

Businesses for Climate Action Trust - Annual Impact Report for the year to 30 June 2024

Executive Summary

Businesses for Climate Action Trust, and its initiative 'Mission Zero', came together to create a better future for Te Taihū. We seek a safe climate and enhanced prospects for people and future generations, for organisations, and for a more resilient economy. We work with large and small businesses and with not-for-profit organisations, primarily in Nelson Tasman, inspiring climate action and promoting collaboration, and helping them to understand and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Businesses are a special focus due to their relatively high emissions and their ability to find solutions and respond to rapidly changing needs. They can play a vital role in protecting nature and the climate, in building sustainability, and ensuring the well-being of future communities in this region.

The UN Secretary-General said ***"Our climate is in meltdown. The poorest are paying the price. This is breath-taking injustice. And a terrible betrayal of younger generations..."*** In Aotearoa New Zealand too, the most vulnerable sections of the community will always bear the greatest impacts of climate change.

Our activities this year have included a 'Countdown to Zero' series of workshops; active communications projects reaching and inspiring unprecedented numbers of people and organisations; some initial, successful steps towards a 'user-pays' or 'pay-it-forward' model; and growing networks and collaborations. Our contributions are set out in the **'Action & Inspiration'** section of this report.

A major strength has always been an ability to attract the services of highly-skilled volunteers to work with us to help organisations on their 'net zero' carbon journey. This has enabled a lean and flexible structure. Our goal is that costs should not be a barrier to local organisations keen to cut emissions, but unsure where and how to start.

This year, volunteers (3 Trustees and 12 Volunteer Facilitators) have contributed 2,500+ hours of *pro bono* time, we have presented about 20 events, and we have been active online, with inspirational videos, articles and posts.

Despite strong and growing demand for our services, however, financial support is still needed and continues to be a major challenge.

We love people, businesses, this region, and the planet. Please learn about us and join us in this work.

1. BACKGROUND

'Businesses for Climate Action' started informally in 2019, and was established as a Charitable Trust in 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.

The 'objects and purposes' in our Trust Deed include contributing to a climate-resilient economy with healthy ecosystems and biodiversity in Te Taihū (top of the South Island) and throughout Aotearoa. Work to date has focused mainly on the Nelson Tasman area. However we are building a strong relationship with Climate Action Marlborough through ongoing involvements and connections.

Our key products are access to local expertise for on-the-ground guidance - including through 1:1 carbon clinics, workshops and events, online tools, and relevant information, and actions to provide inspiration and as well networking opportunities to 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.

Trustees & Activators

Trustees in the year were Florence Van Dyke and Bruce Gilkison, who were joined in August 2023 by Marta Karlik-Neale (profiles below, item 8). We are supported by our Lead Activator, Natalie Gilbert for (on average) 16 hours per week, doing exactly as her title suggests.

A hard-working team of highly-qualified and experienced volunteers greatly amplify the Trust's work and success in the community.

Abbreviations used in this report:

- **BCA:** Businesses for Climate Action Trust (including its Mission Zero initiative).
- **MZ:** Mission Zero
- **NCC:** Nelson City Council
- **TDC:** Tasman District Council
- **NFP:** Not for Profit (organisations)
- **NRDA:** Nelson Regional Development Agency
- **NTCC:** Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce

Websites and Connections:

- **BCA:** <https://businessesforclimateaction.co.nz/>
- **MZ:** <https://missionzero.nz/>
- **Linked In:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/mission-zero-nz/>

2. VISION, GOALS & STRATEGIES

BCA's vision is to energise and support Te Taihū business community on its journey to 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, to build a resilient economy that helps our people, places, community and organisations to thrive. A key goal is a 50% decrease in carbon emissions in the region by 2030.

We do a significant amount of work with businesses, because that is where the greatest impact can be made. Key components of our strategy are summarised below.

Visual Strategy:



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.

