



Council greenhouse gas emissions fall



Landfill makes up 78% of greenhouse gas emissions for Council, with organic waste the biggest contributor

The Climate Change Sub-committee met recently to receive a report on Council's latest emissions inventory, plus an update on the Climate Change Action Plan and hear from members of the community.

In 2023, greenhouse gas emissions from Council-controlled operations totalled 38,761 tonnes, down 14.7% from a peak in 2020. The largest sources of emissions are the Bluegums landfill (30,426 tonnes) and wastewater treatment (3,998 tonnes).

Environmental consultancy WSP undertook the independent audit and report. Previous emissions inventories in 2019 and 2020 were also prepared by an independent consultant.

Assets and Services Manager Richard Coningham told the sub-committee that emissions peaked in 2020 due to Covid-19, when Blenheim's waste sorting centre was closed and more waste was sent to landfill.

The report shows a step in the right direction, said Councillor Gerald Hope, who chairs the sub-committee.

"This is a whole-of-council approach to take stock of our emissions profile. While it shows improvement, it also

shows where we can do better," Clr Hope said. "We are in this together and that's why we're taking a coordinated approach to reduce our emissions."

Council's Climate Change Action Plan outlines several actions underway to mitigate greenhouse gases, as well as how the organisation is planning for the future. Government rules will require greenwaste and food waste to be diverted from landfill by 2030.

Council is also considering purchasing more hybrid vehicles as its fleet lease expires, as well as replacing old office air conditioning units for efficiency gains. The Climate Change Action Plan also outlines how Council is planning to adapt to climate change, such as considering rising sea levels.

For further information go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/climate-change

Explore Marlborough's parks and tracks this summer

Now's a great time to go somewhere new.

"We are encouraging locals to take a trip in a visitor's footsteps this summer," Parks and Open Spaces officer Kiri Whiteman said. "With the Wither Hills Farm Park in Blenheim currently closed due to the fire risk, it's a great opportunity to check out the many walking tracks, parks and reserves that our region offers," she said. This week we showcase some popular trails near Picton and Havelock.

Tirohanga Track

Tirohanga Track in Picton, accessed from either Newgate Street or Garden Terrace, is a short but steep trail leading to a hilltop lookout that offers a fantastic vantage point over Picton and the Marlborough Sounds. From the Newgate Street entrance, it is around 45 minutes to the summit through regenerating native forest. There are other tracks up Essons Valley from Garden Terrace including to the Humphries dam – a great option on a hot day as these trails are bush clad.

Victoria Domain

Overlooking Picton Harbour and Queen Charlotte Sound, the forested



There are lots of biking and walking trails to explore on Picton's Victoria Domain

expanse of Victoria Domain offers the opportunity for walking and biking with stunning scenic views with access points from Surrey Street, Sussex Street, Waikawa Road, Leicester Street, Shelly Beach, Picton Marina, Snout Track, Bobs Bay, and Endeavour Park. A drive along the Ridge Road caters for the less energetic while an extensive walking track and mountain bike network will readily satisfy more adventurous souls.

Te Ara Tuhono Link Pathway

The 42km Te Ara Tuhono Link Pathway can be walked or biked between

Havelock and Picton with multiple entry and exit points depending on how long you have. There are new public car parks at the Grove near Anakiwa, and Wedge Point and Shakespeare Bay near Picton making access easier for short trips. This free-to-use pathway created as a community project is a great track for all the family.

Waterfall Track

Accessed from Lawrence Street, off SH6 in Havelock, the Waterfall Track takes walkers up a gully alongside the stream which once provided the town's water supply. Enjoy native bush and a waterfall view on this loop track which takes around 45 minutes. This trail connects to other more difficult tracks providing access to the summit of Takorika (721m) from where there are views of Havelock and Pelorus Sound.

For more information go to Council's walking and cycling smart map at: <https://smartmaps.marlborough.govt.nz>

iReX project winds down in Waitohi Picton

At the end of last year, the Government announced that the increase in construction costs for iReX (Interislander's ferry terminal redevelopment and new ships project) were too great to continue the project.

The iReX team is now focused on winding down the project. For Waitohi Picton this means making sure all sites are left safe and tidy and completing the strengthening work on the Waitohi Awa culvert.

KiwiRail is working in partnership with Marlborough District Council and the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) about what next for the transport network around the Port.

Marlborough Mayor Nadine Taylor says Council is working closely with all parties involved to get more certainty for the Picton community about the Dublin Street overbridge and the Kent/Wairau Street upgrades. "We understand there is intense interest in the 'where to from here' and we are working with KiwiRail and NZTA to answer the community's questions."

Interislander Programme Director David Warburton says last year's decision marks the end of the iReX project, but not KiwiRail's work with Government, partners, community and staff on finding an alternative solution for Interislander.

"Everyone accepts that investment is needed to deliver a reliable, safe and sustainable Cook Strait Service. Waitohi Picton is a special town with good people who've been extremely supportive of the Interislander and the iReX project. We'll continue to keep in touch with everyone as new plans emerge," David Warbuton says. "For Interislander it is business as usual. We were always planning to run the current fleet until 2026."