

Policy:	Sustainability Policy
Department:	Assets
Approved by:	Policy and Services Committee
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1. Introduction

1.1 This is the Council's first *Sustainability Policy*.

1.2 This policy recognises that sustainability is a journey, not a destination. It is not a point that is reached, but a process of continual improvement, where the district adapts and responds to changes over time, recognising the essential connections among the four well-beings.

1.3 Sustainability is meeting the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

1.4 The key Legislative drivers are the:

- a. Local Government Act (LGA) 2002, s3 Purpose - The purpose of the LGA is to provide for democratic and effective local government that recognises the diversity of New Zealand communities; and, to that end, this Act. (d) provides for local authorities to play a broad role in promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of their communities, ***taking a sustainable development approach***
- b. Aotearoa New Zealand's first National Adaptation Plan (NAP) August 2022 and Aotearoa New Zealand's first Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) May 2022. From 30 November 2022, it becomes a legal requirement for local government to '***have regard to***' these plans when they prepare or change a regional policy statement, regional plan or district plan.
- c. The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019. In Section 5ZW and Part (8) (b) of this legislation, Councils are required to report to the Minister of Climate Change on climate change adaptation activities.

2. Purpose

2.1 The purpose of this policy is to set the Stratford District Council's intended position on ***Sustainability***.

2.2 This policy presents a framework for applying a sustainability lens on all Council's decisions. It proposes ***Principles*** that establish guiding behaviour and decisions, and clear ***Objectives*** to achieve those principles.

2.3 This policy will inform and enable the development of Council's first ***Sustainability Strategy*** which will:

- Enable resilience and adaptation to extreme weather events; and
- Ensure the district's natural resources are used efficiently and with a long-term sustainable development approach.
- Ensure that council activities take into account the principles of this policy

3. Scope

3.1 This policy will apply to Council and all its External Providers.

3.2 It is anticipated that council officers will consider and apply this policy to all decisions, proposals, services and functions of council.

4. Principles and Objectives

4.1 While all four Community Outcomes in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan (LTP) of **Welcoming, Resilient, Connected & Enabling** interconnect, only the **Resilient** Community Outcome directly refers to sustainability, as it relates to this policy.

4.2 This Policy has transformed the '**Resilient**' Outcome Statements into **Guiding Principles**, with clear **Objectives** developed to demonstrate and achieve the guiding principles.

	Guiding Principles	Objectives
1	<p>Guiding Principle 1</p> <p>We consider our natural resources as taonga (treasures), and we will work with our treaty partners and the community to protect and look after them.</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Empower and assist our community to reduce waste. ○ Protect and enhance local biodiversity by protecting and preserving natural habitats, and ecosystems. ○ Promote, resilient and sustainable, adaptive land use practices.
2	<p>Guiding Principle 2:</p> <p>We support a low-emissions future for our community</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work towards reducing our carbon footprint. ○ Empower and facilitate ways for our community to reduce waste.
3	<p>Guiding Principle 3:</p> <p>We enable our rangatahi (youth) to be sustainable leaders</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Demonstrate leadership in sustainability and role model sustainable behaviour. ○ When making decisions, take account of the impact on future generations. ○ Involve young people in sustainability projects.
4	<p>Guiding Principle 4:</p> <p>We strive to have resilient infrastructure that meets the current and future needs of the district</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When scoping and designing infrastructure projects ensure the needs of the future community are considered. ○ Encourage sustainable procurement practices and follow best practice.
5	<p>Guiding Principle 5:</p> <p>We respect and apply Te Ao Māori values and Mātauranga Māori (knowledge) in our mahi (actions/work)</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop close working relationships with Mana Whenua ○ Build partnerships and sustainability projects that create reciprocal benefits.