

Businesses for Climate Action Trust - Annual Impact Report to 30 June 2023

Executive Summary

Businesses for Climate Action operated informally from 2020, then was formed as a Charitable Trust in December 2021. A Trust initiative, 'Mission Zero', was launched in early 2022, intended as a brand which would be attractive and easily-accessible to local businesses.



Former Chair Katrina Kidson presents Mission Zero. Image: John-Paul Pochin (Light Ltd.)

The 'objects and purposes' in the Trust Deed include contributing to a climate-resilient economy with healthy ecosystems and biodiversity in Te Tauihu (top of the South Island) and throughout Aotearoa, but work to date has focused primarily on the Nelson Tasman area. Our key products are access to tools and information, and actions to provide inspiration and build collaboration. Our aim is to energise and support the business community, on its journey to 'zero carbon'. We highlight the opportunities, not just the risks of inaction.

Principal activities in the year were a Climate Leaders Programme, producing outstanding outcomes and role models, and attracting extensive publicity; production of 'Mission Insights', an inspiring podcast series featuring local climate initiatives; contributions to a number of conferences and workshops; an active communications programme; and facilitation of networking groups. We reached unprecedented numbers of people and businesses this year, through written articles, media reports on successes, speaking engagements and various presentations. Connections were made with several groups forming in other parts of Aotearoa.

However, there are challenges in translating these results into KPIs such as tonnes of CO₂ emissions saved in Te Taihū. Improvements in measuring and reporting these are planned for the coming year.

We express huge appreciation to Nelson City Council for generous financial support over the past two years; to Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce for administrative support; to Nelson Regional Development Agency for valuable collaborations; and to these three and many other individuals, agencies and businesses for their moral support, enthusiasm, and for sharing our goals.

Trustees & Activators

Trustees in the year were Katrina Kidson (Chair), Florence Van Dyke and Bruce Gilkison. Throughout the year we engaged one activator/contractor for (on average) 2 days per week; initially Jodie Kuntzsch, then Natalie Gilbert from July 2022.

Websites and Connections:

- **BCA:** <https://businessesforclimateaction.co.nz/>
- **MZ:** <https://missionzero.nz/>

- **Linked In:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/mission-zero-nz/>

Abbreviations used in this report:

- **BCA:** Businesses for Climate Action Trust (including its Mission Zero initiative).
- **MZ:** Mission Zero
- **NCC:** Nelson City Council
- **NRDA:** Nelson Regional Development Agency
- **NTCC:** Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce

1. Vision & Goals

BCA's vision is to energise and support the Te Taihū business community on a vital journey towards zero carbon. Our mission is to galvanise and equip businesses to tackle the challenges and opportunities of climate change by providing encouragement, education, tools and collaboration opportunities.

We are here to enable businesses to do what they can do now. In doing so, we help to generate a resilient economy that supports our people, places, community and businesses to thrive. We want to facilitate activities which result in direct and indirect emissions reductions contributing to a 50% decrease in carbon emissions in the region by 2030.

To further these aims, we also want to encourage collaboration and replication of the Trust's work through other organisations and in other parts of Aotearoa.

2. Some Key Messages

We want to build collaboration - cutting emissions is a team game. We focus on opportunities, not just risks. And often there are co-benefits in cutting emissions.

We aim to provide practical advice and support, and to keep it simple! A starting point is for businesses to measure and understand their emissions; the way to mitigate these, and the benefits of doing this, often then becomes clear.

Katrina explained: “We see our role at Business for Climate Action and Mission Zero as coaching and cheerleading - energising, motivating and equipping businesses to take that first step.”

3. Action & Inspiration

Climate Leaders Programme: Our major new initiative for the year, in which 11 local participants each developed an emissions-saving idea for a project that would have a regional impact. The programme focused on 9 local carbon-cutting projects, bringing participants together with outstanding guest speakers and mentors to learn, brain-storm, plan and collaborate.



(L-R): Katrina Kidson, Katherine Garvis, Natalie Gilbert, Kate Robertson, Magdalena Garbarczyk, Caitlin Attenburrow, Abbie Tebbutt, Nathan Edmondston, Vanessa Stutz, Michael Stocker, Nettie Stow, Evelyn O'Neill, Bruce Gilkison. Image John-Paul Pochin (Light Ltd.)

