

Build and share intelligence



The most effective strategies for a low carbon society are context specific and it takes expertise to analyse possible solutions and required investment.

Wellington Community Trust convened an expert group to advise on the most effective investment of funding for the Climate Action fund.

Project Drawdown was a landmark book and website that assessed and prioritised action to reduce the highest amount of emissions possible based on science.

The same could be produced for the community sector in Aotearoa - unique to place and culture. It is a depth of expertise that is hard to access alone. available to both funders and the community sector so that efforts and resources are targeted at the most effective interventions.

Project Drawdown, resource for climate solutions
Climate Works, advises funders how to invest in effective climate strategies

Build and share intelligence

Climate change, emissions reduction and adaptation are complex, systemic and localised issues. To take informed action funders need access to relevant, up to date intelligence from experts of all types (community, scientific, live experience). Convening expertise and access to intelligence is an efficient way for funders to target funding to effective solutions.

Wellington Community Trust: Climate Action expert panel

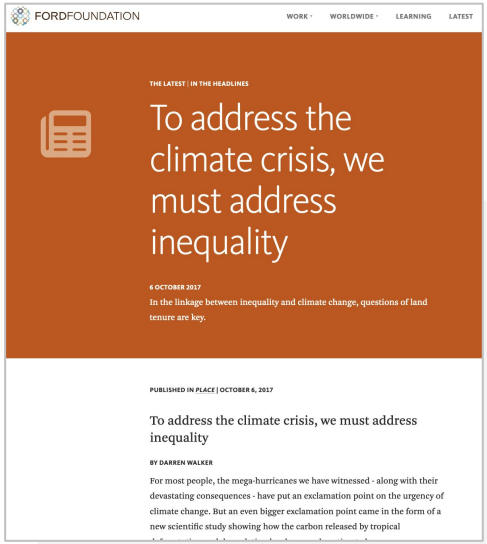
A spend-down fund of 2 million dollars to support community-led movements that tackle climate change. An expert panel was convened to answer the question: 'where would funding create the greatest impact for the level of investment?' This led to a focus on **Advocacy** and **building community, and ecological resilience.** Fund link

Bloomberg Foundation: ClimateWorks Foundation

ClimateWorks increases the impact of philanthropic donors in climate action. It works as an advisor and strategist for climate action. It develops philanthropic strategies, aggregates and awards funding and evaluates investments. Fund link

Amplify Marginalised Voices





FORDFOUNDATION

Ford Foundation

The Ford Foundation support climate justice in a number of areas:

1. Building effective leaders and networks. This includes indigenous peoples and local communities capacity to be effective leaders to build their collective power and shape decisions.

2. Increase timely and appropriate funding for worldwide climate action initiatives led by women and their communities

3. Connect indigenous and local communities with think tanks, researchers, legal groups, and scientists who use data to support arguments, and with advocacy organisations and communicators who can amplify the voices of the communities.

4. Mobalise resources by building a network of philanthropies and organisations to leverage international finance to reduce inequality, curb climate change and preserve the agency of the communities we support. Initiative Link

Support Community Organisations to reduce emissions

Julie's Bicycle

CREATIVE • CLIMATE • ACTION

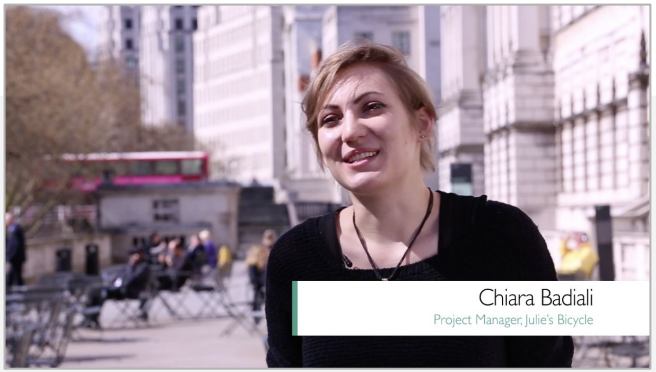
Julie's Bicycle supports the arts and culture to:

- Become net zero carbon and restore nature.
- Inspire public action on climate and ecology.
- Champion environmental justice and fairness.

ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME

Funded by Arts Council England the Accelerator is a cultural sector support programme that cultivates the skills, knowledge and aptitudes for environmental action. It helps organisations embed sustainable practice through training, peer exchange and mentoring from Julie's Bicycle and other leading experts in the field.

Julie's Bicycle



1. **Direct support for environmental impact management**
2. **Research, resources and guides inc. free carbon measurement calculators for creative NGOs and companies**
3. **Support for sustainable business model creation and innovation**
4. **Leadership through positive story telling, events, creative green certification**


CENTRE
for SOCIAL
IMPACT
A Foundation North
Initiative