NELSON TASMAN CLIMATE FORUM

IMPACT REPORT

2025

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www.nelsontasmanclimateforum.nz

ABOUT US

The Nelson Tasman Climate Forum brings together a wide network of dedicated volunteers, all committed to lowering Earth-warming emissions and finding ways to cool our Planet. It is an open, welcoming community hub and non-partisan support network for those who care about climate action.

The heart of our work is community connection. The Forum advocates for strong climate leadership, help keep climate concerns front-of-mind locally, and nurture climate-action by supporting volunteer-led projects that reduce emissions, strengthen community and celebrate our connection to the natural world.



How do we make change?

We act - We inspire - We engage with leadership

Our calendar is full of events and activities for community building and climate action in Nelson and Tasman. We believe a future with low emissions is one with strong communities, lots of walking and cycling, creativity, camaraderie and plenty of good times.

But more than that:

1. We contribute over 5,500 in volunteer hours toward local climate action

2. We organise a hugely popular annual Climate Action Festival, which runs over 10 days with more than 40 events

3. We run projects and activities such as monthly repair cafes, school programs, webinars, film and discussion evenings, and more.

4. We run regional campaigns, like “Take the Jump”, based on the top seven actions individuals can take for the climate framed within simplicity, support and joy; as well as the “Swap One” campaign, encouraging people to swap one car commute for a bike, bus or walk at least once a week.

5. We write local and national submissions, speak to government committees and collaborate closely with our regional councils.

OUR IMPACT IN 2025

(until end of Nov.)

This year has once again been exceptional in many ways.

We celebrated the growing success and reach of our annual Climate Action Festival, built new momentum in reducing local transport emissions through the "Swap One" and "Travel Friendly" projects, expanded partnerships and fresh approaches to youth engagement via climate education and youth-focused events, and worked closely with our regional councils to shape ambitious, achievable emissions targets in local climate action plans.

At the same time, we strengthened cornerstone projects like "Take the Jump", coordinated a record number of thoughtful submissions to local and national government, kept waste out of landfill through our three thriving Repair Cafés, and hosted community events that helped keep people connected, hopeful, and engaged. Together, these efforts show that climate action in Nelson Tasman is not only possible, but vibrant, collaborative, and full of hope.

A Year In A Nut Shell:

- **A** new youth climate education organisation, Lighthouse Aotearoa.
- The launch of **TWO** active transport campaigns: Swap One and Travel Friendly.
- **THREE** In-person talks (Bicultural Partnership; Trust, Science and Climate Change, Planning for the Future Together) .
- **FOUR** Celebratory public engagement events, including Messages from the Matriarchs, Rhythm of the Earth Solstice Party, the Sustainable Gift and Craft Fair and the monthly Potluck in The Park.
- **FIVE** Climate Change webinars including a Meet the Candidates series.
- A **SIX**-part māori engagement education series led by Peter Lawless.

And some bigger numbers...

- At least **20 submissions** to local and national government on climate change, plus a widely publicised letter to the Prime Minister.
- **41 events** for the annual Climate Action Festival with record attendance and widespread local media coverage.
- **100 Take The Jump ambassadors** have now been through the five-week online training.
- **765 Objects repaired** across three Repair Cafes in Nelson, Motueka and Takaka.