They met monthly through 2022, to learn from these mentors and each other, and to report on plans, challenges and progress. The projects and results were extraordinary, and some have real potential to be scaled up. Further details can be found on the MZ website, and under ‘Some KPIs and

Outcomes' below. A climax was a well-attended, high-energy end-of-course public presentation of results, in November 2022.



(Clockwise from top left): Katrina Kidson, Vanessa Stutz and Caitlin Attenburrow present during the evening. Guests gather in the Mahitahi Colab. Image John-Paul Pochin (Light Ltd.)

Speakers over the course of the programme included Florence Van Dyke, Katrina, Abbie Tebbutt, Ali Boswijk, Jodie Kuntzsch, Richard Butler, Suzi McAlpine, Livia Esterhazy, Abbie Reynolds, and Johnny O'Donnell.



Florence Van Dyke presents during a working session for the 2023 Climate Leaders' Programme. (L-R): Vanessa Stutz, Nathan Edmonson, Zoe Moulam, Florence Van Dyke, Abbie Tebbutt, Evelyn O'Neill, Nettie Stowe

Mission Insights: This video podcast series of case studies is another initiative, produced in collaboration with NRDA. Recording for a total of six interviews to create Episodes 02 and 03 (focusing on Food and Fibre, and the Blue Economy respectively) was finalised in April 2023. These provided inspirational views of the climate initiatives of a range of Te Taihū businesses and organisations, encouraging others to act and collaborate.



(L-R): Rob Simcic from Little Beauties gets settled into the interview, Ali Boswijk interviews Jodie Kuntzsch

Conferences & Workshops: Katrina facilitated a **Nelson Institute of Directors** panel discussion July 2022, with industry members sharing their journeys and offering advice on emission reduction.

Katrina also facilitated a **Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce** panel event September 2022, Westpac Smarts, 'Smart Climate Change'.

Chartered Accountants Australia NZ, Nelson Marlborough Annual Conference, November 2022: Bruce spoke on Business, Climate & Biodiversity issues, drawing on involvements with BCA, and with support from Vanessa Stutz, a CA and graduate of the 2022 Climate Leaders Programme.

The **Climate Leaders Programme** year-end presentation, November 2022, attracted a large audience and local media attention. Each participant spoke on the results of their project, in person or by video link.

Katrina met with the **Climate Change Commission** in Nelson in October, sharing our approach and advising what support and encouragement our business community needs in this space.

Florence supported the launch of the **Refill Revolution** in Nelson and in Wellington, following its development by Abbie Tebbutt and Kate Robertson in the Climate Leaders Programme.

Tūpuna Pono: Being Good Ancestors Summit, March 2023: Katrina spoke on BCA and 'Helping local businesses take action on climate change'. <https://nelsonapp.co.nz/lifestyle/making-te-taiuhu-even-better>



Katrina Kidson presents at Tūpuna Pono Summit

Mission Zero's was referred to at several conferences or talks that we attended or are aware of, including the **Aspire** conference in 2022, where Johnny O'Donnell highlighted our work and aspirations. (BCA also had a presence at Aspire in July 2023, shortly after the current reporting period.)

Media: Many of our activities, including several of the Climate Leaders projects and Fleet Management successes, were reported in local and national media.

Bruce wrote regularly for *Acuity* this year, a magazine with a circulation of 90,000+ accountants and business leaders in NZ, Australia and several other countries. Articles included studies on the significance of biodiversity to businesses, including references to Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust and local tourism support for conservation; Māori and Indigenous values in business, including a reference to Wakatū Inc; and some accountability role models, including impressive approaches by Chia Sisters and Port Nelson. *Acuity* also wrote a feature on Bruce this year, with references to two local climate and biodiversity projects.

Advocacy: Florence wrote a detailed Submission to Ministry for the Environment and subsequently spoke to this, advocating for a Container Return Scheme, supported by BCA/MZ, Chia Sisters and

other local businesses:

[Container Return Scheme An Opportunity for a Reuse Scheme Draft Submission 17 May 2022.pdf \(shopify.com\)](#)

Contributions to other groups: BCA had an on-going involvement with **Project Kōkiri**, a collaborative approach to develop a well-organised economic post-lockdown response across Nelson Tasman, represented by Katrina. BCA was also included in the Working Group for the **Whakatū Climatorium**, proposed as a centre of excellence to lead and collaborate on climate change solutions (also represented by Katrina). It actively supports the work of the **Te Taihū Intergenerational Strategy**, and maintains links with **Wakatū Incorporation**. Bruce is involved in, and helps to maintain a BCA connection with the **Nelson Tasman Climate Forum**.