John Kerry, former US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, said ***“I can understand the irony [of the lack of motivation to make change] if, in fact, life on the other side of that was harder, and worse, but it’s not... the air will be cleaner, you will be healthier, there will be less cancer, we will spend less money on healthcare generally... we will be safer...”*** [To which we would add ***“less pollution, less waste, less impact on nature, and better prospects for future generations.”***]

We aim to provide practical advice and support, and to keep it simple! A starting point for organisations is usually to measure and understand their emissions. Ways to mitigate these, and the benefits from this, then become clear.

We honour the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and have respect for te ao Māori and for the iwi of Te Taihū. We are inspired by the focus on long term sustainability shown by many Māori-owned businesses, including their intergenerational focus and strong links between people and place. Speaking for NZ Trade and Enterprise, Florence Van Dyke said: ***“Māori businesses are the gold standard for sustainability internationally”***. We support this focus and we endeavour to convey this respect in our workshops and public presentations, and in our work and communications. We acknowledge that this is a continuing journey for our organisation.

Why Businesses?

A landmark study by British economist Sir Nicholas Stern advised in 2007 that climate change is ***“the greatest market failure that the world has seen”*** and addressing it early is far less costly than having to live with and address the consequences some years later.

Subsequent studies have confirmed this. A study in *Nature* (April 2024 – described by *The Guardian* as the most comprehensive analysis of its type every undertaken) says that ***it is cheaper, by many orders of magnitude, to reduce emissions now.***

Some of the greatest potential savings in greenhouse gas emissions will come from businesses, including small ventures. We are committed to inspiring and enabling business owners and leaders to achieve this potential. Small businesses typically have neither the internal resources nor the funds to employ consultants to support them on their carbon journey. Note that **96% of businesses in the region employ less than 20 people** (*Nelson Tasman Insights Business Survey 2023*).

“The Business sector is responsible for 40% of the country's [energy-related] greenhouse gas emissions, they're hugely important for contributing to New Zealand's zero-carbon goals.” (EECA *Climate Change and New Zealand Business*, Nov 2021)

“Around 1 in 5 businesses want to do something but don't know what to do - this has nearly doubled since May 2023... A need for proactive direction and guidance on what to do has never been greater.” (EECA *Business Monitor*, November 2023)

It could be asked ‘why would a charity help businesses?’ For MZ, this is the greatest contribution we can make to the future of the region, its businesses, its young people, and its most vulnerable – with climate change impacts hitting these groups earliest and hardest. Nature and biodiversity, too, will suffer as temperatures rise. We are currently developing a model whereby at least some businesses will pay for engagement in our programmes, but we never want our costs to be a disincentive to starting a journey to zero.

We are particularly inspired in our work by the impacts of climate on the most vulnerable. Te Puni Kokiri states: **“Despite Māori households having similar exposure to climate hazards as the overall population, they are projected to face greater risks due to a higher proportion of Māori households at risk related to poverty, health disparities, justice and protection concerns.”**

[\(https://newsroom.co.nz/2024/02/16/climate-hearing-to-explore-catastrophic-treaty-breaches/\)](https://newsroom.co.nz/2024/02/16/climate-hearing-to-explore-catastrophic-treaty-breaches/)

3. ACTION & INSPIRATION

Some key initiatives in the year are set out below:

Countdown to Zero:

Countdown to Zero is a pilot programme designed to support businesses to reduce their carbon emissions through a series of in-person and online workshops and educational opportunities. To date we have held three sell-out workshops, three online sessions, two in-person ‘Carbon Clinics’ and a number of 1:1 coffee conversations with attendees.

The Programme kicked off in August 2023 with a workshop which introduced basic carbon concepts and use of a critical carbon measuring tool. This attracted 33 sign-ups from a good range of large/small businesses and NFPs from right across the Top of the South. The defining call to action was to “measure your footprint” in preparation for following sessions.

In a survey at the conclusion of the initial workshop, 84% had found this workshop either ‘Very Helpful’ or ‘Extremely Helpful’. Feedback included: **“Thanks so much for the workshop, it was a**

fantastic session, learnt so much and was a great mix of learning and practical steps with the spreadsheet. Excited for the follow-up sessions!