COMMUNITY INTERACTION

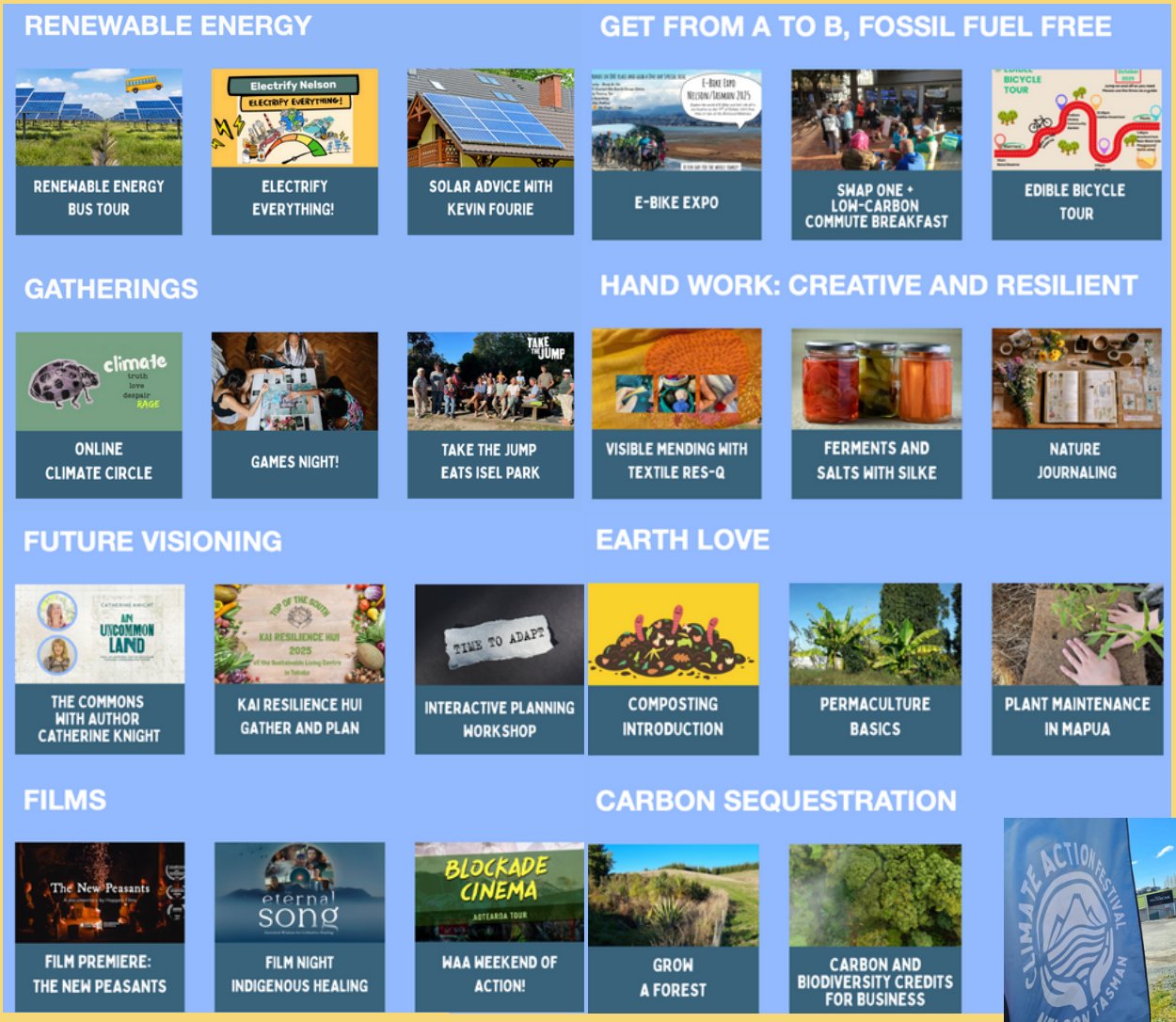
2025 CLIMATE ACTION FESTIVAL

"THE WORLD WE WANT"

The Climate Action Festival brought our community together for 40 hands-on events that encouraged learning, connection, practical action, and deeper conversations about our shared climate future. Participants explored renewable energy, active transport, creativity, resilience, and long-term thinking - especially around food systems, adaptation, and living in closer relationship with our environment and each other.

A wide range of community organisations partnered with us to bring this week to life, demonstrating the power of collaboration and the strength of collective effort. We are deeply grateful to all our partners and the many volunteers whose enthusiasm and hard work made the festival possible. Together, we are stronger.

A snapshot of our different events





Launch of the Festival with Moana du Feu, Joanna Santa Barbara, and Aaron Hemi



Weaving worlds through the spirit of the Commons with Jack Santa Barbara, Catherine Knight and Aneika Young



Climate Adaptation reflections in Stoke led by Marie Becdelièvre



Edible Bike tour - visit to the public orchard at Branford Park (Nelson)



Can Commons Cultures Make a Come Back? With Catherine Knight and Kath Dewar



Webinar with Tom Kay on "Taking care of our rivers in the face of Climate Change"



Bike to Work Breakfast hosted by Swap One



Discovering garden gems as part of the Edible Bike Tour



Victory Community Garden working bee in full swing



Kai Resilience Hui at the Golden Bay Sustainability Centre



Discussing Solar with Kevin from HeapsMoreEnergy



Garden to Kitchen workshop highlighting the joy of making nutritious food



Opening night screening of 'The New Peasants' by Happen Films

TAKE THE JUMP

THESE SHIFTS WILL DELIVER 27% OF THE CHANGE NEEDED

AN ONGOING TAKE THE JUMP CAMPAIGN

The Jump is a climate action campaign that empowers people to try seven shifts that science says individuals can make to have the largest impact on reducing carbon emissions.

