

Climate Strategy & Action Plan

We're setting a clear, achievable direction
for Council to respond to climate change.



Opōtiki District Council

STRONG COMMUNITY STRONG FUTURE



A close-up photograph of several grass seed heads, likely from a species of grass like Pennisetum setaceum. The seed heads are in sharp focus, showing their intricate structure of small white flowers and long, thin, golden-brown awns. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blur of similar grasses, creating a sense of depth and texture. The lighting is natural, highlighting the fine details of the plant.

Hoaketanga | Purpose

To set out a clear, achievable direction for Ōpōtiki District Council to respond to climate change in partnership with its communities, mana whenua, and regional partners, within available resources and statutory responsibilities. The focus of the direction is on resilience and adaptation.



Whāinga Tuatahi | Objective 1

Council incorporates culture, connection, and Mātauranga Māori into climate response planning, supporting enduring and resilient partnerships with iwi and hapū.

Strategy 1.1: Partner with iwi and hapū to embed Mātauranga Māori in climate response.

Actions

- Support iwi-led climate initiatives and environmental monitoring, in partnership with BOPRC.
- Explore funding opportunities to support Council-iwi conservation fund to support restoration projects.
- Facilitate wānanga and hui to strengthen shared understanding of adaptation and resilience.
- Support iwi to incorporate climate planning into Iwi Management Plans where desired.

Strategy 1.2: Reflect te Tiriti and te Ao Māori in Council decision-making processes

Actions

- Explore providing cultural competency and mātauranga māori training for relevant Council staff.
- Consider a cross-Council Māori advisory group to strengthen input and codevelopment of climate adaption and resilience work.

Whāinga Tuarua | Objective 2

Council future proofs its core services, infrastructure planning, and asset management and emergency management response for long term resilience.