Media coverage included the following:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/news/132665231/businesses-learn-how-to-continue-to-compete-amid-climate-disruption>. Also:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/132791165/local-businesses-tackle-big-freight-component-of-carbon-footprint>

A programme participant was quoted in *Stuff*: ***“If you do sustainability right, it can create efficiencies, boost morale, and even create competitive advantage in markets where demand is increasing for sustainable products”.***

The programme was extended into 2024, with support provided by the Network Tasman Trust (‘Peter Malone Community Grants Scheme’).

In surveys following the 2024 workshops, online events and drop-in carbon clinics, attendees reported a significant increase in their understanding of the potential impact of climate change on their business, how to measure their business's carbon footprint, and how to build an emissions reduction plan. In-person carbon clinics have also been offered to all attendees for bespoke guidance from our volunteer experts.

Feedback included: ***“Was a great workshop, thought provoking and some simple actions for all businesses to start on the journey.”***

“We learned a lot and feel more empowered than overwhelmed now - thank you!”

It is expected that this programme will demonstrate carbon savings and inspire other organisations to follow some great local role models. Each ‘sold-out’ event in the programme has offered essential in-person opportunities for community learning and networking. The events have also provided the Mission Zero team with valuable insights into the needs of businesses, allowing for programme enhancements alongside broader strategic thinking. The programmes have been successful and engaging, with strong demand for them to be extended into 2025 (subject to suitable funding).



A 'Countdown to Zero' workshop, 2024: 'Developing an Emissions Reduction Plan'

"Thank you so much Mission Zero for this opportunity to be able to learn more about sustainability and the practical workshop around how to calculate carbon emission and more importantly how to put together a business case for a business planning to reduce its carbon footprint!"

Mission Insights:

An initial video podcast series was produced in collaboration with NRDA over the period 2022-24. Formatted as conversation pieces between local business and sustainability experts and top business leaders, they aimed to provide inspirational insights into the climate initiatives of a range of Te Taihū businesses and organisations, encouraging others to act and collaborate. These were actively promoted in the media and are available on the [MZ website](#).

Additional videos have since been added to the Mission Insights website channel, covering topics primarily related to transport decarbonisation, with more videos anticipated over time.

Conferences & Presentations:

Mission Zero's work was highlighted at several conferences or talks, including the **Aspire** conference in July 2023, which included an MZ stall and several mentions of our projects and aspirations by key speakers. Florence Van Dyke (NZ Trade & Enterprise) spoke about MZ in a keynote speaking slot, as an example of community collaboration to reduce business carbon emissions, with a call to action for businesses to take part in 'Countdown to Zero'. Abbie Tebbutt (Chia Sisters) spoke on the MZ Climate Leaders Programme that kick-started Refill Revolution: [\(1\) Refill Revolution NZ: Overview | LinkedIn](#).

And in her summing up at the conference, NTCC Chief Executive Ali Boswijk cited BCA/MZ as a standout local example of community action.

We presented our first 'Journey to Zero' session (Carbon 101) as a part of the Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce's 2023 Global Entrepreneurship Week, in November 2023.

Behaviour Change:

Our Behaviour Change workshop in May 2024 was MZ's contribution to the Nelson Tasman Climate Action Festival. This featured several round-table discussions led by professionals experienced in sustainable transport, energy, waste, and procurement. This event was fully subscribed (35+) with inspiring presentations, high-energy discussions, and effective solutions to support meaningful change. Follow-on articles wrapping up the discussions were created and shared through [our website](#). Photos of the event can be seen on our [LinkedIn channel here](#).

Sustainable Farming – Golden Bay:

MZ participated in a Sustainable Farming event in Golden Bay, May 2024, with lessons from this being written up into articles shared through our communications channels, including [our website](#).

Carbon Clinics:

MZ supports organisations directly by offering 1:1 support with help and guidance over a short or longer-term period, acting as a source of skills and reassurance to help organisations meet emission reduction goals. Regular sessions were provided. This service is promoted on [our website](#) and is supported by a number of local sustainability experts who have volunteered time for it.

