



Tangata Whenua Climate Adaptation Fund

Application Criteria

Tangata whenua climate adaptation fund

Funding available to support tangata whenua-led climate change adaptation planning and action

Northland Regional Council acknowledges the urgent need to respond to the climate change crisis and for our communities to be well prepared for the growing effects of climate change and the natural hazards our region faces. Climate adaptation is not only a critical issue for iwi, hapū and whānau in Taitokerau, but also important for ensuring our most vulnerable and in-need communities are increasingly resilient.

NRC has allocated funds to support the practical implementation of tangata whenua-led initiatives to build climate change resilience. Grants are available to help iwi/hapū or other tangata whenua entities to lead climate adaptation planning and action at their scale. This could, for example, involve direct assistance to hapori exposed to climate risk or who may have particularly vulnerable populations, ecosystems and/or assets.

Specific climate adaptation planning actions could include hapori engagement/hui, data collection, cultural landscape mapping, climate impact and risk management, and climate response strategy development. It could also include direct action on the ground that provides tangible long-term solutions towards climate goals.

NRC's aims in making this funding available

- Hapori Māori in Te Taitokerau are among some of the most vulnerable to climate change and face existential threats to their cultural taonga and values. NRC aims to support climate adaptation planning and actions by hapori Māori because they are highly motivated to bring about change and to increase their resilience.
- NRC is keen to support tāngata whenua groups with a holistic approach to environmental issues, because funding actions initiated and implemented by them are likely to yield useful iwi and hapū experience that can be applied to other climate change adaptation initiatives in the region.
- NRC aims to support tāngata whenua to further develop their own capacity for climate action, and to build enduring partnerships centred around the climate change kaupapa that Māori and NRC are strongly committed to.

Funding scope

This funding round aims to support tangata whenua-led flax-roots initiatives to build climate change resilience.

The total grant amount available for any one application is up to **\$25,000 + GST**. The expected timeframe to complete a project is one year following the grant of funds.

Applications must be received from an established legal or operational tangata whenua entity such as a marae committee, hapū trust, iwi authority, or a consultant contracted to act on the entity's behalf.

Projects eligible for the funding will include those that demonstrate that they will enable a specific community(ies) to:

- a) improve its(their) understanding of the implications of climate change; and/or
- b) plan how to adapt to projected climate change impacts; and/or
- c) take action to address specific climate impacts and/or build resilience to climate change.

Potential examples of climate change adaptation planning and action might include, among other things:

- Resourcing expertise or technical support to provide specific climate-related advice.
- Supporting engagement/hui/kōrero on climate change specific to the applicant's location, the outcomes of which would support the development of specific climate change responses for this community.
- Promoting and supporting cultural monitoring, with a direct focus on understanding the impacts of climate change.
- Planning for community-led relocation (marae, community facilities, urupā / wāhi tapu, and other sites of cultural significance and value to Māori).
- Development or update of Iwi/Hapū Environmental Management Plans, including a climate adaptation planning component. IHEMPs provide a strong foundation for tangata whenua-led action to adapt to climate change and build resilience, and a direct statutory link to the RMA which councils must take into account for various purposes.

The fund is not intended to support activities:

- that are the primary responsibility or function of another tangata whenua entity, or
- that are outside the boundaries of Northland Regional Council's jurisdiction.

Assessment criteria

Applications that are likely to succeed will provide the following information and be evaluated in terms of their consistency with the following criteria. The application shall:

- 1) Be from an applicant that is an established legal or operational tāngata whenua entity such as a marae committee, hapū trust, iwi authority, or a consultant contracted to act on the entity's behalf.
- 2) Demonstrate that the project will enable a specific community(ies) to:
 - improve its/their understanding of the implications of climate change; and/or
 - plan how to adapt to projected climate change impacts; and/or
 - take action to address specific climate impacts and/or build resilience to climate change.
- 3) Outline how the project is a specific step in a plan to investigate, plan for, or take action to address the projected impacts of climate change. It will either outline how this project will inform or provide the foundation for future mahi, or how this project follows on from previous work and contributes to achieving its aims.
- 4) Follow good process for adaptation planning, with tangible planned outcomes. Specifically think about how to avoid maladaptation — i.e. ensure that climate adaptation measures reduce rather than increase vulnerability.
- 5) Refer to and consider the climate adaptation planning component of a relevant Iwi or Hāpu Environmental Management Plan (IHEMP) for the rohe, if one exists.
- 6) Demonstrate a collaborative approach, where the applicant entity will work across rohe boundaries with neighbouring hapū/whānau to address climate-related issues.
- 7) Provide strong evidence of community buy-in and support, and/or alignment with mahi undertaken by local government, industry, or community organisations.
- 8) Provide a detailed budget with specific costings for key components of the project. Budgeted figures and quotes are realistic and appropriate, and the project provides value for money.
- 9) Be able to draw upon other complementary funding, if more budget is needed than the TWCAF fund can cover.
- 10) Explain the potential risks to project delivery, and how these will be managed.

If successful, applicants must agree to:

- a) Grant fund allocation details being made publicly available. Northland Regional Council's grant funding processes are transparent. This grant fund allocation, like others, will be posted on NRC's website including the name of the grant recipient, the type/purpose of the grant, and the amount and date of the grant.
- b) Provide a project update and a final project report, in a format to be agreed by applicant and NRC on completion of the project as specified in the Deed of Grant of Funds.

Application details

Apply online at www.nrc.govt.nz/climateadaptationfund or download a word document template that can be completed and emailed to climateaction@nrc.govt.nz.

The following details will be required in the application:

- 1) The applicant's name and contact details, and other key contacts involved in this project.
- 2) The relevant Iwi/Hapū/tangata whenua entity involved in this project.
- 3) The amount of funding sought, and Bank account details.
- 4) Declaration of any Conflicts of Interest or Other Funding received.
- 5) A project description, including detailed budget for the project:
 - a) The methods and project resources to be used to complete the project.
 - b) Alignment and collaboration with other stakeholders.
 - c) Key milestones and expected dates for delivery of outcomes.
 - d) Potential risks, and plan for how these would be managed.

Assessment of applications

Funding applications will be considered and decided upon by a panel of NRC managers and staff from the Governance & Engagement (including the Māori Relationships Team) and Community Resilience groups. The panel will consist of at least three members. If an application is successful, a funding agreement (contract) will be established. This will outline the terms and conditions of the funding, a payment schedule, and reporting details.

Payment of grant instalments

Granted funds will be paid in instalments, as detailed below:

- 1) The first instalment will be 70% of the total grant amount, to be transferred to the grant recipient once they and NRC have signed the funding agreement, and on receipt of a valid tax invoice.
- 2) The second instalment will be the remaining 30% of the total grant amount. This will be transferred to the grant recipient once they have provided:
 - a) A final report identifying how the grant funding has been used, and the outcomes of the project, as agreed in the original project description.
 - b) Any other deliverables agreed upon in the Deed of Grant (e.g. progress and final reports, Iwi/Hapū Environmental Management Plan).
- 3) NRC will make all payments to the grant recipient via direct transfer to their nominated bank account, following provision of a tax invoice by the grant recipient. GST will only be paid if the applicant provides a GST registration number.

Variation of contract

If the applicant wishes to vary the agreed milestones or deadlines, the contract may if necessary be re-negotiated with the approval of both parties.