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Tō Tātou Whakatū Our Nelson



Whakatū Nelson Climate Change Strategy

Council seeks public feedback on proposed emission reduction targets.

Read more on page 4



Paid forward

One-hundred tickets to New Zealand Sotheby's International Realty Nelson Opera in the Park donated.

Read more on page 5



Aad van der Poel and Matt Lawry from Nelson Bike Hub

A treasure trove of climate innovation

Three fierce dragons, four brave contestants, and a room full of Nelson's business and climate leaders gathered at The Boathouse last week for a climate change themed Dragons' Den.

Contestants had five minutes to pitch ideas to the Dragons who allocated $25,000 of the Climate Change Business Grant to two winning applicants. The grant enables business-led initiatives, activities and projects, which help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

First up was Joel Bowater from Ocean Intelligence, whose Cawthron-backed idea to create an app with more accurate coastal weather data for the Nelson Tasman region, would help seafood farmers and the public reduce emissions by eliminating unnecessary boat trips.

"Climate action doesn't always require massive infrastructure changes. Sometimes it's all just about making decisions using the right data," he said.

Next was Sally Mottram who runs the One Green Bean coffee cart in the Glen. She had applied for $5000 to replace her petrol generator with a lithium battery generator that she could charge using her home solar panels.

"With the lithium battery, my customers won't have to put up with smelly emissions and noise," she said.

"My message on climate change? Enjoy life, drink fairtrade, organic coffee and cut down on the use of gas!"

Then Matt Lawrey and Aad van der Poel from Bike Hub Nelson pitched for $25,000 for an e-van they would use to pick up bikes and promote their Trial Me e-Cargo Bike scheme.

"The e-van will allow us to reduce our carbon footprint and the number of trips we take when picking up bikes. It will also be available for other businesses to use. Our aim is to get more and more people investing in zero emissions transport.

"Active transport is a huge part of the answer to the challenge of global warming. What we really need is more cycling infrastructure, so people can literally get on their bike and do something about the climate crisis."

> **"We've picked two projects that will make an immediate difference to Nelson's emissions"**
>
> **Ali Boswijk**

Finally, Vincent Revell presented his idea to promote Trippr, an app that connects people looking to share long-distance rides between New Zealand's cities – saving emissions and sharing fuel costs.

"Trippr could see the cost of a trip to Blenheim, for instance, be as low as $15 - $20 in a rideshare, plus people are saving emissions. Regardless of your position on climate change, shouldn't we just be doing everything we can to look after the planet?" he said.

The winners were One Green Bean and the Bike Hub, receiving $5000 and $20,000 respectively.

Dragon Ali Boswijk was impressed by all the presentations on the night but these two stood out as pragmatic solutions that would deliver a direct reduction in emissions.

"It was a hard decision to make as all the ideas had merit and I hope that last night's event gives them the momentum they require. In the end, we've picked two projects that will make an immediate difference to Nelson's emissions."

The Dragons

Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive Ali Boswijk
Wakatū Incorporation board member and director Miriana Stephens
Environmental lawyer Sally Gepp KC.

Be part of the Nelson community's response to climate change!

Engagement on the Draft Whakatū Nelson Climate Change Strategy runs until 17 April.

If you would like to read the strategy and have your say on how you think Nelson should tackle climate change and the targets we should aim for, visit: **shape.nelson.govt.nz/climate-change**

If talking in person is more your thing, you can chat to our Climate Change team at various upcoming events around our city. The team are based in Cultural Conversations at 123 Bridge Street from 11am to 1pm Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

You could also take part in a Climate Conversations event, also at 123 Bridge Street, where there are a number of interesting talks scheduled on topics ranging from a zero waste society to nature-based solutions to climate change.



Turn to Page 4 for more details

Hope through heritage

Nestled in the heart of Nelson, Melrose House stands as a grand testament to the region's rich heritage.

Built in the late 19th century, this stately home has witnessed the passing of generations, adapting to the times while remaining a beacon of history, culture and community spirit.

Late in 2024, the Noel Percy Adams Trust (Melrose House Society) secured $42,549.09 from Meridian Energy's Community Decarbonisation Fund to use electric space heating in place of its diesel water boiler, which consumed 3,400 litres of diesel annually and emitted 8,700 kg of CO2. A water heating electric heat pump will be installed as part of this space heating system.

The project is being managed and led by Erin Roughton, Principal Energy and Carbon Specialist at Whirika with funding secured by Trust chair Alan Winwood (both pictured).

"This shift is a crucial step in reducing the house's carbon footprint" says Erin.

The transition to electric heating involves the installation of one 18kw heat pump, providing an efficient and cost-effective solution for space heating during the colder months.

By moving away from fossil fuels, Melrose House will significantly lower its reliance on non-renewable energy sources, decreasing both operational costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

This project is part of a broader initiative to improve the overall energy efficiency of Melrose House, complementing previous efforts such as the installation of LED lighting.





One bowl of rice, big impact

Te Tauihu is known as a fertile place for all sorts of food to grow with apples, hops and wine some of our region's key exports. But what about rice?

Nelson resident Yuki is working on a project to see if it is possible to sustainably grow rice here in New Zealand.

Yuki says her project is an opportunity to boost food security and reduce emissions from imported staples.