Networking & Connections:

BCA/MZ has been building its connections with Climate Action Marlborough, including through two convoys to the region to attend events they had organised. [Read about the initial convoy on Stuff](#). Our second trip included a site visit to an impressive passive house in Blenheim – [read more here](#)

BCA/MZ has partnered with Sustainability Assessors Bluemoth, and Sustainable Business Network, to support monthly 'Green Drinks' for local business people and members of our wider community focused on sustainability issues.

Mission Zero engages a number of external facilitators to support our workshops. Facilitators to date have included: Rachael Williams-Gaul and Lisa Bridson from McHugh & Shaw, sustainability consultant Nina Griffith, Erin Roughton from Emsol, Zoie Bryce from WM New Zealand, Vanessa Neven from WSP, Daniela Ramirez from NCC, Josh Leenhouders from Ekos, Alex Drummond from Cogo, Shannon Holroyd from Port Nelson and Lucy Byrne from Bluemoth.

Our 2023-24 workshops were supported by Tonkin + Taylor which has provided venues and other facilities, as well as Kono Wines and Chia Sisters who sponsored drinks, and photographers Tim Cuff and John-Paul Pochin.

Leading business and environmental journalist **Rod Oram** met with BCA/MZ personnel for lunch during his visit to Nelson, 22 February 2024. Rod had been a strong supporter of our initiative since

its formation, in Nelson Tasman and as a model for groups elsewhere in NZ. Tragically, Rod died just 3 weeks after this meeting. He will be greatly missed by us all, and by so many others throughout Aotearoa.

Dr Jim Salinger was named as 'Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year' in March. Together with Chloe and Florence Van Dyke, Jim is a founding member of the Intergenerational Climate Ambassadors. BCA had invited him to Nelson and arranged for him to speak at two well-attended climate events in 2021.

Bowater Motors Ltd:

CEO Tony Bowater agreed to the loan of 2 two very impressive Toyota EVs for the convoy to Blenheim for the start of Marlborough Climate Action Week, as mentioned above.

Further discussions led to an agreement for MZ to undertake a carbon emissions audit review of the Toyota Nelson arm of Bowater Motors Ltd, at an agreed fee. This commenced April 2024 and was completed just after our June year-end, including discussions regarding the reduction of carbon emissions associated with employee commuting.

The project could be a model for potential future partnerships with businesses looking for bespoke support on an ad-hoc basis. Such engagements could include a 'pay-it-forward' opportunity, providing support to organisations which might otherwise struggle to undertake an emissions reduction journey.

Media:

Many of our activities, including on the 'Countdown to Zero', 'Mission Insights', Fleet Management programmes, together with some follow-up on Climate Leaders projects, were reported in local and national media.

Bruce Gilkison 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 stories about a South Island sheep and cattle station working towards being not just carbon neutral, but carbon-positive 10 times over; on 'How to reduce Scope 3 emissions'; and on the pros and cons of carbon offsets rather than cutting emissions. Articles were written with the benefit of new-found insights from the 'Countdown to Zero' programme, and from an NZ Trade & Enterprise Climate Reporting webinar led by Florence Van Dyke.

Chartered Accountants Australia/NZ (CA ANZ) featured Bruce's sustainability and climate work this year in a promotion to encourage nominations of further CAs for Fellowship status.

Advocacy:

BCA submitted on the Fast Track Approvals Bill in April 2024, highlighting aspects of the proposals which were seen as detrimental to the environment, the climate, and to businesses as well as to NZ's reputation globally, with suggestions for improvements.

The group also submitted on the NCC and TDC Long Term Plans.

Contributions to other groups:

MZ accepted an invitation to join the **NCC Climate Change Advisory Group** from August 2023, with subsequent participation in multiple strategic ideation sessions.

Marta and Natalie have actively supported Outward Bound through a number of 1:1 engagements, looking at their sustainability strategy and providing guidance and feedback at no cost. Natalie has also connected with Whenua Iti and Nelson Arts Festival for initial conversations on their sustainability goals.