Strategy 2.1: Plan for long-term resilience in infrastructure

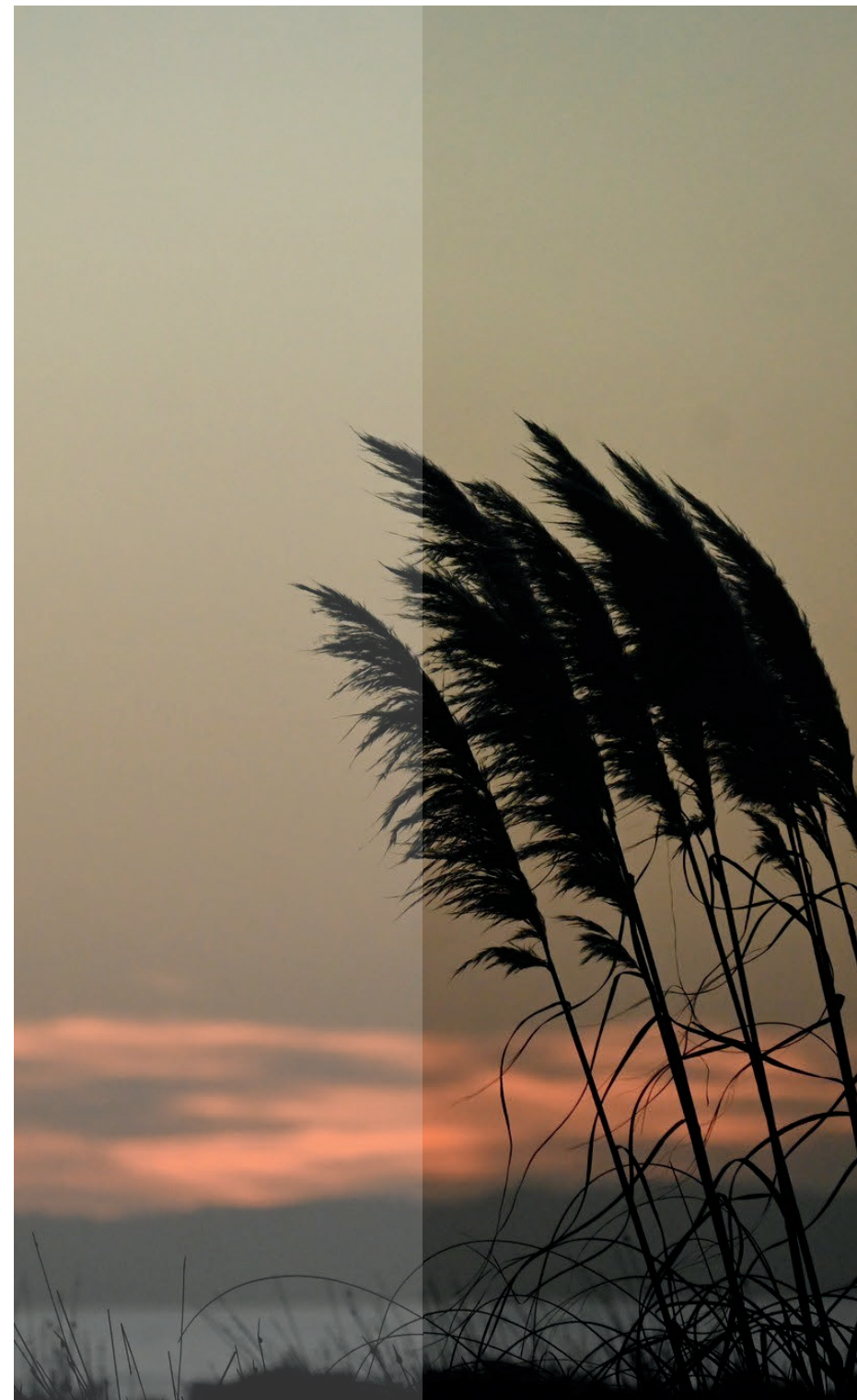
Actions

- Conduct a climate risk assessment for Council facilities and assets, identifying vulnerabilities and adaptation needs.
- Factor climate vulnerability into asset renewals, District Plan reviews, and infrastructure strategies.
- Use Dynamic Adaptive Policy Pathways (DAPP) principles to maintain flexibility in infrastructure investments.
- Work with Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) to integrate regional climate risk assessments into asset planning.
- Prioritise resilient upgrades in roading, water, and wastewater where risks are known.
- Work with NZTA and BOPRC to undertake a risk assessment and resilience assessment for the Waioweka Bridge and Otara Bridge. This needs to give due consideration to alternative methods of transport i.e. coastal shipping and barging.

Strategy 2.2: Improve the sustainability of Council operations.

Actions

- Explore resource opportunities to calculate and report Council's emissions footprint.
- Explore emissions reduction targets for Council activities.
- Explore procurement processes that enable consideration of low-carbon options.
- Investigate renewable energy use in Council operations where feasible (e.g., street lighting).
- Explore whether activities that fall within the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) are registered and dealt with in accordance with ETS requirements.



Strategy 2.3: Coordinate spatial planning and hazard management.

