

Catalysing the Waikato Wellbeing targets into action

A Waikato Wellbeing Project guide produced
on the occasion of the **Waikato Wellbeing Summit**



**Waikato
wellbeing
project** | Hinonga
toiora o
Waikato

Contents

Rārangi upoko

Welcome

A. Activities and notes

B. For reference

C. Getting involved

Waikato Wellbeing Summit

Attended by the Prime Minister
Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

February 14 2020

The Arena, Claudelands Event Centre

Kirikiri-roa / Hamilton





Welcome

Nau mai, haere mai

Our opportunity

Here in the Waikato, we have a remarkable opportunity – an opportunity to realise the powerful possibilities of our region: to sustainably develop a region of abundance.

Our summit is a call to action – a call to amplify and accelerate effort that has turned global goals into local targets, and now needs to catalyse those targets into action.

We have an opportunity to rejuvenate a holistic narrative of interrelatedness and inter-generational wellbeing that has existed at the heart of te ao Māori (the Māori world view) for centuries –

and develop that narrative to embrace the challenges of today's complex international world.

Our project is the first of its kind in Aotearoa / New Zealand, and involves collaboration with regional iwi, business, industry groups, central and local government, tertiary education providers, economic development agencies, community organisations and citizens – working in partnership with and in alignment with te ao Māori.

About this guide

This guide has the following three sections.

A Activities and notes

We'll prompt you to use this section during the day to explore your thinking in response to some activities.

B For reference

Use this section if you'd like to read more about our purpose for this work, our approach, and our targets.

C Getting involved

What happens next? Where do we go from here? What can you do to help?

The Waikato Wellbeing Project is led by WEL Energy Trust and Waikato Regional Council with oversight from the Waikato Plan and support from Waikato Tainui, Trust Waikato, Hamilton City Council, D.V. Bryant Trust, The University of Waikato NAR Foundation and Momentum Waikato.



B. For reference – our purpose

Tā tātou pūtake

Waikato wellbeing is our journey and our responsibility

The Waikato Wellbeing Project is a regional initiative to achieve a more environmentally sustainable, prosperous, and inclusive Waikato region by 2030.

The purpose of our initiative is to systematically foster a regional movement that will, over the next 10 years, deliver on our collective responsibility to achieve a better and more sustainable tomorrow.

We started this exciting journey in 2019, in partnership and alignment with te ao Māori (the Māori world), through building strategic support before embarking on wide-spread engagement and collaboration.

During that engagement, we first defined what a more environmentally sustainable, prosperous, and inclusive Waikato looks like to us, the people of the Waikato. Then we shaped those aspirations for our places,

people, and livelihoods into a small set of definitive, far-reaching targets.

Now, in 2020, it is time to take the next step on this journey together: from targets to results, from good intentions to positive actions.

Everyone has a role to play

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a globally-recognised framework and common language for action.

These 17 goals form a bold, universal agreement to end poverty and craft an equal, just and secure world by 2030. Our targets also align with the reinstating of the four aspects of community well-being – social, economic, environmental and cultural – into the mandated purpose of local and central Government, and leverage community support for working together toward a sustainable future where we are resilient to changes and can take advantage of global opportunities.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



More information: sustainabledevelopment.un.org

Our indigenous perspective of sustainable wellbeing

Te ao Māori acknowledges the interconnectedness and interrelationship of all living and non-living things.

Māori have a distinct cultural identity and perspective that recognises whole systems and calls for holistic wellbeing to be transferred through generations — pillars of sustainable development thinking. This perspective is supported by deeply-held values, including:

- **kaitiakitanga**
(the view that the earth is taonga — a gift — and that we all share guardianship of the land, sea, and sky)
- **kotahitanga**
(unity through vision and voice)
- **manaakitanga**
(the process of showing respect, generosity, and care for others)

Accordingly, iwi and hapū are innately motivated to maintain and uphold these responsibilities, and this is reflected in strategic plans that recognise the importance of tribal history, mātauranga (knowledge), tikanga (protocols), and reo (language).