Bruce is involved in, and helps to maintain a BCA connection with the **Nelson Tasman Climate Forum**.

Networking Groups:

MZ 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**, and providing guest speakers and discussion opportunities, either online or in person. Rachael Williams-Gaul continued to run this group until a change in her employment in 2023, and it was then facilitated by Lucy Byrne.

Six sessions were held over the period July 2023 – June 2024. Speakers included experts on [low-emissions trucking](#), EVs, a [Ride-to-work scheme](#), improving efficiency in trucking fleets, and overcoming barriers to change, and [EV infrastructure](#) in New Zealand.

Other Regions:

Strong connections were built this year with a like-minded group based in Blenheim, **Climate Action Marlborough**. We are keen to explore opportunities. We communicate regularly, and have supported each other's projects and programmes. These links have been mutually beneficial and will be developed and explored for possible further collaborations across Te Taihū in 2024-25.



'Developing an Emissions Reduction Plan', 2024

Marta Karlik-Neale, 'Countdown to Zero'

4. KNOWLEDGE & TOOLS

Measurement & Management:

Our work has included assessing and recommending the best (i.e. most accessible, economic and effective) tools and sources of useful information available and advocating the use of these, rather than 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, 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 strong focus on issues 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 16 e-newsletters and almost 70 LinkedIn posts in the year. Our two websites work together to drive our message, with MZ's site as the activator, and the BCA site providing information on the organisation itself.

Websites were upgraded for BCA and MZ. These are now considered bright, informative and user-friendly, providing links to our various projects.

A recipient of our e-newsletter, a sustainability and tourism adviser, wrote recently: ***“What a wonderful newsy newsletter! I get lots of newsletters in my Inbox, and many I just scan quickly and then delete. But this one was different – I stopped and read beyond the headlines, opening several links, reading them straight away (rather than filing away to read later.... which never seems to happen!)***

Thanks so much for taking the time to pull together so much relevant information and resources. It’s very much appreciated. Ngā mihi...”

A reader of our 2023 BCA Annual Report, a community engagement specialist, said:

“This is a fantastic report and captures the activity really well. An initiative like this is always the sum of all the small parts and this is a brilliant overview of all those parts.”

5. SOME KPIS & OUTCOMES

Volunteer Hours:

A key strength is BCA/MZ’s 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 community. Time provided *pro bono* in 2023-24 is estimated at 2,500+ hours, which includes Trustees’ time, workshop speakers and about 12 facilitators, various communications writing projects, funding applications, promotion and presentations, and the services of accounting and legal professionals.

People ‘reached’:

Numbers reached or engaged with can be difficult to quantify. Attendances at workshops, conferences and meetings which BCA/MZ was involved in, plus online group sessions and consultations, were estimated at around 500 in the year. Our own e-newsletters (database 500), LinkedIn and associated social media, including through our partner channels, might be seen by several thousand. Those reached through articles and other media coverage are likely to be in the tens of thousands. (*Acuity* magazine, for example, has 90,000+ subscribers; for this purpose we could perhaps assume that at least one third of subscribers read these articles = 30,000+.) Articles in *Stuff* also have wide readership (2.6 million per month!) but with arguably less chance that an MZ news item will be read. The total ‘reached’ is therefore perhaps conservatively estimated at 40,000+.

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

A NZ-based organisation, The Planetary Accounting Network, estimates that it reached 35,000+ in its latest financial year; it then made certain assumptions as to changes those people may have made, and equated the resulting impact to some thousands of cars taken off the road. We are impressed by this attempt to quantify its impact and will consider whether this is a useful model to emulate.

Tonnes of CO₂ emissions avoided:

Carbon emissions avoided are one of the most difficult of all KPIs to estimate. Savings will include those linked to earlier programmes such as Climate Leaders, though these might not eventuate until future periods (e.g. the savings from initiatives such as the 'Refill Revolution' or 'Strawlines' low-carbon construction, while savings arising from an online group presentation may become apparent over several years, and in time would 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>

The 'Mission Insights' podcast series, presenting local successes and inspiration, will be emulated by others and lead to similar but hard-to-track emissions reductions.