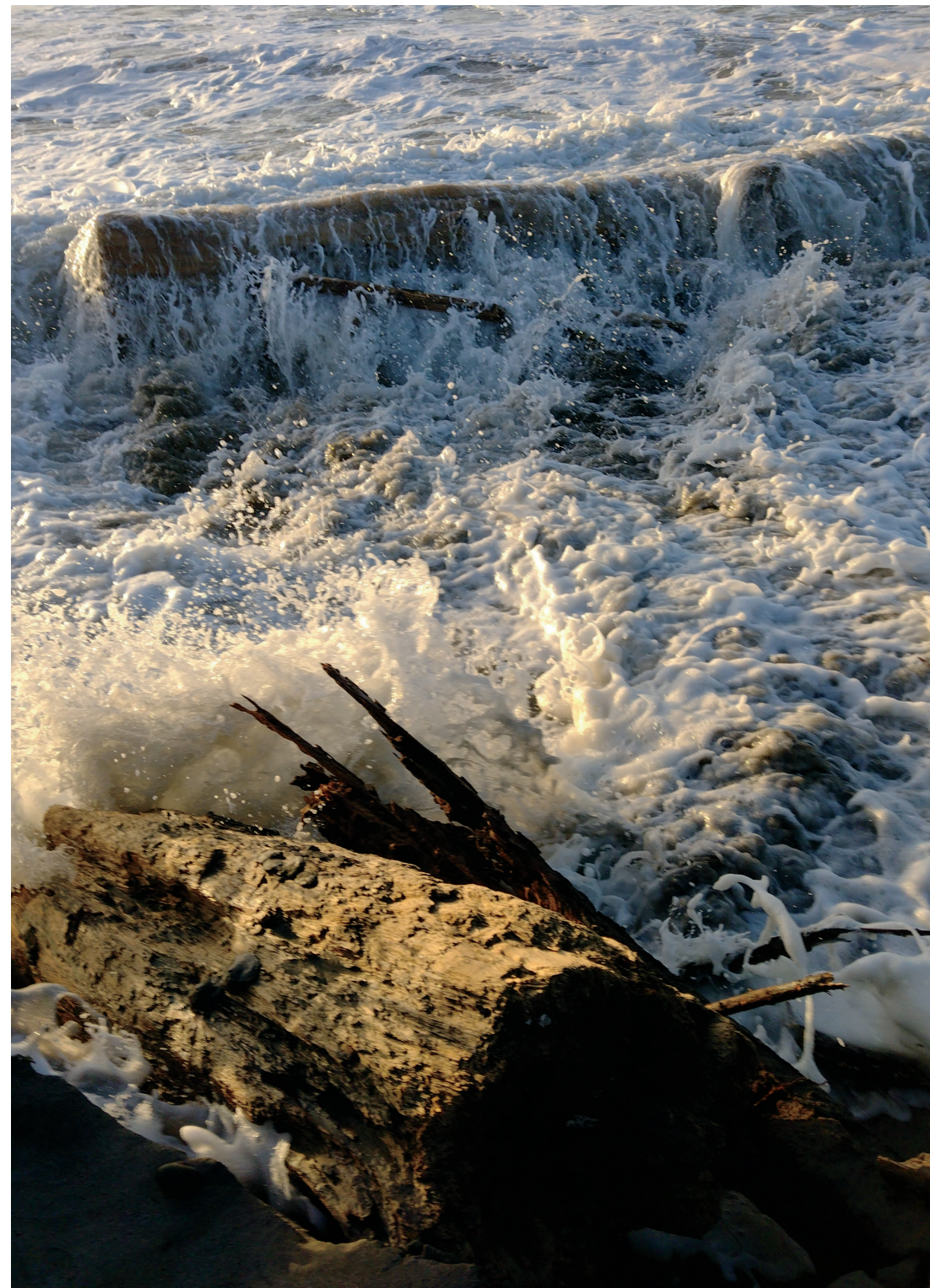
Actions

- Support the Eastern Bay Spatial Plan to reflect future hazards and infrastructure needs.
 - Ensure the District Plan integrates updated climate data and adaptation requirements.
 - Collaborate with BOPRC on hazard overlays and freshwater planning to ensure alignment.
 - Collaborate with BOPRC to determine an appropriate climate change scenario to inform climate resilience and adaption decisions.
-

Strategy 2.4: Develop Council's resilience to respond effectively to increasing frequency of climate-related emergencies.

Actions

- Investigate and implement measures that improve the effectiveness of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to respond to climate-related emergencies.
- Develop alternative EOC options to mitigate the risk of the primary EOC not being available in an emergency such as inundation.



Whāinga Tuatoru | Objective 3

Council supports and enables a well-informed community

Strategy 3.1: Deliver targeted education and engagement on climate adaptation and resilience.