The campaign is bright, positive, and about community and inclusivity. It is a joyous, people-led movement, making real change possible.

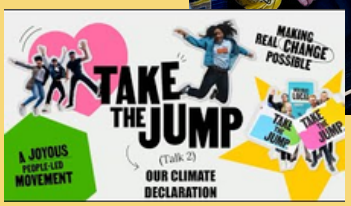
- There are now a total of **100 trained ambassadors**. These include representatives from local Councils, businesses, community groups, education and the health service, half being locals, and half coming from other parts of the country.
- An active WhatsApp group for NZ ambassadors started in March 2024 and continues to grow.
- Social events are now self-organising – a mutually supportive Ambassador community is a reality.
- Several **outreach activities and connections:** Repair Cafe, Enviroschools, Earthminds challenges, Positive Aging Expo, with 2 majors events: a Solstice Rhythm of the Earth celebration and a Sustainable Gift and Craft Christmas fair.
- **3 new rounds of Ambassador trainings**, including one specifically for the national PSA Eco Group.













A special thanks to Chris Wheatley, Scott Nicol and all of the Ambassadors who support Take the Jump

More on Take the Jump HERE

ENCOURAGING ACTIVE TRANSPORT

Transport accounts for 72% of Nelson's emissions, with daily congestion from school and work commutes contributing significantly.

swap one

TRAVEL FRIENDLY
walk · bike
scoot · bus · carpool

For employees

The Swap One campaign is a collaborative initiative to reduce Nelson's greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging residents to replace at least one fossil-fueled journey per week with a sustainable alternative – walking, biking, bussing, carpooling, or working from home.

Developed by the Nelson Tasman Climate Forum, Mission Zero, Enviroschools, and Nelsust, the campaign includes initiatives like public events, business partnerships, a dedicated web portal, drop-in clinics, and an app for tracking progress.

Some Numbers:

- 253 sign ups (a 1/4 of our goal of 1,000!)
- 2278 trips logged
- 26 employers/businesses on board
- 7 commute clinics done or planned
- 1 x low carbon commute breakfast event

Emissions saved so far:
3550kg of CO_2e
That's more than 45 trees absorb in a year!



For students

Travel Friendly is working with schools to make active sustainable travel - like walking, biking, bussing, scooting, and carpooling - easier, safer, and more enjoyable for tamariki and whānau. In 2025, the programme gained strong momentum, with new Nelson schools actively engaged with the project, student-led action underway, and growing partnerships across the region.

Achieved this year:

- 3 Nelson schools on board, and others are in the process
- Tailored school frameworks and resources
- Community engagement and Student co-design
- Strengthened partnerships
- Safety & climate education for students.







NTCF Impact Report
2025

Visit the Swap One website

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Connecting with young people on climate and the environment

This year the Forum began supporting Lighthouse Aotearoa and the regional climate change learning program run by Will Stovall. The mission of Lighthouse Aotearoa is to uplift environmentally conscious young people, providing them with representation to express their visions of a compassionate, sustainable future. The Forum's contribution includes collaboration on a number of events during the year and admin and financial support through Tasman Environmental Trust.

- In May, Lighthouse rangatahi presented to elected members on how the Nelson City Council Climate Change Strategy can best incorporate the needs and wellbeing of young people and future generations

- In June, Lighthouse hosted it's first Intergenerational Conversations event, which brought together 72 community members including youth, the Nelson Mayor, local councillors and staff, and community members of all ages.

- In September, fifteen young people from Lighthouse joined a similar sized group from Ōtautahi, Christchurch at Mistletoe Bay in the Marlborough Sounds for a 'Climate Futures Summit and Camp'.

- In October, Lighthouse hosted a screening of the youth climate action film 'Future Council'. Seventy-five people of all ages attended and four Lighthouse rangatahi answered questions and shared their voices with movie goers.











More on Lighthouse Aotearoa HERE

3 THRIVING REPAIR CAFES

Repair Cafes allow members of the public to receive help with repairing used items, reducing waste to landfill and learning new skills together.

The Forum can now count three Repair Cafes in action, run by their members, as well as supporting volunteers.

Nelson and Motueka Repair Cafe are run monthly while the Mohua Repair Cafe runs once every 2 months.

Nelson - Motueka - Tākaka





















- A FEW STATS -

Waste diverted

1471 kg

which equates to around 11734 kg of CO_2 emissions prevented.