"New Zealand imports around 57,000 tonnes of rice every year. If we can grow even a fraction of that here, we reduce transport emissions and increase food resilience," she says.

"I plan to share my seeds at Nelson Seed Library at the Elma Turner Library."

To try your hand at growing rice you will need to plant rice seeds in compost in either an ice cream container or a bucket, place it in full sun, and water.

Yuki will be visiting an organic rice farmer in Japan in April this year with funding received from Asia New Zealand Foundation.

"I am mindful of my carbon footprint," she says.

"This is the first overseas trip I have taken in nine years! By going to Japan, I am hoping to learn a natural farming method for water and nutrient management, cross pollination and growing healthy seedlings - knowledge that I will be able to share with our local community."

Finn the builder – can he fix it?

Nelson builder Finn Drummond isn't sure if he's going to say the right thing about climate change.

"The only problem is that my honest answers may not be quite what you are looking for," he says.

"I would love to have humans get to the point where we stop heating up our planet. I ride bikes when possible. I'm a big advocate for cycle lanes, bike transport, walk and cycle friendly cities. But my actions have resulted in me having a rather outsized carbon footprint.

"I've taken hundreds of flights over my lifetime - most just for fun. I drive all around the country to ski and bike and visit folks. My hobbies involve materials made primarily from petrochemical products. And no matter how many bike trips I do, they won't offset all that.

"I believe the people who make the most difference are the engineers coming up with innovative solutions that reduce fossil fuel use. Those are the folks really making the difference. I really shouldn't be on a pedestal when it comes to climate change, but when it comes to riding my bike as often as possible around town I'm not too bad!"

Finn, who loves bike friendly cities with fewer cars, better air quality and more opportunities for people to be active, says he would love to own an EV van at some point. But for now he's used his skills as a builder to create an innovative solution – an electric cargo bike adapted to carry a full load of his tools.

"The electric cargo bike is awesome, as well as being fun to ride. I can even get up steep hills fully loaded!"





The biking bank manager

Nic Foster is the Community Investment and sustainability manager at NBS and when asked to consider climate change he was pragmatic and hopeful.

"I have a climate change lens across all the aspects of the business. My role involves research, understanding regulatory requirements and achieving change in the business," says Nic.

"The fast-changing climate is overwhelming to think about at times. It's the most important, confronting thing for everybody on the planet and in New Zealand we quite often think how change down under has little or no impact. That shouldn't stop us from considering changes. Everyone could do something small such as recycling, choosing to ride your bike or take an electric bus to work."

Nic acknowledges that for some people there are financial barriers that stop them from being able to commit to climate actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"I would love to see electric planes for domestic travel and wouldn't it be great if electric or hybrid cars were affordable and bus travel was further subsidised."

Nic has made change with committing to riding his bike or walking to work meetings, recycling as much as he can and becoming a champion thrifter of second-hand clothing.

"If everyone just started with small changes, we could meet our targets and hopefully make the planet a healthier place for future generations."

Free biscuits, climate chats

Climate Conversations

123 Bridge Street - Join us for a cup of tea along with some key speakers on climate change.

If you'd just like an informal chat, we have a 'drop in' space on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11am - 1pm. Come talk to a member of the Climate Change team!

Thursday 27 March, 12.15 - 1pm
Panel discussion: Climate and the private sector

Tuesday 1 April, 12.15 - 1pm
Presentation: Emissions reduction targets – proposed new targets for Nelson and Council

Thursday 3 April, 12.15 - 1pm
Panel Discussion: Zero Waste Society

Monday 7 April, 12.15 - 1pm
Panel Discussion: Reducing our reliance on fossil fueled cars

Tuesday 8 April, 12.15 - 1pm
What does an Architectural Healthy Home look like?

Thursday 17 April, 12.15 - 1pm
Nature based solutions for the climate

Other opportunities to talk climate change

Thursday 27 March, 4:30pm until dark
Isel Park Night Market, Stoke

Thursday 27 March - Friday 4 April:
Urban prototype - a game for modelling of climate impacts. Elma Turner Library

Tuesday 1 April, 11am - 12pm
Library Community Corner at Elma Turner Library, Nelson

Saturday 5 April, 8am - 1pm
Nelson Saturday Market, Montgomery Square

Tuesday 8 April, 11.15 - 1:15pm
Library Community Corner at Elma Turner Library, Nelson

Head to our Facebook events page to find out more: facebook.com/nelsoncitycouncil/events

Council's proposed emission reduction targets

Council is inviting community feedback on two proposed options to reduce the city's greenhouse gas emissions.

Option A - a 6.8% annual reduction in all greenhouse gases (excluding biogenic methane) from 2025 to 2035, in line with national emissions budgets.

Option B - a more ambitious 8.3% annual reduction over the same period, following the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's recommendation to cut emissions by 43% by 2030 in order to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C.

The Strategy focuses on reducing gross emissions, rather than relying on the variable carbon sequestration from forestry, providing a more predictable and direct approach to tackling climate change.

In addition to community-wide targets, the Council is proposing to reduce its own emissions by 43% in the transport and energy sectors by 2030. While the Council has already made notable progress, cutting emissions by 89% since 2017/18—primarily through waste management improvements—further action is necessary, particularly in the transport and energy sectors.

Meeting these targets will require a collective effort, requiring coordinated action from the entire community.