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.

Our 'Countdown to Zero' results have included a significant acceleration of carbon emissions measurement and commitment to reduction plans by participants, with half of those who attended the kick-off workshop taking demonstrable action over the following months. Programme surveys show a clear increase in participant understanding of climate change, its impact, and appropriate response tactics, with responders describing the need to get over their initial 'too hard' barriers, to network with others, to 'check that we're doing it right', and to ask questions and gain knowledge as primary reasons for seeking support from us. It is intended that some emission reductions achieved by participants will be shared on our website in future.

In all our 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. 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 (Registration number CC60311, from June 2022).

Initial financial support from Nelson City Council, up to June 2023, was vital in getting us started and enabled some big steps forward. The on-going support of NTCC in assistance with administration and financial management is greatly appreciated. The support of NTCF and of NRDA for a series of collaborations, have also been valuable.

We received a \$5,000 donation from the Kidson Family Trust this year. A grant of \$3,000 was received from the Network Tasman Charitable Trust. Rātā Foundation provided a donation of \$4,000, an amount apparently calculated to support MZ's work with NGOs (but not at this stage with businesses). NTCF made a contribution to the cost of our Behaviour Change workshop.

We received our first funding for a commercial carbon audit and emissions reduction project (described in section 3, above) in April 2024.

Application was made to NCC in June 2024, under a new Contestable Funding scheme, for four projects aimed at reducing carbon emissions. One of these was approved: This is for an exciting and highly relevant project aimed at cutting employee-related commuting emissions (a Scope 3 carbon source). This project will commence in July and will deliver valuable outcomes for the region. The grant will cover direct costs only, however, with no contribution to MZ's general operating costs.

Application for core funding was made to TDC and NCC, under their respective Long Term Plans.

The TDC application was unsuccessful due to the Council's tight financial constraints, but we were advised: ***"We support the 'Mission Zero' work of the BCA Trust and recognise that this provides very useful assistance to small businesses across Te Taihū in measuring and reducing their carbon footprint."*** The Councillors asked that BCA/MZ be encouraged to apply for funding under the TDC Community Grants scheme (since done).

Our NCC submission was extremely well received. At its conclusion, a Councillor said: ***"It is so interesting and exciting to hear what work you're doing. It is so important, climate action and climate change, and that is borne out by the community, by our youth, and you're concentrating on the business community. I'm heartened by your response, you're doing everything! ... We are just over the moon to see this focus on the carbon footprint and climate education."***

However despite this, we understand that no core funding under the Long Term Plan will be available.

For the 2024-25 year, then, there is an urgent need to secure on-going financial support if we are to enable activities to continue at current or similar levels, to build momentum and to grow to meet new and urgent needs in the region.

Financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 are expected to be completed shortly and are likely to show a small loss.

7. CHALLENGES

Four significant challenges for MZ and for local organisations were identified this year:

- Most Te Taihū businesses now appreciate the benefits of being proactive on climate issues, but are struggling to find time, resources and available personnel to focus on these. Our aim is to assist, and to help make this process simple, effective, affordable and collaborative.
- Appreciation of the need to measure and report impacts is being greatly accelerated by NZ's Climate-related Financial Disclosures requirements. While these rules theoretically apply to only about 200 of NZ's largest organisations, the reality is that these large entities prefer to do business with other organisations which are following the same rules, and increasingly customers and the rest of the value chain will expect this. More than 80% of NZ's exports (by value) are now sent to countries with climate-related disclosure rules in force or currently proposed.
<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/business/515485/global-sustainability-standards-impact-new-zealand-exports> Awareness of this need among SMEs will continue to accelerate and drive action. Where possible, we will support, encourage and enable them to act.