Māori look to the past to determine the future, and consider the impact of actions for many generations to come. This is a Māori perspective of sustainable wellbeing.

The Waikato Wellbeing Project has identified shared targets for our region's wellbeing. The principles are similar to the cultural narrative and importance of protecting the special cultural, historical and spiritual relationship of iwi and their taonga.

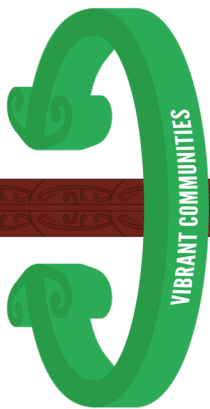
Te pou

As part of our unique Waikato wellbeing movement, we have grouped the 17 SDGs around te pou (a post or pillar) within the three spheres of strong sustainability.

The environment sits at the base, because without a **healthy environment** (he taiao mauriora) there can be no healthy people.

Society is next, because without **vibrant communities** (he hapori hihiri) of healthy people, there can be no economic activity.

A strong economy (he ōhanga pakari) is the final tier, and is wholly dependent on the healthiness of the first two tiers. These are the goals that relate to our livelihoods.



B. For reference – our approach

Tā tātou e whai nei

The path to our wellbeing targets

To develop the wellbeing targets, our underlying approach was to leverage from existing research, data, and subject matter experts within our region within three core areas – the environment, community, and economy – via a range of facilitated consultation.

When defining the targets, we considered the potential impact, viability, feasibility, and work that is currently underway that by applying more energy to, could have greater effect.



Our Approach

To mātou aronga



Building on existing research in collaboration with local expertise and project champions

B. For reference – our givens

Tā tātou e mōhio nei

For our movement to continue to build momentum, while delivering long-term benefits to the people of the Waikato region, we cannot afford to spend time and energy ‘going round in circles’. We have identified a set of givens we must all adopt if we are to catalyse our promises into action:

- We cannot afford to just talk – let’s not let ego, busyness, or other priorities get in the way of real action leading to positive change.
- We must ground our work in te ao Māori, and to shift our worldview energy from siloes to interconnectedness, and to shift from an economic framework that measures only profits, to one that cares about profitable impacts.
- We’re taking a systems approach. The targets are interrelated, by achieving one target we will have a positive impact on a whole lot of things that matter.
- The Waikato Wellbeing targets do not displace any other individual or

organizational targets. We will all still have our priority areas of work. These targets are a tool to help us see the whole system, and to work together more to achieve a common goal.

- We must commit to measure and report on our progress against the targets.
- This collaborative work must be supported!
- We are all leaders in this work.
- We need to stay the course because this work will be tidal — at times messy, sandy, boggy, at a low ebb — and at times pacy, bold, intense, in flow.
- Targets have been chosen as representative priority targets for each SDG, they are not exhaustive.
- Post summit an implementation pathway needs to be developed for each SDG.

And, finally, we must change.

B. For reference – our targets

Ā tātou whāinga

Building on momentum

Our 10¹ targets align with the reinstating of the four aspects of community wellbeing – social, economic, environmental, and cultural – into the mandated purpose of local and central Government.

These targets also leverage community support for working together toward a sustainable future where we are resilient to changes and can take advantage of global opportunities.

They also align with a wide range of other wellbeing tools and frameworks, from the Waikato Regional Council's Waikato Progress Indicators, to the Government's Living Standards Framework, to the Wellbeing Budget.

Momentum Waikato Foundation will take these targets to the communities of Waikato in early 2020 as part of their vital signs community conversations.

¹ These 10 targets align directly with 14 of the 17 SDGs. We will develop targets for the final three SDGs during 2020.

Partnership for the goals

We did not seek a target for this goal, because working together is the starting point for achieving every other goal and, here in the Waikato, working together comes naturally.