Networking Groups: These BCA groups operate within particular industries, or amongst businesses which share certain challenges and interests, enabling and encouraging them to make progress on carbon emission reductions and collaborations.

Most notable this year was the **Fleet Management group**, facilitated by Rachael Williams-Gaul, and providing guest speakers and discussion opportunities, either online or in person, every two months. Speakers included experts on EVs, car sharing options, improving efficiency in trucking fleets, and overcoming barriers to change. A highlight was an EV gathering and display, November 2022, attended by Climate Change Minister Hon. James Shaw.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/130600277/better-together-businesses-hook-up-to-switch-to-evs>



Fleet Management Group meets with Min James Shaw. Image Doug Barry-Martin

Other Regions: BCA/MZ have continued to provide help and encouragement to similar initiatives in other regions, including Wanaka, Taupo and Christchurch.

Connections were also made with like-minded groups in Marlborough, to explore opportunities for possible collaborations across Te Taihū. These contacts were positive and will be explored further in 2023-24.

While it is possible that some of the various actions in this section might have taken place in some form even without BCA's involvement, it seems certain that the connection with BCA helped to give each of these additional reach, direction, inspiration and momentum. Examples include media articles and presentations at conferences.

4. Knowledge & Tools

Measurement & Management

Our goals have included assessing and recommending the best (i.e. most accessible, economic and effective) tools and sources of useful information available, and advocate usage of these, rather than BCA inventing new wheels.

These include the 'Climate Action Toolbox' and a Circular Economy Directory. We meet regularly or on an ad-hoc basis to nurture collaborations with and the services of the Sustainable Business Network, Chapter Zero, Institute of Directors (Nelson branch), Nelson Tasman Climate Forum, Climate Action Marlborough, B-Corp, NCC, NTCC and NRDA to share information about relevant tools, events or news.

Communications

We aim to keep our communications free of 'noise', with a firm focus on stories directly related to reducing carbon emissions in Te Taihū. As such our LinkedIn and e-newsletter channels are utilised as relevant stories and events arise, with about 10 e-newsletters and around 45 LinkedIn posts in the year. Our two websites work together to drive our message, with MZ's site as the activator (with an increase in visits by 133% over the year, including a 130% increase in new users), and the BCA site defining the foundational framework.

Regular meetings are held with NCC, NTCC, NRDA, Nelson Tasman Climate Forum, Zero Carbon Nelson Tasman, Institute of Directors (Nelson), Chapter Zero, Nelson Mail and Sustainable Business Network.

5. Some KPIs & Outcomes

Volunteer Hours

One of BCA/MZ's strengths is its ability to attract and engage highly-skilled and motivated volunteers, helping to build understanding, skills and momentum in climate-related issues in the Nelson Tasman business community. Time provided *pro bono* in 2022-23 is estimated at approximately 2,000 hours, which includes Trustees' time, the Climate Leaders speakers and tutors, writing, promotion and presentations, and accounting and legal professionals.

People 'reached'

Numbers reached or engaged with are difficult to quantify. Attendances at conferences and workshops were estimated at 1,000+ in the year. Those reached through articles and media coverage, however, are likely to be in the tens of thousands. *Acuity*, for example, has 90,000 subscribers, with some of these being deliveries to offices in Australia and NZ with multiple readers (while it is acknowledged that these articles will not necessarily be read by every subscriber). Articles in *Stuff* will also have wide readership.

It is noted that such audiences may be spread over a broad area, nationally and further afield, and will not be limited to Te Taihū.

Tonnes of CO₂ emissions avoided

Carbon emissions avoided are the most difficult of all KPIs to estimate. Savings will include those linked to programmes such as Climate Leaders, though these might not eventuate until future periods. The savings from initiatives such as the 'Refill Revolution' or 'Strawlines' low-carbon construction, or from ideas on an online group presentation may become apparent over several years, and in time some will be reported by the organisations themselves.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/131617595/support-grows-for-homes-built-with-prefab-panels-of-timber-and-straw> (29/03/23)

Other savings will arise from the use of measurement and mitigation tools used by businesses which have been nudged in that direction, by BCA/MZ programmes, workshops and networking groups, through one-on-one consultations, and conferences we have been involved in.

