

HUTT CITY COUNCIL**KOMITI KAUPAPA TAIAO**
CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road,
Lower Hutt on

Wednesday 3 September 2025 commencing at 2:00 pm

To watch the livestream of the meeting, please click on the link here: [Climate Change and Sustainability Committee 3 September 2025](#)

PRESENT:

Cr J Briggs (Chair)	Mayor C Barry
Cr K Brown (via Zoom)	Cr S Edwards (via Zoom)
Deputy Mayor T Lewis	Cr A Mitchell
Cr C Parkin (Deputy Chair)	Cr N Shaw

APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

IN ATTENDANCE:

A Geddes, Director Environment and Sustainability
J Scherzer, Head of Climate and Waste
J Hayman, Senior Advisor Waste – Planning and Strategy
M Randall, Senior Advisor - Climate Change and Sustainability
J Young, Democracy Advisor

PUBLIC BUSINESS**1. OPENING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA TIMATANGA**

Whakataka te hau ki te uru
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga
Kia mākinakina ki uta
Kia mātaratara ki tai
E hī ake ana te atakura
He tio, he huka, he hau hū
Tihei mauri ora.

*Cease the winds from the west
Cease the winds from the south
Let the breeze blow over the land
Let the breeze blow over the ocean
Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened air.
A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day.*

2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

There were no conflicts of interest declarations.

5. UPDATE ON COUNCIL'S CLIMATE CHANGE WORK

Report No. CCASC2025/4/246 by the Senior Advisor - Climate and Sustainability

The Senior Advisor – Climate Change and Sustainability elaborated on the report.

In response to questions from members, the Head of Climate Change and Waste noted that the report was publicly available on Council's website but had not been promoted on social media. He confirmed that the Beltway Cycleway's scope had changed and was marked complete under the revised scope, though it should not have been recorded as complete against the original plan. He stated that officers would review and update the status labels as necessary.

In response to questions from members about the gas phase-out, the Head of Climate Change and Waste advised that around 15 sites still used gas, noting many were small facilities such as park showers. He suggested that the larger remaining users included the Dowse Art Museum, Walter Nash Stadium, War Memorial Library, the Events Centre and Wainuiomata and Stokes Valley pools. He further advised that gas consumption had decreased by roughly 50% since the 2019 peak.

In response to questions about the Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant dryer, the Head of Climate Change and Waste advised that an electric boiler would replace the gas-fuelled dryer. He said that procurement was underway, and commissioning was scheduled for 2027. He explained that this single change would have a significant impact because that site's gas use exceeded the combined gas consumption of Council facilities.

The Chair advised Cr Mitchell to send any additional notes and points regarding his questions to the Senior Advisor for Climate Change and Sustainability for consideration.

In response to questions from members, the Senior Advisor – Climate Change and Sustainability advised that the Hutt Valley carpooling initiative was external to Council. She explained that officers were aware of the initiative, but they did not have confirmed go-live dates or certainty that it would proceed. She noted that officers would contact the project organiser to obtain more information and will report back to members.

In response to questions from members, the Head of Climate Change and Waste advised that Council's website already provided general guidance on replacing the former eco-design service. He also mentioned that he would check with the officers to confirm whether the Kōkiri Marae service was explicitly referenced and would provide an update to the members afterwards.

RESOLVED: (Cr Briggs/Cr Mitchell)

Minute No. CCASC 25401

"That the Committee notes the comprehensive update on the implementation of Council's Carbon Reduction and Resilience Plan 2021-31 and the Lower Hutt Climate Action Pathway."

6. **REDUCING HUTT CITY COUNCIL'S EMISSIONS ASSOCIATED WITH POWERING ITS FACILITIES**

Report No. CCASC2025/4/248 by the Senior Advisor - Climate and Sustainability

The Senior Advisor – Climate Change and Sustainability elaborated on the report.

In response to questions from members, the Head of Climate Change and Waste advised that the business case for a solar farm at the Wainuiomata landfill would explore options for allocating energy output to Council through contractual and accounting methods. He said that it would address third-party investment with Council acting as a baseload offtaker. He advised that, if feasible, the project could serve as a significant source of renewable energy while making use of the land that was otherwise constrained.

RESOLVED: (Cr Briggs/Cr Parkin)

Minute No. CCASC 25402

"That the Committee

- (1) notes the progress made on reducing energy-related emissions, and the challenges in relation to Council's inability to "control" the carbon intensity of grid electricity; and*
- (2) agrees that officers put forward a relevant funding bid regarding the use of Renewable Energy Certificates later in the year, for consideration as part of the upcoming annual plan process."*

7. UPDATE ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION WORK STREAMS

Report No. CCASC2025/4/249 by the Senior Advisor Waste - Planning and Strategy

The Senior Advisor Waste – Planning and Strategy elaborated on the report.