Number of objects repaired

765

Number of Repair Cafe events

25

Nelson Repair Cafe
Motueka Repair Cafe
Mohua Repair Cafe

PUBLIC EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE FORUM

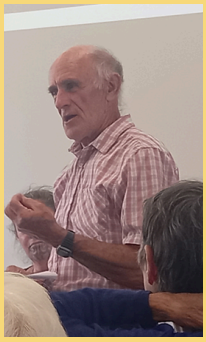
We host public events to bring our community together, share practical tools for climate action, and strengthen relationships that support a resilient, low-carbon future. These events help us connect as a community, learn new skills, and turn shared concern into meaningful action.

IN PERSON GATHERINGS

February 2025 - Face to face gathering with Hina Moses-Te Kani (Ngāti Kuia) and Ian Shapcott titled "Community Korero: Growing towards a Successful Bicultural Partnership".







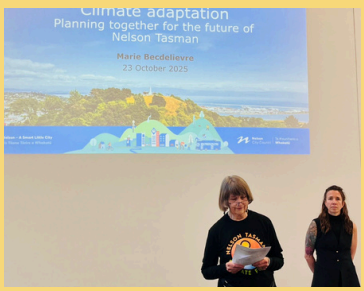
March 2025 - Face to face event with Jonathan Boston titled "Trust, Science and Climate Change".





October 2025 - Face to face event with Marie Becdelievre titled "Planning and Adapting for the Future Together"





WEBINARS









- **Tackling the twin crises of biodiversity and climate across our region -** Debs Martin - Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance (KMTT) - April 2025
- **Adaptation titled "Top down and bottom up: we need them both" -** June 2025
- **Taking care of our rivers in the face of climate change with Tom Kay -** October 2025
- **We Can Meet Nelson's Climate Targets - Here's How -** October 2025

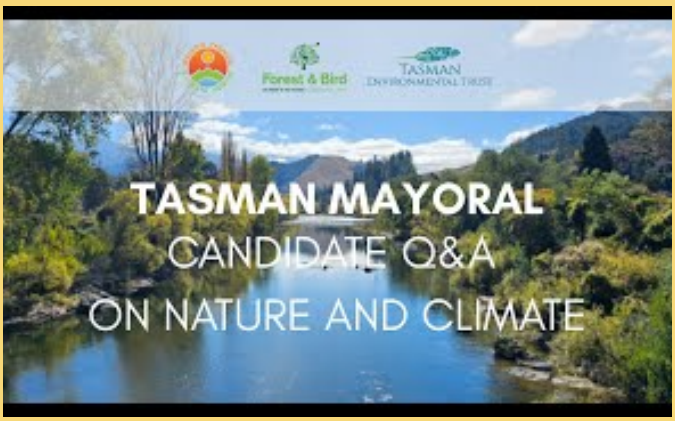
Subscribe to our Youtube Channel HERE

BRAINSTORMING SESSION

Online gathering about the Nelson City Council Climate Strategy titled "Give feedback on NCC's new climate plan - online brainstorming session" - April 2025



MEET THE CANDIDATES MEETINGS





AND BY ITS MEMBERS



Messages from the Matriarchs - May 2025

Six great communicators told their stories of wildlife encounters, epic journeys, and personal epiphany, all backed up by brilliant visuals.

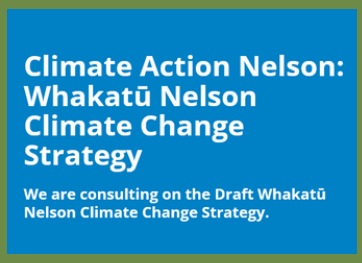
Thank you to Jace Hobbs and the wonderful storytellers who made this event so special.



Solstice Celebration - June 2025

A rhythm-filled afternoon with tap dance, West African percussion with dancers, games and more to celebrate our special connection with the Earth and the Take the Jump movement

Thank you to Robin Schiff and Joost van Rens for the vision and organisation, and to all the Take the Jump Ambassadors involved to make this event a success.



Whakatū Nelson Climate Change Strategy - April 2025

Active engagement from our volunteers to the conversations organised by the Council around this Strategy.

Thanks to David Ayre and Joanna Santa Barbara for coordinating our members' participation.



June to November 2025

film & discussion series.

The Motueka Community Film Circle screened films that reflected the challenges and possibilities presented by global and local issues, and created space for sharing feelings and ideas about how we can work together as a community to create local responses.

