

NZ news | Emissions

Low-carbon commute initiative launches second year



Katy Jones | Nelson Mail

September 19, 2026 - 4:00am

Copy Link



Prizes will be handed out along with free coffee at a "colourful community breakfast" marking the second year of the low-carbon commute initiative "Swap One" as part of the Nelson Tasman Climate Action Festival. (File photo)

Photo: BRADEN FASTIER / STUFF / BRADEN FASTIER

Just in

7:00 pm

Christchurch author Gavin Bishop puts the Port Hills on the page in his latest children's picture book

6:59 pm

Scott Barrett makes much anticipated return as Taranaki thump Hawke's Bay

4:24 pm

Bloodied, rain-soaked Wellington Lions hit rock bottom with record NPC losing streak

3:28 pm

"Your sorrow is shared" - Vigil held for Te Awamutu train accident victim

Free coffees, granola and spot prizes await at a "colourful community breakfast" for low-carbon commuters this week, as part of the Nelson Tasman Climate Action Festival.

The breakfast event at the top of Trafalgar St by Nelson's Church Steps on Thursday, marks the launch of the second year of the [Swap One initiative](#), a community-led programme helping make a dent in Nelson's biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions.

Best-dressed individual and team prizes will be handed out for those there by 8am, with people encouraged to wear their "brightest colours or most outrageous costume", and dress up their bike, helmet, scooter, backpack or wheelchair.

Part of efforts to reduce the 60% of Nelson community emissions coming from transport, Swap One encourages people across Nelson Tasman to switch one high-carbon commute each week for a low-carbon alternative, like travelling by bike, bus or foot.

NelsonMail

More local stories from the Nelson Mail

[READ MORE](#)

Participants who [register online](#) can win prizes including a Pic's Peanut Butter prize pack, \$100 of bike maintenance, pilates vouchers, and strength training.

Swap One - run by Nelson Tasman Climate Forum, Mission Zero and Nelsust - accounted for 110,000 kilometres travelled without a petrol or diesel car in its first year, with almost 30 workplaces joining the scheme.

Project lead Jim Sinner said taking part was good for people's health, helped them save money, avoided and improved congestion, as well as taking action to help fight climate change.

"Our message to people is to try it, because we think you'll like it."

The event is part of the city's nine day Nelson Tasman Climate Action Festival, which opened last night, with *A Line in the Sandstone*, a film exploring the Dennistown Plateau on the West Coast.

Topics including ridesharing, the future of rural insurance and how to vote for climate and nature in the coming election, are among those being explored.

Talks, walks, webinars, documentaries and workshops feature among 36 events, including the festival's first climate fiction book exchange.

The full programme can be found at:

<https://www.nelsontasmanclimateforum.nz/2026-climate-action-festival>

- Nelson Mail