In response to questions about measuring recycling performance, the Senior Advisor Waste – Planning and Strategy explained that contracts and reporting primarily focused on tonnage, based on arrangements at the materials recovery facility. She said that the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) had started collecting data on collection-tonnage categorised by material, which could be helpful for future trend analysis and policy development.

The Head of Climate Change and Waste noted that while glass tonnages were decreasing, aluminium can tonnages had nearly doubled in the past three years, reflecting changes in consumer packaging and cost-of-living effects. He explained that the decline in heavy glass volumes reduced total recycling by weight, and the increase in lighter aluminium did not compensate for this. He stated that this trend should not be seen as under-performance but rather as a shift in material mix, suggesting that the current weight-based KPI may not accurately reflect performance; behaviour-focused indicators could be more suitable.

In response to questions from members about behaviour-focused KPIs, the Head of Climate Change and Waste advised that this was possible. He explained that bin audits had been conducted on approximately 250 households. However, these audits were statistically less robust than the data from the materials recovery facility. He confirmed that behavioural indicators could complement existing measures, providing a better reflection of the proper use of the service.

In response to questions from members regarding the battery collection trial, the Senior Advisor – Waste advised that collection units would be installed at the War Memorial, Naenae, and Eastbourne hubs. She confirmed that the units had been wrapped and fitted with heat monitoring and fire suppression systems, with delivery expected in approximately one to two weeks. She said that the learnings gained from this trial would guide a broader roll-out in the future.

In response to further questions from members, the Head of Climate Change and Waste advised there was no further update on the regional delivery of Enviroschools following the Toimata Foundation's contracting changes. He added that local funding via the waste levy remained secure and that the key issue was who would hold delivery capacity and manage the programme. He advised that the "100% total outreach" figure referred to all schools in Lower Hutt having some level of engagement with Enviroschools. He noted that not every school engaged to the same depth and that engagement among Early Childhood Education Centres was lower due to capacity differences.

In response to questions from members about the proportions of construction and demolition (C&D) waste, the Head of Climate Change and Waste advised that Silverstream landfill was a Class 1 facility. He explained that many C&D materials, such as rubble, were directed to Class 2 to 4 sites, accounting for Silverstream's lower

proportion. He emphasised that the C&D diversion pilot was a pathway test rather than a long-term solution and noted that a commercial C&D processing facility in Porirua was expected to open around December 2025, which would provide a closer diversion option.

The Senior Advisor for Waste – Planning and Strategy reported that a bin audit for the Food Organics Green Organics (FOGO) programme found that about half of household waste by weight consists of food and green organics. She emphasized the need to divert these materials from landfill and promote waste minimisation and home composting. She stated that officers would utilise materials from the national Love Food Hate Waste campaign. She said that communications would be developed to reinforce this message. She also noted that if a FOGO service were implemented, officers would ensure a clear understanding of the issues, including both bin tonnages and environmental impacts.

The Head of Climate Change and Waste noted that New Zealand had shifted from many local landfills to fewer regional facilities. He mentioned that restricting other councils from using the Silverstream landfill would contradict national practices. While the landfill was still available for use at a price, officers were focused on reducing waste through diversion initiatives. He explained that these initiatives included a new commercial construction and demolition processing facility in Porirua, exploring a Food and Garden Organics service, and efforts to tackle waste at its source.

RESOLVED: (Cr Briggs/Cr Mitchell)

Minute No. CCASC 25403

"That the Committee receives and notes the update on various waste management and resource recovery matters."

8. QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

9. CLOSING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Unuhia!	<i>Release us from the supreme sacredness of our tasks</i>
Unuhia!	<i>To be clear and free</i>
Unuhia i te uru-tapu-nui	<i>in heart, body and soul in our continuing journey</i>
Kia wātea, kia māmā	<i>Oh Rongo, raise these words up high</i>
Te ngākau, te tinana, te wairua i te	<i>so that we be cleansed and be free,</i>
ara takatū	<i>Yes indeed, we are free!</i>
Koia rā e Rongo whakairihia ake ki	<i>Good and peaceful</i>
runga	
Kia wātea, kia wātea!	
Ae rā, kua wātea!	
Hau, pai mārire.	

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 2.42pm.

J Briggs
CHAIR

CONFIRMED as a true and correct record
Dated this 29th day of September 2025