Thank you to Ali Santa Barbara, Louise Perzigian and Marlène Moreau for keeping this monthly space of community connection alive and ongoing.



November 2025

Our Take the Jump local Ambassadors built a meaningful partnership with Nelson Environment Center to offer a Sustainable Gift and Craft Fair, which will was full of creativity, community and low-waste goodness.

Thank you to the Nelson Environment Centre for organising and collaborating with Take the Jump on this event.

POLICY FOCUS

INFLUENCING DECISION MAKING AT THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL WITH OVER 20 SUBMISSIONS

The System Change group has continued to coordinate submissions work, including: digesting documents, submitting on behalf of the Forum or one of its groups, encouraging members to submit individually drafting guides, and making oral presentations.

Beyond the Systems Change group, the Forum's Nature and Climate group is also very active in writing submissions.



Find all the submissions on our website HERE.

OVERVIEW OF THE SUBMISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES WE RESPONDED TO THIS YEAR:

- Treaty Principles Bill - NZ Parliament - January 2025
- Regulatory Standards Bill - Ministry for Regulation - January 2025
- Modernising conservation land management: proposed updates to the concessions and planning system - DOC - February 2025
- Exploring charging for access to some public conservation land - DOC - February 2025
- Adjustments to the climate-related disclosures regime - MBIE - February 2025
- Nelson Tasman Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2025 - NCC and TDC - March 2025
- New ways to empower electricity consumers - Electricity Authority - March 2025
- Consumer Guarantees (Right to Repair) Amendment Bill - NZ Parliament April 2025 (two submissions, by the Whakatū Nelson and Motueka Repair cafés)
- Whakatū Nelson Climate Change Strategy - NCC - April 2025
- Waste Minimisation and Litter Act - NZ Parliament - May 2025
- TDC Annual Plan 2025/26 – TDC – May 2025
- TDC Waimea/Waimeha River Park Management Plan: TDC, June 2025
- NZ biodiversity strategy implementation - DOC - June 2025
- Predator Free 2050 strategy review, 2025-2030 - DOC - June 2025
- Freshwater National Direction - July 2025
- Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill: NZ Parliament, August 2025
- Submission on Fast-track Approvals Amendment Bill - NZ Parliament, November 2025 + oral presentation

Thank you to everyone involved, and a special thanks to Fred Overmars for coordinating this work.

EMISSIONS TARGETS AND POLICY

Supporting ambitious emissions targets in the new Nelson City Council Climate Change Strategy and demonstrating their achievability

A Forum group continues to work towards providing the rate of annual decrease in GHG emissions that is needed by our region to provide some probability of keeping us below 1.5 degrees of heating.

The group has worked in two phases this year:

1. Advocating for ambitious regional emissions reductions targets that matched the IPCC's estimation of what would be required to remain at a global temperature of no more than 1.5 degrees heating.

=> 8.3% each year for long-lived gases (carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide) and 1.5% each year for methane at the time of calculation. Those ambitious targets were successfully adopted by the Council in July 2025 but with some doubts expressed within the Council.

2. Demonstrating the achievability and affordability of those targets

=> Measures focus strongly on transport changes (responsible for 70% of Nelson's Ghg), with changes in industry and housing sectors as well.

More info =>





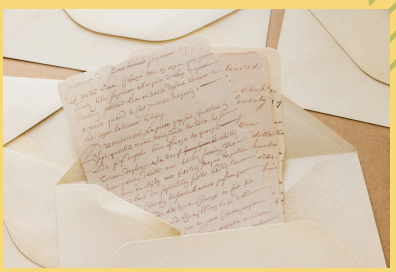
Thank you to all those involved, and in particular to Joanna Santa Barbara, group convenor

And on the project page HERE

INFLUENCING DECISION MAKING WITH LETTERS AND STATEMENTS

Letter to the Prime Minister on mitigating the need for a future government apology

The Nelson Tasman Climate Forum, together with 34 specialists, has urged the Prime Minister to take adequate action on mitigating the unfolding climate emergency, and in doing this, avoid the need for a future government apology.



Letter available HERE



Letter to the Minister of Transport about the policy directions on 'Increasing the private share of public transport expenditure'

Letter to Minister David Seymour about Climate friendly school meals



WEAll Aotearoa
WELLBEING ECONOMY ALLIANCE

Signature of the Tomorrow Together Charter

Find all our Letters/Statements HERE

AND...