Ki te kotahi te kākaho ka whati, ki te kāpuia e kore e whati.

When reeds stand alone they are vulnerable, but together they are unbreakable.

Kīngi Tawhiao

Our targets

The following table describes the 10 Waikato Wellbeing targets we believe are most likely to lead to an environmentally sustainable, prosperous, and inclusive Waikato region by 2030.

SDG	Waikato Wellbeing target	Achieving our target means that...
<p>1. No poverty</p> <p>2. Zero hunger</p>	<p>About one in six children live below the poverty line*, by 2030 less than 1 % will.</p> <p><small>*This is the before-housing cost relative poverty measure, it is 1 in 4 once housing costs are accounted for.</small></p>	<p>...our children can thrive because none are hungry at school or cold at home. They can afford to participate in social, artistic, cultural and sporting activities.</p> <p>...none of our children are hungry.</p>
<p>3. Good health and wellbeing</p>	<p>By 2030, reduce rates of non-communicable diseases* and mental illness and improve associated health equity outcomes for target groups e.g. Maori</p> <p><small>*Specific disease rates to be tracked are to be determined in consultation with the DHB.</small></p>	<p>...our people are healthy and well. We live in an environment that is conducive to good health, and we keep active with a range of sporting, cultural, creative and artistic activities which is a gateway to emotional happiness.</p>
<p>4. Quality education</p> <p>8. Decent work and economic growth</p> <p>10. Reduced inequalities</p>	<p>Reduce (particularly for Maori and Pasifika*) the number of young people (aged 15–24) in the Waikato who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) from 12.6% in 2019 to less than 5% by 2030.</p> <p><small>*In 2019, the overall NEET rate for the Waikato is 12.6%, but the rate is 19.3% for Maori and 16.8% for Pasifika.</small></p>	<p>...ALL of our young people are engaged and productive, they are learning or earning a livelihood, their mana is enhanced, and they on a positive pathway to have many life options.</p> <p>...our employers can find motivated staff with the knowledge and skills they need to get started, and the means to learn more.</p>

SDG**Waikato Wellbeing target****Achieving our target means that...****6. Clean water and sanitation**

Increase the number of swimmable* rivers and lakes in the Waikato from 30% (rivers) and 73% (lakes) in 2019 to both waterbody types achieving more than 80% by 2030.

*In this context "swimmable" for rivers is defined as per the E. coli Attribute table in the NPSFM (2014; amended 2017). "Swimmable" for lakes is defined as per the planktonic cyanobacteria attribute table in NPSFM (2017).

...our waterways contribute to the health of our region, [like the veins of a healthy body].
"I am the river, and the river is me. If the river is unwell, I am unwell."

7. Affordability and clean energy

Reduce the number of people experiencing energy hardship* in the Waikato from 18,000 in 2019 to zero by 2030.

*A working definition of energy hardship is those spending more than 10% of their income on energy in a month.

...all our people, including those on fixed incomes (like the elderly and unemployed), can live in a warm energy efficient home, with reliable affordable clean energy.

14. Life below water

Maintain or enhance the mauri of our coastal and marine waters to ensure healthy ecosystems so that we can also enjoy mahinga kai and swimming.

...our coastal ecosystems are healthy reflecting the mauri from the mountains to the sea and provide for the enjoyment by people for swimming, collecting food and other activities.

15. Life on land

To prevent loss of existing indigenous vegetation and increase indigenous habitat in biodiversity depleted environments to a minimum of 10% land cover by 2030.

...our land is restored, our water is clean, and our native vegetation and flora and fauna thrive.

11. Sustainable cities and communities

Reduce the housing shortfall* in the region from approximately 7,500 homes in November 2019 to a point where all our people are well housed by 2030.

*According to the 2019 Regional Housing Initiative Stocktake, the majority of the shortfall is in community/social housing.

