

What could climate change mean for our district?

The Ministry for Environment predicts warmer temperatures, fewer frosts, and increased storm events for our region.

Agriculture and horticulture, key industries for our district, may be affected by changes in temperature and rainfall. We may be able to grow new crops, and other crops may decline.

A Climate Risk Assessment will help us understand more about the risks to our district and what vulnerabilities we may face.

In the Waikato District, most of our greenhouse gas emissions are from agriculture, energy and transportation.

We will all need to try to adapt to climate change impacts, and build resilience. The first step is reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.

See booklet
two

Sources:

Niwa.co.nz
IPCC.ch

For more information about climate change, check the Waikato District Council website.

CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE WAIKATO

TE HURINGA AAHUARANGI I TE WAIKATO



In this booklet:

- What is climate change?
- What could climate change mean for our district?
- What can we do about it?



What is climate change?

We are already experiencing the effects of climate change in the Waikato with an increase in extreme weather events such as floods, drought and sea level rise.

Without greenhouse gases, our earth would be frozen. However, carbon dioxide and methane gas (from human activities, such as burning oil and gas) is increasing much faster than it has in the past.

This causes the greenhouse effect, where greenhouse gases trap the sun's heat within the atmosphere.

This heating is leading to more extreme weather events such as, heat waves, droughts, flooding, cyclones and wildfires. A warmer atmosphere holds more moisture and energy, which increases extreme weather events.



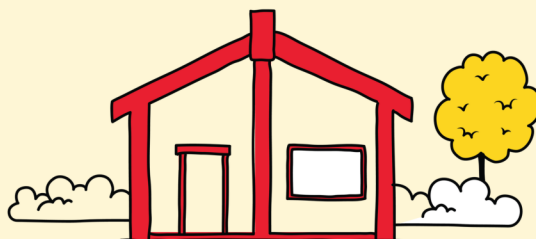
Our oceans absorb a lot of CO₂, but CO₂ is making oceans more acidic, which is likely to cause stress and changes to food webs and kaimoana.

A warming climate may cause tropical diseases to reach Aotearoa, such as dengue fever and malaria.



Aotearoa could see an increased biosecurity risk to waterways (Asian Golden Clam), coastal areas (exotic Caulerpa seaweed), and more invasive weed and insect species such as wasps and hornets.

Global temperatures are likely to rise 1.5 degrees Celsius. Although it doesn't sound like much, 1.5 degrees of warming will put our planet and people under stress, with more extreme weather, rising costs, health issues and biodiversity loss.



Approximately 80% of marae are located in low-lying, coastal areas at risk of erosion and sea level rise, or near flood-prone rivers.

Want to take action?



Try to reduce your emissions.

Consider carpooling or taking a bus. Insulate your home, use draft stoppers and thermal curtains, save energy, swap to LED lights, try vegetarian food, buy secondhand, fly less, buy less, and plant more trees.

Make your voice heard.

Talk to friends, family, and colleagues about why action on climate change is important. Let your local representatives know that climate action is important to you and your whaanau.

Get prepared.

Consider what you would do in the event of a flood, power outage, or road closure. Talk to your neighbours to be ready to support the vulnerable, and think about developing a community resilience plan together. Our Resilience Team at Waikato District Council can help you.