FOUNDATION NORTH
Pūtea Hāpai Oranga
Funding to Enhance Lives

Foundation North Climate Action Plan

Progress Report

April - September 2025

Introduction

We recognise our role within the wider systems that enable collective responses to complex challenges like climate change. Through our relationships and conversations, we are reminded that the effects of climate change are being felt here and now, and communities are actively planning for future mitigation and adaptation. This enforces our commitment to climate action and our focus on contributing to a regenerative future where people and the environment thrive together, enhancing lives.

As we track the outcomes of our actions, anecdotal data also shows maturity in our climate action mahi. Climate considerations are more visible across our team, decision-making, and grantees, and they are being embedded into our business as usual.

In August 2025, we farewelled Peter Tynan, CEO of Foundation North for the past six years. Peter's leadership advanced our climate action work and strengthened the organisation's commitment to this kaupapa, laying a strong foundation for this work to continue. We mihi to him.

Investment lever

Our investment portfolio continues to be managed in line with our Sustainable Investing policy and the Foundation continues to consider climate change an urgent global issue that Management and the Board support actions to address.

The carbon emissions reporting provided by our asset consultant shows that our listed equity funds are above average for their Environmental Pillar score, compared to peers, as assessed by the MSCI Sustainability data methodology. It is also pleasing that the Foundation's listed equity portfolio has improved its absolute scores for the Environmental, Social, and Governance pillars over the year.

Further, the Foundation's scores have improved at a faster rate than the MSCI World benchmark.

A number of staff and trustees attended the Aotearoa JANA and Responsible Investment Association Australasia conferences in September to hear global trends and connect with others who are also committed to striving towards climate investing.

Investment spotlight

Foundation North has made a capital commitment to the Nuveen Climate Inclusion Fund II (NCIF II), a private equity impact fund that invests in businesses addressing both climate change and social inequality. While not all of the committed capital has been deployed, the fund supports companies in clean energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable solutions, aiming to generate measurable environmental and social impact alongside financial returns. NCIF II provides a model of how investment can advance systemic change, an approach that aligns with Foundation North's commitment to integrating climate action and equity through both funding and investment levers.

Funding lever

Granting statistics

In the past six months (April to September 2025), Foundation North made 48 grants totalling $9,991,265 to support climate action initiatives across Te Tai Tokerau and Tāmaki Makaurau.

Half of the grants were awarded to grantees in Te Tai Tokerau, and half in Tāmaki Makaurau.

Across all 48 grants:

The smallest grant supported zero-waste education.

The largest grant supported an iwi-led integrated approach to regenerating tangata and te taiao.

5 grants were multiyear grants, reflecting a strategic commitment to sustained impact in climate action.

9 grants were made through Te Māhuri o te Taiao, a participatory grant-making initiative.

Climate Action area	Number of grants
Biodiversity, Ecosystems, Land & Water Stewardship	22
Climate-Resilient Communities	5
Education, Advocacy & Capacity Building	7
Energy, Emissions Reduction & Circular Economy	6
Sustainable Food & Agriculture	7
Tika Transition & Climate Justice	1
Total grants	**48**

Aligning climate data to strengthen insights

Our collaboration with other signatories to The Funders Commitment on Climate Action, and the application of consistent tagging practices, have enabled us to present more accurate and aligned data across the Community Trusts. We know that many climate initiatives may fall into one or more of these categories, but with some key definitions, climate initiatives are tagged against their main focus. Nearly half of our grants were towards regenerative biodiversity initiatives, reflecting the community's current and long-term priority of restoring and nurturing te taiao.

From māra to redistribution: A closer look at kai

Internally, we've recognised that our own experiences with kai offer a rich platform for learning and sharing. To strengthen collective understanding and deepen insights into the kai ecosystem, we produced a webinar that drew on kaimahi experiences, from responses to COVID-19, to intergenerational learning, to urban kai initiatives.

Members of the funding unit have also taken deliberate steps to engage with the kai ecosystem and explore its role in climate action. Through hands-on experiences with Te Maara Kai o Wirihana, a community-led māra kai and kai forests that enhance local resilience, and volunteering with Fair Food to witness the scale of food waste and the potential for circular solutions, the team has gained first-hand insight into the interconnectedness of our food system. These experiences are strengthening our knowledge of kai sovereignty and equipping us to more effectively support kai related community-led innovation and systemic change.

