

Foundation North Climate Action Plan

Progress Report

October 2025 - March 2026



Introduction

Our climate action commitments continue to focus on strengthening our own climate practices while supporting community resilience. By supporting community-led solutions, protecting and restoring ecosystems, and investing in local capacity, we support communities to prepare for change, respond to disruption, and thrive over the long term.

In January 2026, severe rainfall and widespread flooding significantly affected communities across Te Tai Tokerau (Northland) and Aotea (Great Barrier Island). We recognise that this event placed additional pressure on individuals, whānau, organisations, and essential community services. In response, we worked closely with community partners, funders, government agencies, territorial authorities, iwi, and marae to identify urgent needs.

Through activating our Rapid Response Fund, we proactively distributed \$137,000 to initiatives providing immediate and emergency support to the communities most impacted. This approach reflects our commitment to responding to urgent needs today while supporting communities to adapt and thrive into the future. In Te Tai Tokerau, Foundation North has initiated timely hui with philanthropic funders, regional local civil defence representatives and Te Puni Kōkiri. This collective approach not only shares knowledge, but channels resources towards immediate community responses to extreme weather events.

Investment Lever

Our investment portfolio continues to be managed against our Sustainable Investing policy. Foundation remains committed to viewing climate change as an urgent global issue, with both Management and the Board supporting actions to address this in our portfolio.



Te Tai Tokerau

Funding Lever

We continue to support a wide range of initiatives in climate action and community resilience including:

- large landscape restorations, which support healthy ecosystems that store carbon and make landscapes and communities more resilient to climate events,
- a wide range of kai initiatives, including kai redistribution regenerative practices, that strengthen community resilience

Granting statistics

In the past six months (October 2025-March 2026), Foundation North made 47 grants totalling \$8,509,287 to support climate action initiatives across Te Tai Tokerau and Tāmaki Makaurau, this equates to around 22% of our total grants funded across our strategy.

Across all 47 grants:



Smallest grant: Supporting a local group with pest-free activities.



Five grants were multiyear grants, reflecting a strategic commitment to sustained impact on climate action.



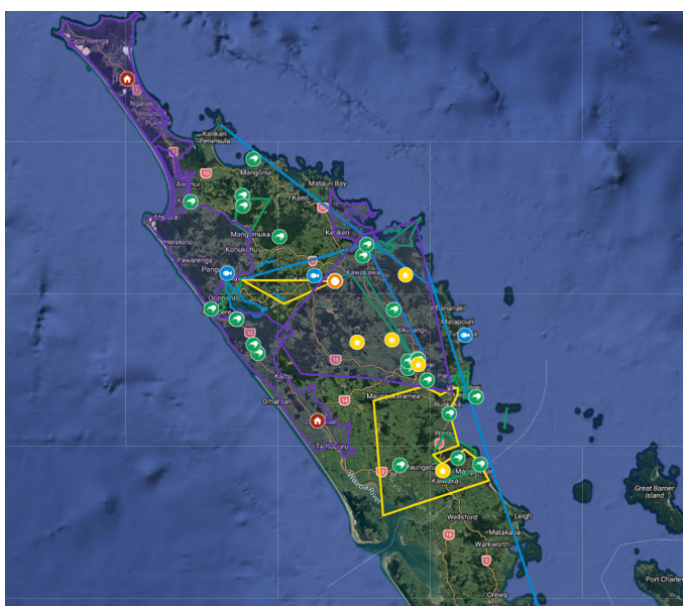
The largest grant, a multiyear grant to support marine initiatives including education, advocacy and capacity and capability support.



One grant was made towards Predator Free vision, co-funded with Northern Regional Council.

Clarity through mapping

Building on our work to strengthen climate data, the lever completed a mapping of Foundation North funded initiatives in Te Tai Tokerau. This visual tool provides kaimahi with clearer insight into the spread of activity across the region, highlighting the breadth and diversity of climate initiatives underway.



Climate Action initiatives funded by Foundation North in Te Tai Tokerau

Operations Lever

To offset CO2 emissions from our long-distance travel in 2025, the Foundation has purchased 300 native trees working with Trees that Count which will be planted in Te Roroa, Northern Kaipara.

Experiential learning - hands-on learning with kai growing

We know that experiential learning is a safe and powerful way to put knowledge into practice, supporting confidence and behaviour change. The operating lever identified that the ability and confidence for kaimahi to grow their own kai varied, but there was an eagerness to learn to grow different kai, to share the abundance of kai and to share recipes and tips.

A survey was conducted, and a total of nine kai starter kits were provided alongside some starter plants. We found that barriers to growing kai included a lack of knowledge or space to group. Alongside this, we created a community of learners so people can share their own experiences and questions. The outcomes of this tangible exercise have been

apparent, we are seeing an increasing amount of ‘crop swap’, ‘seed swap’ and ‘recipe swap’ and the abundance of in-season kai shared in our lunchroom.

— “It has been a good way to calm the mind at the end of the day far away from our busy cyber world. I am loving experiencing growth and the joy of nature.”

Staff quote



Collective Action

In November, members of the Climate Action Working Group (CAWG) met to discuss and plan for the next phase of development. The productive and reflective session discussed:

- how the current structure has matured over three years
- readiness for the next evolution of the CAWG
- a refresh of the CAWG Terms of Reference
- wider participation from signatories beyond Community Trusts in governance and project roles.

The name of the CAWG has shifted now to the Kaitiaki of the Funders of Climate Action Aotearoa (FCCA), better reflecting the role the group plays to achieve the mission of the Funders Commitment.

In March, Esther Whitehead and Arohanui West - Climate Action Aotearoa, Dennis Turton - Climate Action Aotearoa and Trust Waikato, and Kaeden Watts - Climate Advocate ran a session at the Philanthropy New Zealand conference outlining the Funders’ Commitment on Climate Action (FCCA) and how it supports organisations to move from intent to action.

Climate Action Tools Hub

Developed by associates at the Centre for Social Impact, this hub of resources draws from 25 of the world’s top-performing climate action websites.

It provides a range of low-effort, culturally grounded tools that will empower organisations, no matter how small or large, to take meaningful and immediate steps. The resources address climate action from the perspectives of governance and strategy; cultural grounding/Te Ao Māori and climate; practical climate action and operational tools; communication and engagement, including with youth; and finance/legal and investment.

Since it launched in December 2025, there has been over 552 views of the page with 228 unique visits. Explore the Climate Action Tools Hub [here](#).



Climate Action Working Group strategic working day, facilitated by the Centre for Social Impact.



Climate Action Tool Hub



Caring for te taiao & tangata is stronger when funders act collectively

Funders Commitment on Climate Action

Arohanui West, Dennis Turton, Esther Whitehead, Kaeden Watts, Karinia Lee

Philanthropy NZ Conference 2026

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