NELSON TASMAN CLIMATE FORUM
2026

Building our strengths. Opening new possibilities.

IMPACT REPORT

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Ngā mihi nui to Nelson City Council, our major funder for making this mahi happen.

Nelson City Council | Te Kaunihera o Whakatū









Climate Action in Nelson Tasman

The Nelson Tasman Climate Forum Incorporated 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.



We Act - We Inspire - We Engage with Leadership

CLIMATE ACTION FESTIVAL

More than 30 events over 10 days, designed to introduce new ideas, raise awareness of climate change and encourage action in our community.

SWAP ONE

Swap One is a programme that encourages people and workplaces to swap car trips for lower-carbon travel options such as walking, cycling, e-biking, public transport, carpooling, or working from home. Participants log their trips, track emissions reductions, and can win prizes and awards.

TRAVEL FRIENDLY

Local schools are given support as they encourage local families to get to school via active or public transport.

REPAIR CAFES

Three regular repair cafes take place in Nelson, Motueka and Mohua golden Bay.

LIGHTHOUSE AOTEAROA

A programme to educate and empower local youth who are interested in climate change.

TAKE THE JUMP CAMPAIGN

Take the Jump is a global framework that identifies the top six actions individuals can take for the climate.

SUBMISSIONS AND ADVOCACY

The Forum submits and presents to local and national government on climate issues. Advocacy activity increased in 2026 due to the local election cycle, creating more opportunities to influence policy and engage elected representatives on climate action.



2026: Strengthening our Core Work

This has been a year of reflection and renewal for the Forum as we transitioned to an Incorporated Society. We said farewell to our long-serving Volunteer and Funding Coordinator, Christina Simkanin, and welcomed Lucy Byrne into the new role of Strategy and Relationship Lead.

The 2026 Climate Action Festival reached new heights, attracting more event applications than ever before and achieving record attendance. Our active travel programmes, Swap One and Travel Friendly, continued to grow in both reach and public awareness. Lighthouse Aotearoa carried on its educational work in schools, while also seeing young participants develop into confident and effective advocates and public speakers on climate change.

Meanwhile, Repair Cafés remained popular gathering places, bringing communities together to share skills, reduce waste and give old items a new lease on life.





CLIMATE ACTION FESTIVAL

"OUR PLACE OUR POWER"



A wide range of community organisations partnered with us to bring the 10 days to life, highlighting the value of collaboration and what we can achieve by working together. We are grateful to all our partners and the many volunteers whose energy, commitment and hard work made the festival possible.

- **35 Events over 10 days**
- **1200+ attendees**
- **20+ organisations involved**
- **4,600 online engagements during the festival**



FESTIVAL TESTIMONALS 2026

“Wonderful festival with fantastic range of events, well done.”

“Thank you for all the effort and support you put into bringing the community together”

“It was such a rich programme this year.”

“Kei te mihinui kia koutou mo tēnei wheako. Huge thanks for this experience”

“This festival is a great initiative. So heartening to see so many contributors and know there are many folk making a difference in this space. ”

Film Screenings **Sustainable Home**
Tours Nature Walks **Restoration**
Activities Gardening Workshops **Repair**
Cafés Active Transport **Climate**
Resilience Talks Community Forums
Environmental Education Leadership
Workshops
Live Music Family Activities **Shared**
Meals Waste Reduction

CLIMATE ACTION FESTIVAL
NELSON TASMAN

ADVOCACY FOR CLIMATE

SUBMISSIONS

The Forum's Submissions 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. 2026 has counted nine submissions to central government and bodies, and three to local governments.

Find all the submissions on our website HERE.

EMISSIONS TARGET AND POLICY

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 Targets Group pursued two major objectives during 2026: The first was to work to convince NCC Councillors that the target of 8.3% emissions reduction annually was achievable. We engaged with the Joint Advisory Committee on Climate Change, and corresponded with NCC councillors on this matter and made several public forum presentations to NCC.
Our second area of action was in pursuit of our insistence that informed citizen input to decision-making was crucial to making changes proportionate to the need to reduce emissions. We advocated the use of participatory deliberative democracy, and arranged a workshop for NCC Councillors to learn about this process.