Collaborative efforts with Auckland Council

Kaimahi co-designed and co-hosted a Climate Funding Project Workshop in collaboration with Auckland Council, attended by over 50 participants. The workshop aimed to build capability in writing strong grant applications, support the design of effective climate projects, and help community groups better leverage funding opportunities.

Operations lever

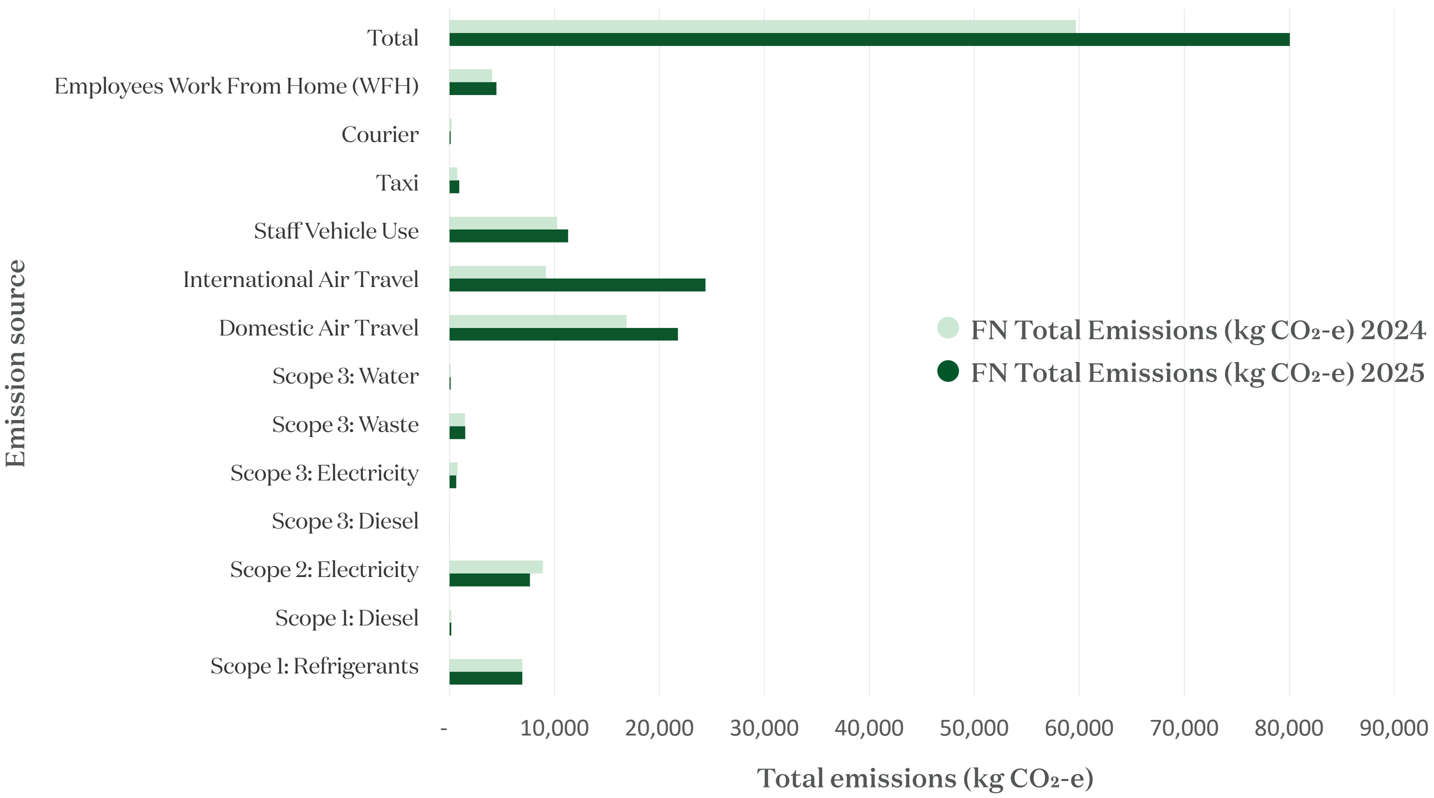
This year marked our first full year back in the Allendale office, providing an opportunity to review and reflect on our emissions data collected over time. While our overall emissions remain relatively stable year-on-year, we recorded a 34% increase compared with the previous year, largely due to an increase in domestic and international air travel. Total emissions for 2025 were 80,000 kg CO_2-e, with nearly two-thirds of these emissions attributed to flight travel (both international and domestic).