Even harder to estimate are the emissions savings resulting more widely from the information encouragement and inspiration we have aimed to provide, or to quantify the difference made, perhaps by influencing a business leader or advisor to multiple businesses who reads an article or media report, possibly some thousands of kilometres from its source - the 'Strawlines' project being one such example, <https://www.intbau.org/intbau-architecture-challenge-winners-announced/>



Magdaleina Garbarczyk talks about Strawlines at the Climate Leaders' Programme Wrap. Image John-Paul Pochin (Light Ltd.)

The judges said *“the team looked to address the two most pressing issues for Aotearoa New Zealand, which are climate change and a chronic housing shortage. The team proposed a new vernacular in their designs for a modular low carbon housing system, using straw and timber in structural insulated panels. The proposal offers a holistic solution that balances tradition and innovation to address the urgent need for sustainable housing ...”* (14/03/23).

Likewise, it is difficult to track the impact that building and publicising a house with the highest possible energy rating (as was done by a Climate Leaders participant) might have on other designers and builders a considerable distance from this project. The CE of the NZ Green Business Council noted: *“Leading projects like this one in Nelson are incredibly important and show our industry we can do better”*.

The ‘Mission Insights’ podcast series, presenting local successes and inspiration, will certainly lead to similar but hard-to-track emissions reductions.

Outcomes

Examples of publicity, inspiration, and most likely emissions savings can be seen, particularly from the Climate Leaders Programme.

Climate Leaders Programme

- ‘Strawlines’ modular construction uses carbon-sequestering materials to address climate change and housing shortages. This project went on to share first prize among hundreds of

entries in the international INTBAU Architecture Challenge. *Climate Matters* newsletter said “Big bad wolf, eat your heart out! I’ll happily huff and puff the praises of Strawlines Carbon-banking homes for Aotearoa... Blending a modern panel system with the most traditional of materials, Strawlines helps meet the elusive challenge of really decarbonising our buildings.” <https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/130477662/homes-made-of-straw-no-fable-with-benefits-for-buyers-and-environment>.

- A ‘Refill Revolution’, launched in February 2023, promoted and enabled reuse of food and beverage containers and will cut waste and emissions. The aim is to make refill and reuse of containers ‘the norm’ in Aotearoa. The project is intended to make it easy for businesses to offer refilling, already has around 120 businesses signed up, and it has gone national with some big suppliers keen to be involved. <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/131422076/refill-revolution-starts-near-nelson-with-one-small-reuse-stall>



Refill Revolution launches its brand, and a movement

- An architect committed to the design and building of a Passivhaus Nelson house with a gold standard ‘Homestar 10’ rating: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/nelson-top-stories/132536829/nelson-home-one-of-most-sustainable-in-the-country>. *Climate News* said this home “offers high comfort, low environmental impact, negligible heating bills, and lots of lessons for the rest of us.”
- An outdoor pursuits centre was surprised to discover that the carbon emissions from food consumed on courses exceeded the emissions from vehicles, so increased vegetarian options to reduce this. <https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/127435078/group-finds-carbon-emissions-higher-for-food-than-transport>
- A local lawyer who contributed to a NZ Climate Clause Bank, a powerful tool available to lawyers, helping them bring sustainability into thousands of contracts signed nation-wide

per day. His goal was empowering lawyers in Te Taihū to provide climate-conscious legal services. The project had an even wider impact, contributing to this national group. The Climate Clause Bank specifies clauses that can be used in contracts to help reduce the carbon footprint of the parties signing them. The clauses set out intentions and assurances between parties to minimise activities such as travel and paper use, or formalise climate-related agreements between customers and suppliers. <https://lnkd.in/ginxNb6R> The initiative has been widely welcomed: “It's heartening to see the power of words quietly embed climate thinking into our business environment.”

- Other projects included: Development by a food safety consultant of ideas for carbon reductions, including reducing imports and connecting with the circular economy in food production; Development of a directory to encourage networking and sourcing environmental products and solutions across Te Taihū; A project to identify food waste from local food and beverage producers and repurpose this into value-added products, such as pet food; And steps to empower people in the accounting profession to collaborate and upskill in preparation for what is seen as an unprecedented time of change for business advisors.

Programme Leader Abbie Tebbutt said “We have trusted business advisors in the group who are looking at how they can guide their clients to operate more sustainably. They're getting their colleagues onto this too.”