More info on the project page HERE

DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY PUBLIC TALK

This is an era in which decisions on response to climate change must be made at all levels, from household to intergovernmental. These decisions have immense importance to the future of humanity, and many of them involve difficult trade-offs. It's also a time of declining trust in democracy. The Climate Forum is especially interested in decisions at a local government level, and champions participatory deliberative democracy and its implementation in Citizens' Assemblies and in digital polls such as Pol.is and Consider.it.

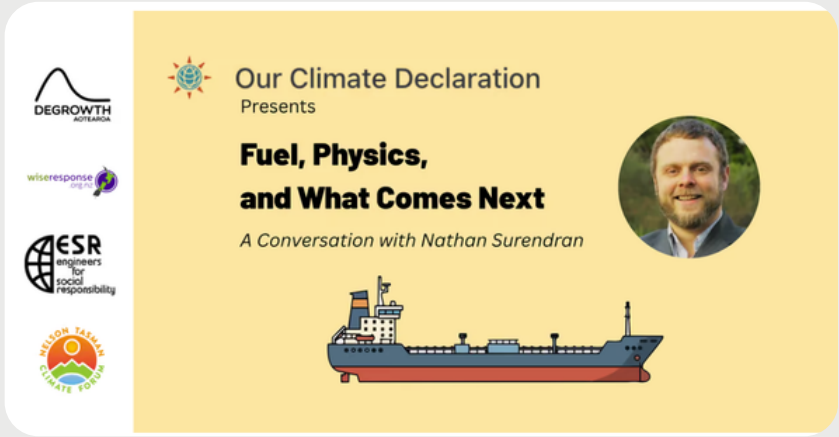
Funding from Friends of the Earth was applied to bringing two practitioner-academics from the University of Auckland, Anne Bardsley and Kristiann Allen, to deliver a workshop on these methods to the councillors of Nelson City Council and for a public meeting. They drew a full house for their public talk. Forum member John-Paul Pochin has made a film of these events, currently in development, and for use to promote deliberative democracy to other local governments.

We partnered with two other organisations, Resilienz and Trust Democracy, in this initiative.

We hope to do similar events in Tasman and Marlborough in the coming year.

FUEL SHORTAGES AND RESILIENCE WEBINAR

The Forum co-hosted a webinar about strategies for resilience as fuel prices increase, featuring Nathan Surendran of the Wise Response Society.





ELECTION 2026

Nature can't vote, but you can

As the Climate Action Festival came to a close, the Forum turned its attention to the election, encouraging voters to consider climate and nature issues when casting their votes.

The Forum co-hosted two Meet the Candidates events in partnership with Forest & Bird, giving the public an opportunity to hear directly from candidates on key environmental issues. Short video clips highlighting candidates' responses were then shared on social media, alongside a wider campaign to raise awareness of climate and nature issues in the lead-up to election day. Some of its members also organised private meetings with candidates to highlight the importance of Nature and Climate.

VOTE FOR NATURE AND CLIMATE SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN



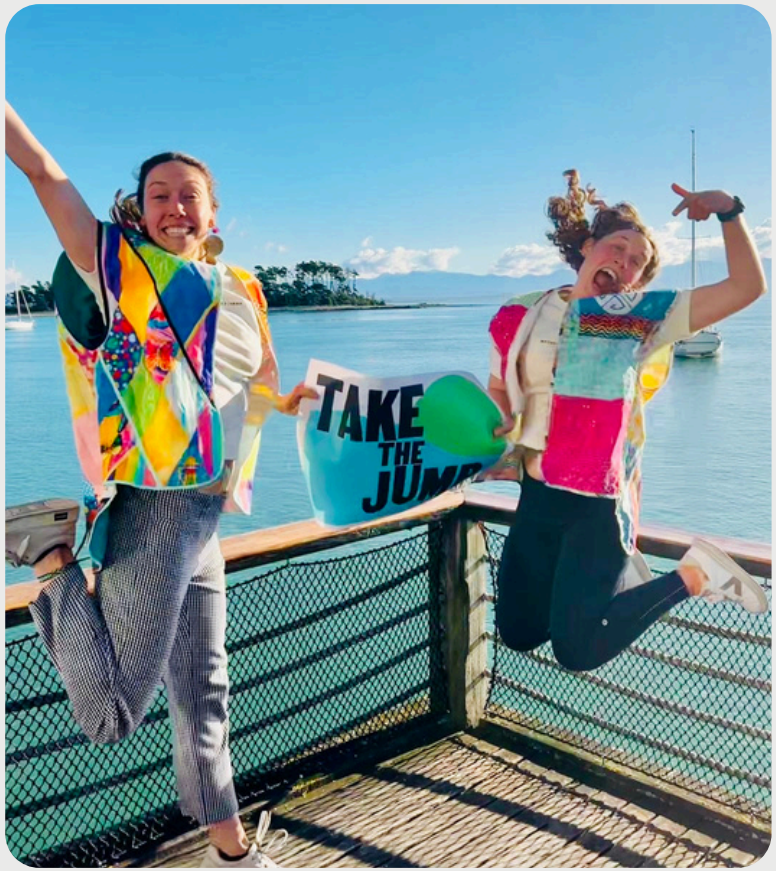




TAKE THE JUMP CAMPAIGN

The Forum adopted the Take The Jump (TTJ) programme in 2022 as a community-led behaviour change initiative, delivering ambassador training and public engagement activities that support lower-carbon lifestyles and empower local climate action. The Forum has applied for funding to deliver another TTJ ambassador training programme in early 2027.

- TTJ has an active WhatsApp community chat for those who have completed the ambassador training
- The Forum use the programme as a tool for community engagement, helping people take action in areas such as travel, consumption, food, and energy use rather than focusing only on policy advocacy



TAKE THE JUMP

To find out more, check out the TTJ website **here**

ACTIVE TRANSPORT PROGRAMMES

swap one

Swap One: For individuals and employees

Swap One is a programme that encourages people and workplaces to swap car trips for lower-carbon travel options such as walking, cycling, e-biking, public transport, carpooling, or working from home. Participants log their trips, track emissions reductions, and can win prizes and awards.

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

Total impact so far:

- 450 users
- 21,724 trips logged
- 36 businesses particpating
- 10 commute clinics
- 5 low carbon commute breakfasts



Emissions avoided 40.3 tonnes of CO2e. That's the annual emissions of about 22 average petrol cars driven for a full year.

ACTIVE TRANSPORT PROGRAMMES

Travel Friendly: For schools

Travel Friendly works with schools to make walking, biking, scooting, bussing and carpooling easier, safer and more enjoyable for tamariki and whānau. In 2026 the programme grew from three Nelson schools to five, with a sixth signed up for 2027. We secured funding to expand into Tasman and took the case for safer routes to school directly to Nelson City Council.



Total impact so far:

- Five Nelson schools engaged in the Travel Friendly programme.
- Students designed and led active travel projects in their schools and communities.
- Secured funding to expand Travel Friendly into Tasman through 2026-27.
- Four Tasman schools committed to join the programme.
- Presented to Nelson City Council and coordinated a joint letter to councillors.
- Advocacy supported by schools, Bike Hub Nelson, and Te Whatu Ora.
- Enner Glynn School students featured in Nelson Mail coverage.
- Supported submissions on the Ministry of Education curriculum refresh.
- Supported submissions on proposed NZTA changes.
- Supported advocacy for the east-west cycleway.



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Connecting with young people on climate and the environment

The Climate Forum provides administrative, governance, and financial support to Lighthouse Aotearoa and Will Stovall, enabling fundraising and funding applications through the Nelson Tasman Climate Forum Incorporated structure to support delivery of the Future Curious climate education programme, youth leadership camps, and youth climate advocacy initiatives.





Impact in 2026:

- 40 members
- Innovate for a better world event
- Kai Rescue volunteering
- Council presentations to both Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council
- Climate Matters - Radio Interview
- Film Screening - The Lorax
- Meet the Candidates meeting
- Tasman District Council Youth Voice for Change workshop

Find out more about Lighthouse Aotearoa, **here**.