JAMES RENWICK BECOMES THE FIRST HONORARY MEMBER OF THE CLIMATE FORUM



James Renwick, a locally famous climate change communicator and professor of physical geography at Victoria University, has accepted an invitation from the The Leadership Group of the Nelson Tasman Climate Forum to be its first Honorary Member.
The Climate Forum wished to acknowledge Renwick's support since its inception in 2020 on various advocacy projects.
"*We established the role of Honorary Membership for the purpose of expressing our gratitude to you, and I imagine in future may invite others to this role, but you are the first*" - Co-chair Joanna Santa Barbara.

ENGAGEMENT WITH OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

Improving public engagement in general

Ongoing exploration of new modes of public engagement in climate action, such as Citizens' Assemblies and online deliberative processes.



Engaging positively with Māori in Te Tau Ihu



Following our wish to deepen our understanding of the Māori worldview and Te Tiriti o Waitangi partnership, and to develop the capacity of the Nelson Tasman Climate Forum community to engage positively with Māori in Te Tau Ihu o Te-Waka-a-Māui, the Forum held another Māori Engagement Training in February.

The forum also held a well-attended Community Kōrero to reflect on navigating bicultural relationships in restoration work, with Hina Moses-Te Kani (Ngāti Kuia) and Ian Shapcott.



Nature and Climate

Snowden's Bush Restoration

The Friends of Snowden's Bush, supported by members of the Forum's Nature and Climate Group, held their annual planting day with Brightwater School and Pinegrove Kindy but otherwise focused on maintaining the plantings from the past four years. Thanks to a successful quiz night and grants secured through Te Tauihu Environment Trust, the group is well-resourced for upcoming work, including plants already ordered for winter 2026.





Nelson and Tasman Biodiversity Forums

In addition to the numerous submissions to which it responded, the Forum's Nature and Climate group was also instrumental in advocating - over the last 4 years - for the Nelson and Tasman Biodiversity Forums' joint event on Climate Change and Biodiversity that was held in October, to ensure that climate change is being taken into account by Councils, DOC and others across our region.

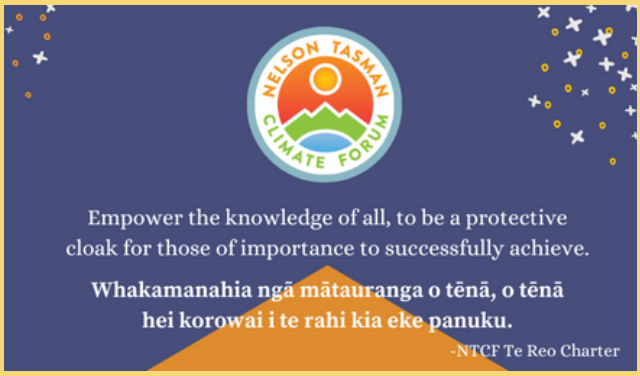
With 9 key climate change - biodiversity speakers from around the country, more than 90 participants and several organisations represented, it was a significant event that will help guide future activities.

Fiona Ede also represents the Forum in the Nelson Biodiversity Forum, attending 4 meetings a year, and making the bridge with Forum's activities.

ALL THIS (AND MORE) COMMUNICATED THROUGH

12+ info-packed newsletters

With the latest regional news and events for our climate-concerned community.



Emailed to +1311 subscribers and shared with social media followers

All available HERE

A thriving and growing social media community: Facebook Followers grew past 1020 in 2025.

And a presence in the media

Some of the highlights:


8 Wednesday 22 October 2025 News Nelson

Commuters urged to swap out car

MAX FRETHEY
Local Democracy Reporter

Jim Sinner is leading a new initiative, Swap One, that aims to get commuters out of their car one day a week. Photo: Max Frethey.

[Hundreds turn out for community e-bike expo]

[Cawthron Institute head walks the talk to reduce environmental footprint]

[Government 'wilfully blind' on climate change, specialists say]

[City's 'momentous' climate change plan]

[Community's toughest GHG emissions reduction target gains support]

NTCF Impact Report
2025

A big Thank you

to all our volunteers and funders who make it possible!

Nelson City Council | Te Kaunihera o Whakatū

Our gratitude for taking care of our main operational costs, helping to support projects, and funding the Nelson Repair Cafe.

tasman district council | Te Kaunihera o te tai o Aorere

Our gratitude for supporting the Motueka and Mohua Repair cafes and environmental education in Tasman schools.

TASMAN ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

Our gratitude for hosting us, being our funding and administrative hub, and for all the back office work.









Photo Credit: Charley Cross and event organisers