Abbie said the programme gave participants the confidence to lead change: “There’s a level of structure and accountability when you’re in the programme that really pushes you to get your projects rolling, and at a higher level too”. Participants commented particularly on the value of working alongside and getting encouragement from their peers in this programme. <https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/130600578/programme-helps-businesses-launch-climate-action>.

Katrina noted “It’s clear that many (and perhaps all) of these projects would not have been implemented without the programme.”

Finally here, a note from one of the participants, Magda Garbarczyk:

“A huge thank you to Mission Zero for launching this initiative and creating an engaging programme of leadership and project development. A special thanks to Abbie, Katrina, Natalie and Caitlin for your rigorous organising power, generous creative input and genuine heartfelt support. Thank you to all the inspiring leaders who shared their serendipitous (but serious) journeys into leadership, their experiences and offered some hot tips to take away!

“And of course to all my fabulous cohort participants... I have learned a lot from our conversations and feel nourished by the honesty of our sharing about the challenges and anxieties that we all feel in face of the environmental disaster. Two things we all agreed on: ‘progress over perfection’ and ‘this is a collective journey and whether we want it or not, we all need to be climate leaders’. The programme brought some much-needed hope and

energy to continue working on decreasing our carbon footprint and developing our regenerative handprints!”

Networking Groups

Katrina noted: “The Fleet Management Group is a wonderful example... Together they’ve made incredible headway. By sharing what they’ve learnt, it’s easier for others to take action.”

Rachael Williams-Gaul, Environment Leader for Nelmac, and leader of the Fleet Management group, said: “This is big, we need action. And we can only do this together... 95 per cent of Nelmac’s emissions are from our fleet so it’s a very important area for our business to tackle.”

Mission Insights

Katrina commented: “It is so powerful when you see and hear what others have been doing. So we've recorded local businesses sharing their warts and all journeys to measure and reduce carbon, and what they've learned in the process. It’s a great way to spread ideas, insights and inspiration.”

In the Climate Leaders Programme and all other involvements, the goals have been to encourage, inspire, help and normalise the measurement and mitigation of emissions, as a key part of doing business in Te Taihū.

6. Challenges this year

Four significant, but quite different, challenges were identified this year:

- There remains a sense of general ‘overload’ for many local companies, particularly following the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. Most Te Taihū businesses now appreciate the benefits of being proactive on climate issues, but are struggling to find time to focus on these. Our aim is to make this simple, effective and collaborative, and to focus on the benefits, not just the risks.
- Despite generous *pro bono* assistance from highly skilled experts in a range of fields there was a significant workload for trustees as projects were undertaken for the first time. This impacted particularly on Katrina as Chair.
- As noted elsewhere, there were challenges in quantifying and proving outcomes such as CO₂ emissions avoided by businesses we have worked with or influenced. On reflection, and despite the difficulties in quantifying savings, we believe we could have done better in identifying and measuring KPIs and outcomes to date. Steps are being taken to record and report these in more detail in the coming year.
- As at June 2023, BCA/MZ has financial challenges which will need to be resolved early in the 2023-24 year. Without suitable sources of funding, planned activities may need to be scaled back significantly. As a result, there is a risk that current momentum could be lost.

7. Finances

Businesses for Climate Action Trust is registered as a not-for-profit organization (No. 50087429), from its formation in December 2021. Further to this, the Trust was assessed and granted Registered Charity status in June 2022 (Registration number CC60311).

Financial support from Nelson City Council, up to June 2023, has been vital and has enabled some big steps forward. The support of NTCC in assistance with administration and financial management, and of NRDA for a series of collaborations, have also been greatly appreciated.

For the 2023-24 year, though, there is an immediate need to secure on-going financial support to ensure that activities can continue at current levels, and to grow to meet new and urgent needs in the region.

Financial statements for the 15 month period ended 30 June 2023 have now been completed, showing a small surplus of \$9075, and these have since been approved at the Trust's 2023 AGM. (Financial statements for the Trust's previous reporting period were prepared up to 31 March 2022, prior to formal approval of the June 30th balance date.)

8. Trustees

Katrina Kidson served as Chair from the beginnings of BCA until April 2023, then retiring as Trustee in June 2023. (Since April, Florence and Bruce have acted as co-Chairs.) Katrina has given her time for local businesses tackling climate issues selflessly over many years. In her own business she works as a Business Coach and has also been supporting organisations that directly reduce emissions (such as Community Compost in Nelson) at reduced rates or for free. Her mahi and leadership of BCA have been energetic, enlightened and hugely valued. We look forward to staying in touch. For now, ngā mihi mahana Katrina!