LIGHTHOUSE AOTEAROA
He rama arahi

REPAIR CAFES

Nelson - Motueka - Tākaka

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

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





Nelson Repair Cafe
Motueka Repair Cafe
Mohua Repair Cafe

NELSON IMPACT

Waste diverted
502 kg, Equivalent to 4,700 kg of CO2e

Objects repaired
219 items

Repair Cafes hosted
10

COMMUNICATING CLIMATE ACTION

The Forum's monthly newsletter keeps members and the wider community informed, connected, and engaged by sharing climate action updates, promoting events and opportunities, highlighting local successes, and encouraging participation in advocacy and community-led initiatives.

Impact:

- 1,350 subscribers
- Published 10 monthly newsletters to date, with two further editions planned before the end of 2026
- All previous published newsletters can be found here.



IN THE MEDIA

- Swap One featured in Nelson and Tasman
- Wakapuaka mouri article in Nelson magazine
- Article about Mirena Iosefa speech at CAF 2026 opening night.
- Low-carbon commute initiative Swap One launches second year
- Climate Action Festival Coverage



14 Wednesday 16 September 2026 News Nelson Weekly

Climate action close to home

Over the next two weeks, homes, theatres and community spaces around Nelson will open their doors for conversations about solar, affordable and efficient home building, gardening and native forests.

It's all part of Nelson's fifth annual Climate Action Festival, which returns this year from 18-27 September, with the theme Our Place, Our Power.

Dozens of events are planned across the region. People can plant a tree and listen to live music at the Wakapuaka Mouri restoration project, learn about composting or take in one of five films in the festival.

Young people will gather to talk about climate justice, while other events will look at nature, careers, politics and the choices facing voters.

Further afield in Golden Bay, participants will be taken on a tour of comfortable high performance homes with a low environmental footprint.

Closer to home, locals can attend Nelson's first ever 'Watt's Inside' event, where homeowners welcome small groups into their homes for a conversation about life with solar power.

The connection between people and place runs through the festival this year.

"Climate change can often leave people feeling a bit like spectators. When people know their local environment, know the people around them and can see the practical things they can do, climate action becomes much more tangible," says Joanna Santa Barbara, co-chair of the Nelson Tasman Climate Forum, which coordinates the festival.

"We want people to come away having learned something useful, met someone new and feeling more connected to their place, their neighbours and their community."

The festival is very much community-run, she says.

"People come forward with the things they care about and the skills and ideas they want to share."

The festival this Friday, with a screening of Line in the Sandstone at The Suter followed by a panel with people involved in efforts to protect the Denniston Plateau.

The programme can be found at www.ntcf.nz



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



For more than 30 years, locals have been quietly working to restore the Wakapuaka Awa. From thousands of native plantings to wetlands, wildlife and swimming holes, *Adrienne Matthews* met with some of people helping bring this much-loved river back to life – and creating a greener legacy for generations to come.

Rivers are far more than water finding its way to the sea. They carry the story of a landscape through centuries. They sustain wildlife, feed wetlands and estuaries, provide water and create places where generations of children can swim, explore and learn about their environment. They cross property boundaries without noticing them, stitching a landscape together, carrying water, wildlife and the consequences of everything that happens along their banks.

North of Nelson, the Wakapuaka Awa makes a roughly

seeing 18 trout. There were deep swimming holes and more water moving through the system. One fishing guide regularly brought clients to the Ross Road section because of the quality of the fishing. Sometimes the river seethed with so many eels you couldn't see the bottom. Jan and Robert remember taking their own children to swim at Paremata Flats, where youngsters could leap from the bank into a deep pool below.

Over time, much changed. Water extraction, sediment, stock, septic systems, forestry, invasive vegetation and major floods

A big thank-you

to all our volunteers and funders who make it possible!



Nelson City Council
Te Kaunihera o Whakatū

tasman district council | Te Kaunihera o te tai o Aorere

Te Tauihu Environment Trust

Follow us on social media