

Whakatāne Community Climate Action and Youth Development Funds

About these funds:

The Whakatāne Community Climate Action and Youth Development Funds is a collaborative fund established by Trust Horizon and the Whakatāne District Council.

1. The Community Fund

Our Purpose: The purpose of the fund is to increase community climate action in the Whakatāne District.

What will be funded:

- Projects must directly address climate change decarbonisation/mitigation or adaptation, such as:
 - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Advancing a net-zero carbon economy; or
 - Enhancing community resilience to climate impacts.
- **Broader Impact:** Initiatives should create impact beyond their immediate scope.
- **Funding Need:** must require funds to start, complete or significantly support existing work.
- **Equity Focus:** Initiatives should aim to promote and support equity.

Application Requirements:

- **Measurement & Reporting:** Demonstrate a system to measure success, outlining clear outcomes and metrics.
- **Collaboration:** Show evidence of collaboration, including co-funding or in-kind contributions.
- **Sustainability:** Provide a plan for long-term viability and self-sufficiency.
- Applications requesting \$20,000 (the maximum fund amount) will have to give a presentation (either in person or online). This will involve 5 minutes of presenting and 5 minutes for questions.

Assessment Criteria:

- **Measurable Change:** Initiatives should have tangible outcomes that can be measured and produce learnings that contribute to broader climate action.
- **Deliverability:** Projects must be ready and able to be delivered within the stated timeframe.
- **Impact:** Evidence of how the initiative will build a culture of climate action and reducing carbon emissions.

- Scalability: The initiative should have potential for scaling or replication to increase impact over time.
- Legacy: Projects should demonstrate potential for long-term benefits and lasting change.
- Unintended Consequences: Consideration of possible unintended socio-cultural, economic, or environmental impacts, both positive and negative.

Eligibility:

To be eligible to apply for this fund, applicants must:

- a) be a legal entity (or community group using an umbrella organisation/fund holder), this includes Māori entities, schools, charities, not for profits, social enterprises or businesses.
- b) based in the Whakatāne District or significantly serve the Whakatane community.
- c) demonstrate capability and capacity to deliver the type of project proposed and preferably have a track record of delivering similar projects.
- d) apply only for project expenses that start after the fund decision date.
- e) If a business is applying for the fund, they must be providing at least 50% of the funds required for the project. Exceptions to this rule will be considered on a case-by-case basis and could involve measurable equivalent contribution.

Note: Applications will not be accepted for initiatives that move emissions out of the Whakatāne District boundary.

What we will not fund:

- Projects which don't have strong climate action and/or carbon emissions reduction focus.
- Applications which include infrastructure such as Solar will be directed to other funding opportunities.
- Political advocacy.
- Legal action.

Level of Funding:

The total funding available through this fund is \$95,000 in 2025/2026, and then \$45,000 annually through to 2034. The maximum any application can apply for in any year is up to \$20,000.

2. The Youth Development Fund

The purpose of this fund is to encourage young people to develop skills and knowledge in climate-related areas.

While most of the funds will be in the community pathway (\$95,000), we wish to have a portion of the fund dedicated to young people's education and training. Where \$5,000 has been allocated specifically for young individuals (24 years and under) through the 'Youth Development Fund.'

The funding eligibility is:

- Individuals (above 13 and under 24 years old)
- must be directed toward education or study opportunities
- Based in or grew up in the Whakatāne District
- Demonstrate capability and capacity to undertake the education
- The youth representative on the panel is eligible to apply, if they do so they will need to excuse themselves from decision making.

The funds will only be paid out on successful enrolment within a programme. The fund can be applied for prior to enrolling. Applicants can also already be enrolled or studying.

How the funds work:

- There will be 4 funding rounds per year. There is no set allocation for each round, therefore if all the funds are granted in round 1 there will be no further rounds in the year.
 - Round 1 will open on the 1st of July and close on the 15 of August 2025.
 - Round 2 will close at the end of November 2025.
 - Round 3 will close at the end of February 2026.
 - Round 4 will close at the end of May 2026.
- Other round dates will be published on the climate change page on the Whakatane District Council website.
- Managed through the WDC climate change team. From here they will receive applications which go to an advisory panel of community members for review.

The Application forms will be published here:

<https://whakatanedc.smartygrants.com.au/ClimateAction>

Please contact ccfund@whakatane.govt.nz for any information needed.