Florence Van Dyke returned to NZ in July 2022, after graduating with a Masters of Laws focused on business and climate change at University of California, Berkeley. She is now Global Head of Sustainability at New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, based in Wellington. She is co-founder and continues as a director of Chia Sisters, a solar-powered, climate-positive, B Corp beverage company based in Nelson.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/129210991/chia-sister-brings-her-energy-to-new-trade-and-enterprise-role>

Bruce Gilkison was advanced to Fellowship by Chartered Accountants Australia NZ (CA ANZ) this year, in recognition of his advocacy for sustainability and action on climate and biodiversity over several decades. He is a regular invited writer for *Acuity* magazine for business leaders and accountants.

Each of the Trustees found ways to highlight some key Te Taihū initiatives in their work and presentations elsewhere – not out of local favouritism but because there really are some outstanding initiatives and role models in this area, well worth publicising and emulating!

9. Supporters – Thank you!

Organisations: Nelson City Council, Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce, Nelson Tasman Climate Forum, Nelson Regional Development Agency, Wakatū Inc, Sealord, Chia Sisters, Pic's Peanut Butter, Core Legal Solutions (previously Knapps), Johnston Associates, Cawthron

Institute, Nelmac Kūmānu, Zero Carbon Nelson Tasman, Resilienz, Sustainable Business Network, NZ Trade & Enterprise, Little Dove Café, Fresh Choice Nelson, Finline Architecture, Minerva Consulting, Genius Pet Food, Whenua Iti Outdoors, Jerram Tocker Barron Architects, Moananui, Little Beauties.

People: Ali Boswijk, Johny O'Donnell, Fiona Wilson, Gareth Power Gordon, Britt Coker, David Kerr, Christina Clifford, Caitlin Attenburrow, Abbie Tebbutt, Rachael Williams-Gaul, Kate Robertson, Michael Stocker, Vanessa Stutz, Nathan Edmondston, Evelyn O'Neill, Zoe Moulam, Dr Paula Short, Magdalena Garbarczyk, Katherine Garvis, Nettie Stow, Richard Butler, Suzi McAlpine, Livia Esterhazy, Jan Hania, Kerensa Johnston, Dianne Brown, Zoe Moulam, Doug Paulin, Trevor Salter, Chloe van Dyke, Stacey Fellows, Rikki Smith, Joanna Santa Barbara, Lindsay Wood, Karen Driver, Marta Karlik-Neale, Heath Wilkins, Eleni Hogg, Rob Simcic, Andrew Clancey, Chris Cornelisen, Lauren Walker. Jodie Kuntzsch and Natalie Gilberd were engaged on contract to BCA this year; their services 'over and above' have been hugely appreciated.

And many others from our wonderful supportive Te Taihū community.

10. LOOKING FORWARD

When BCA won the highly-coveted Sustainable Business Network award for 'Communicating for Impact' in November 2021, the judges commented: ***"The Businesses for Climate Action campaign has been a model for other regions across Aotearoa to collaborate and include a widening circle of businesses..."***. The same remains true in 2023.

For the future, we have significant and urgent issues to address, and valuable opportunities to pursue:

1. There is an immediate need for funding. Without on-going financial support the organisation's current level of activity is likely to be diminished, with current momentum at risk of being reduced or lost.
2. There is an opportunity to appoint a new Trustee following Katrina's recent departure. There is an urgent need for businesses to respond to the climate crisis and to inspire others to follow, and the success of the current model has been demonstrated. We will welcome enquiries from individuals who would like to work with us and build on this.
3. A key event is ready to launch, early in our 2023-24 year. A series of Emissions Reduction workshops, 'Countdown to Zero', will commence in August. Led by carbon measurement and mitigation expert Marta Karlik-Neale, this will help Te Taihū businesses measure and manage emissions, collaborate with like-minded business leaders, and equip themselves well for a challenging future. It is expected that this programme will demonstrate carbon savings and provide KPIs, inspiring other organisations to follow.



Measuring carbon emissions. Image Tim Cuff

4. We are now pursuing possibilities such as expanding networking groups to other fields and industries, and of offering a further Climate Leaders Programme to start in early 2024, subject to adequate financial resources.
5. We believe there will be an opportunity to collaborate further with Marlborough-based groups, to work together to deliver future programmes for businesses and organisations across the whole Te Taihū region.

We relish the challenges and the opportunities.