...all our people will be well housed.
"Every person and every family in our region will be well housed*."

Waikato Regional Housing Initiative

*We have use the UN rights to adequate housing entitlements in our definition for 'well housed'. 'Well housed' means timely access to habitable, affordable, accessible, culturally appropriate, appropriately located, housing with security of tenure.

12. Responsible consumption and production

Increase the number of households, schools, businesses and farms who reduce their waste leading to a 50% reduction of waste to landfill by 2030.

...our region is producing less waste through designing waste out of our daily lives, we're reusing things where we can, and we're using innovative and effective systems for recycling.

SDG	Waikato Wellbeing target	Achieving our target means that...
13. Climate action	Reduce carbon emissions by a minimum of 25% by 2030 (from 13.8 mega tonnes CO2e to 10.3 mega tonnes CO2e), on the path to net carbon zero by 2050.	<p>...our people will be doing their part to transition to a cleaner, healthier, climate resilient region.</p> <p>We think we could reduce by more and will check this in two years time to see if we can make a more ambitious target.</p>

What about the other SDG targets?

The following table describes the other SDG targets. We're calling for people to help source further detail to help define these targets for the Waikato.

SDG	Waikato Wellbeing target	Achieving our target means that...
5. Gender equality	We are looking for a Waikato Wellbeing target to elevate gender equality.	There is passion and plenty of ideas of what we could do in this area to uplift gender equality in the Waikato. We need to do more work to develop a SMART target, and are committed to supporting that thinking and work.
9. Industry, innovation, and infrastructure	We are looking for a Waikato Wellbeing target to help us build sustainable industry, innovation and infrastructure in our region.	<p>Taking a region wide systems approach to the sustainable development of industry, innovation and Infrastructure is essential to underpin wellbeing in the Waikato. We wish to support the Waikato Plan in its vision of 'many voices, one direction'* to support integrated development of the region.</p> <p>*Waikatoplan.co.nz</p>
16. Peace, justice, and strong institutions	We are looking for a Waikato Wellbeing Smart target to build peace, justice and strong institutions in Waikato.	People told us we wish to reduce youth offending, to feel safe to walk after dark, and to increase our participation in the mechanisms of democracy (especially for those usually excluded), but more work needs to be done to land on a specific target to focus on. Let's carry on the conversation.
17. Partnership for the goals	SDG 17 is at the heart of the Waikato Wellbeing Project. Join us in the movement to create a more environmentally sustainable, prosperous and inclusive Waikato region by 2030.	<p>'Working together, working smarter' - It's part of the Waikato story and it's just the way we do things here.</p> <p>We call this 'Partnership for the goals'.</p>

C. Getting Involved

Ki te hoe

What you can do to turn our promises into action

Here are five things you can do to support our Waikato Wellbeing movement.

1 | Choose your target

If you haven't already, identify which target you or your organisation are best placed to collaborate on. Contact the target's manu taki (navigator) to let them know you would like to collaborate.

Contact details can be found through our website waikatowellbeingproject.co.nz

2 | Become a Waikato Wellbeing champion

Hundreds of people have already contributed their time, ideas, and expertise to the project and thousands have been engaged. If you want to become a Waikato Wellbeing champion, visit our website to sign up to regular updates.

3 | Find more information

To find more information about any aspect of the project, visit our website waikatowellbeingproject.co.nz

4 | Stay updated

On the home page of our website, you can sign-up to receive email updates and invitations to events. Join the thousands who have already signed-up.

5 | Learn more about sustainability and wellbeing

To learn more about sustainability and wellbeing generally, visit waikatowellbeingproject.co.nz/readings for a list of recommended online resources.





Thank you

He mihi

Waikato Wellbeing Project Contributors

We stand on the shoulders of giants as we launch these targets for the Waikato. The people below are just a sample of those who have made a significant contribution to the Waikato Wellbeing Project to date, sharing their time, talents, and in some cases treasure. We thank you.

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