Although our long-term goal remains to reduce organisational emissions, we recognise that there are occasions when air travel is necessary, for example, attending key conferences. For the year ended March 2025, this increase reflects greater participation in such opportunities, including travel to Invercargill for the Combined Community Trusts conference. To support our next steps, we've engaged EKOS to help us explore further emissions reduction opportunities and examine our current emissions scope more thoroughly.

Ako in practice

The Operations Lever has developed a range of resources to support everyday climate action, including practical energy-saving tips for the winter months and detailed guidance on how to engage with the local elections, such as where to find reliable information and how to vote. In addition, More than Money delivered a session on KiwiSaver to all staff, aimed at helping build financial literacy and encouraging us to reflect on whether our individual KiwiSaver schemes align with our personal values and ethics.

Comparative Analysis of FN Total Emissions: FY2024 vs FY2025 (kg CO_2-e)



Collective action

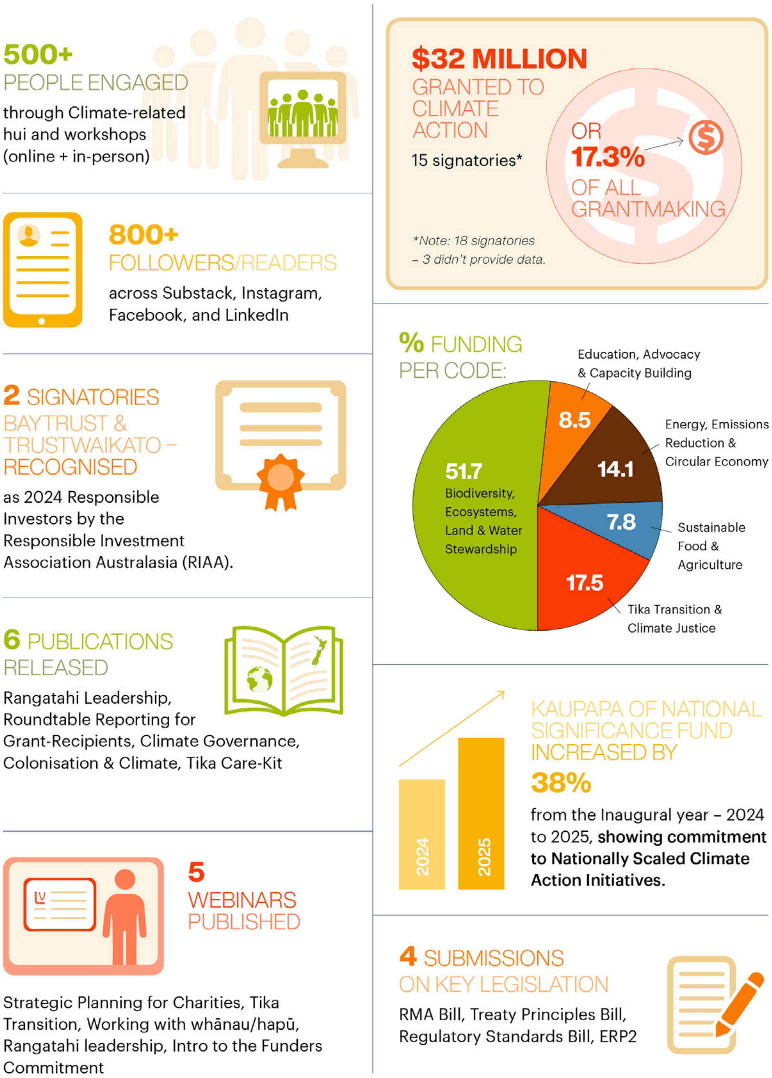
Our commitment to collective action continues with our active involvement as a signatory to the Funders Commitment on Climate Action.

The Year Three report for The Funders Commitment on Climate Action, published by Climate Action Aotearoa, highlights the impacts of working collectively over a period of time, and the unique position that philanthropy holds to create and lead out on climate action.

The report also details the five collectively funded impactful initiatives, each contributing to climate resilience and systems change across Aotearoa.

The allocation for this second round of collective climate action funding, a 62% increase from the previous year's budget of $600,000, reflects a strong commitment to Māori-led, community-driven, and scalable solutions. Foundation North doubled our 2024 commitment of $220,000.

Ngā Kitenga Climate Action by Numbers (2024/25)



Climate Action Aotearoa The Funders Commitment on Climate Action Year 3 Progress Report

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