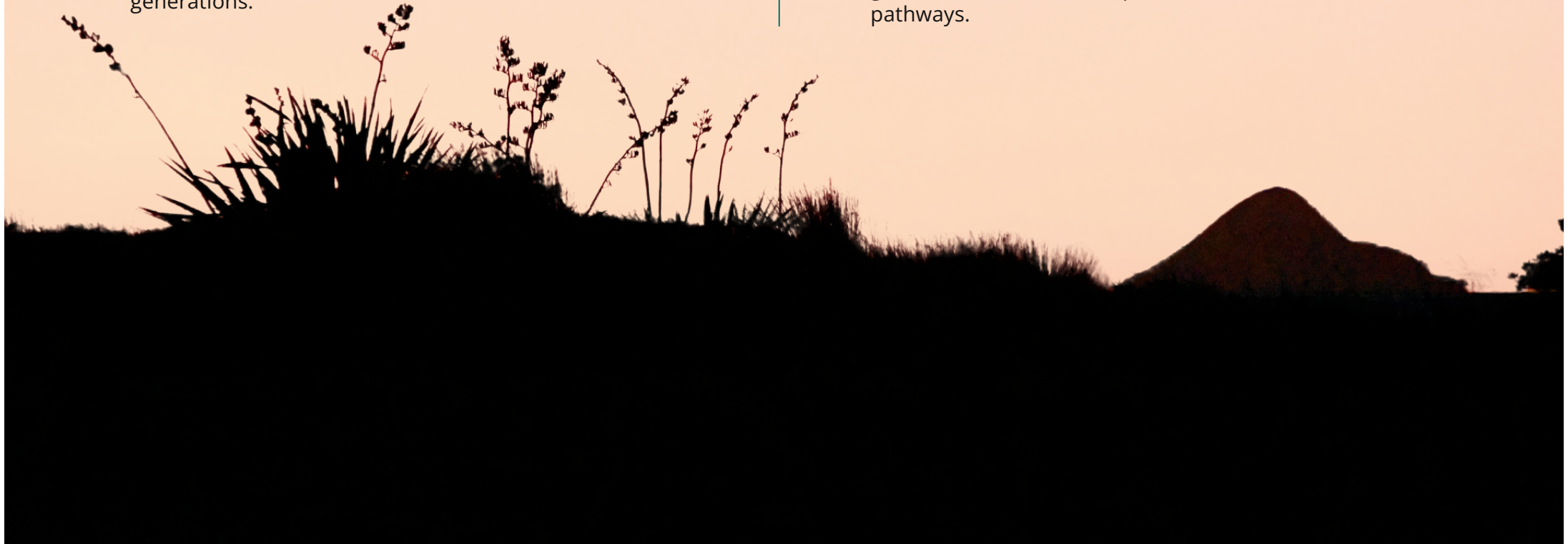
Actions

- Work with BOPRC to develop a joint climate communications plan tailored to local communities.
- Align with existing waste minimisation education programmes where possible (e.g., school engagement).
- Consider the establishment of community resilience forums to share adaptation ideas across generations.

Strategy 3.2: Strengthen transparency and data sharing.

Actions

- Work with BOPRC to share accessible information about climate risks, opportunities, and Council actions.
- Improve internal systems to capture and report on risk and adaptation work.
- Prepare to respond to requests under s5ZW of the Climate Change Response Act by identifying governance, risk, and adaptation information pathways.





Whāinga Tuawhā | Objective 4

Council builds climate resilience in its district through targeted action and partnerships.

Strategy 4.1: Support low-emissions transport and land use.

Actions

- Advocate for improved regional public and active transport links.
- Explore aligning land use planning with low-carbon development patterns.
- Identify suitable areas for renewable energy development in the District Plan.
- Explore getting increased EV charging infrastructure in the district.

Strategy 4.2: Partner with others for innovation and community resilience.

Actions

- Explore opportunities to work with iwi, business, and NGOs to test innovative adaptation ideas.
- Promote emergency preparedness that incorporates climate risks and builds community capacity.
- Monitor development of the Emergency Management Bill and clarify Council responsibilities for critical infrastructure and hazard planning.
- Explore use of the Contaminated Sites and Vulnerable Landfills Fund for legacy issues.

Resourcing:

Actions will need to be scoped based on existing capacity and partnerships. Where new resources are needed, Council will need to seek external funding or integrate delivery into aligned work programmes.

Review:

Progress will need to be monitored annually, with a formal review in 2030.

Responsibility:

The Climate Strategy will need to align with Council's Infrastructure Strategy, Long-Term Plan, and WMMP, with technical support from BOPRC and engagement through iwi and community partnerships.

Considerations for implementation and monitoring

National and Regional Alignment:

Council will need to monitor and respond to updates from the National Adaptation Plan, the National Planning Framework, and any revised national direction or regional risk assessments to ensure this strategy remains compliant and up to date.