- Despite generous *pro bono* assistance from highly skilled experts in a range of fields there was a significant workload for trustees, especially as projects were undertaken for the first time and as time was required for grant applications. Support is always appreciated!
- As at June 2024, BCA/MZ has financial challenges which will need to be resolved early in the 2024-25 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. Options for businesses to pay for services received are under development but it will take some time for these to make a major contribution to our operational costs.

8. LOOKING FORWARD

When BCA won the highly-coveted 2021 Sustainable Business Network award for ‘Communicating for Impact’ 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 now.

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

1. **There is an immediate need for funding to support MZ’s work.** Without on-going financial support the organisation’s current level of activity could be diminished, with current momentum at risk of being reduced or lost. Our focus is on securing operational funding in order to strengthen the organisation for the enhancement of our project streams.
2. In June 2024 the Nelson City Council approved funding for MZ to roll out an **Employee Commuting project** over the period July 2024 to June 2025 (referred to under ‘Finances’, above). NCC had established that *“Transport was the largest GHG emission emitting sector, producing 61.1% of Nelson’s total gross GHG emissions...”*. Through collaboration with local businesses, our project aims to encourage and increase the use of low-emissions transport for commuting to and from work. The project is an exciting one, with real scope for significant emissions and cost savings.
3. **Commercial projects**, such as the review completed for Bowater Motors Ltd, may be undertaken where appropriate.
4. **Other programmes**, as shown in our Strategy Visualisation on p. 3, will also be vigorously pursued, subject to suitable financial support.

We relish the challenges and the opportunities.

TRUSTEES

Florence Van Dyke is Global Head of Sustainability at NZ Trade and Enterprise, based in Wellington. She is co-founder and director of Chia Sisters, a solar-powered, climate-positive, B Corp beverage company based in Nelson. She has a Masters of Laws and in 2023 she was named as one of 9 Global Women Asia Sustainability Fellows. And at the start of 2024 she gave birth to a daughter – our congratulations and a big welcome to little Frida, to the BCA/MZ whanau.



Florence Van Dyke at 2023 NTCC 'Aspire' Conference

Bruce Gilkison is a chartered accountant, and has worked in Canada, East Africa, Scotland, the Pacific and NZ. He was advanced to Fellowship by Chartered Accountants Australia NZ (CA ANZ) in 2021, 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 in Australia and NZ.

Marta Karlik-Neale is an expert in sustainability & environmental management, with MScs in Environmental Science & International Economics. She has over 20 years of professional experience in Europe & NZ, including with several major Councils, Z Energy, Kiwirail, Meridian and Foodstuffs. She specialises in sustainability strategy, mitigation, adaptation, and stakeholder engagement, with a particular focus on climate, carbon and emissions reduction. Marta is currently Sustainability & Resilience Principal with Tonkin + Taylor.

Each of the Trustees found ways to highlight some key Te Taihu 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!



Marta Karlik-Neale, 'Countdown to Zero', 2024

SUPPORTERS – THANK YOU!

Organisations: Nelson City Council, Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce, Nelson Tasman Climate Forum, Nelson Regional Development Agency, Wakatū Inc, Chia Sisters, Kono, Tonkin + Taylor, 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, Fineline Architecture, Minerva Consulting, Fresh Choice Nelson, Genius Pet Food, Whenua Iti Outdoors, Jerram Tocker Barron Architects, Moananui, Little Beauties, Rātā Foundation, Network Tasman Charitable Trust, Bowater Motors Ltd, Kidson Family Trust, NBS, Chapter Zero/Institute of Directors.

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Natalie Gilberd worked for MZ on contract throughout the year. Her energy, creativity, positivity and services 'over and above' have been hugely appreciated.

And many others from our wonderful supportive Te Taihu community for their moral support, energy, enthusiasm, for sharing our goals, and for striving for a better future.



- Images:
1. *'Countdown to Zero' workshop (August 2023)*
 2. *Convoy departure for Marlborough Climate Action week (dawn, 19 Feb 2024)*
 3. *Lunch with Rod Oram (22 February 2024; L to R: Bruce, Natalie, Rod and Marta)*

