Getting the mahi done.

A guide to entering Northland Regional Council's, Whakamānawa ā Taiao – Environmental Awards 2021





Contents

03	About the awards Celebrating kaitiakitanga in action
04	Award categories
14	Why enter?
15	Entry criteria
16	How to enter
17	Key dates
18	Rules of entry

About the awards

Right across our beautiful region, amazing work is happening in our communities to protect and enhance our unique environment.

The Northland Regional Council Whakamānawa ā Taiao - Environmental Awards are about recognising the people and organisations making that work happen.

They highlight the commitment and incredible contributions that Northlanders are making to help our environment thrive.

This year we're excited to introduce a brand new category, to recognise those taking action to adapt to climate change and transition to a low carbon future.

Celebrating kaitiakitanga in action

Since it began in 2019, Whakamānawa ā Taiao - Environmental Awards has attracted entries from individuals, groups, schools, whānau, hapū, iwi and businesses all around Taitokerau that are committed to making a real difference.

With a kaupapa of environmental sustainability embedded in its heart, Comrie Park Kindergarten won the supreme award in 2019. In 2020 the determination and aroha shown by Patukeha and Ngāti Kuta Hapū in their quest to restore the bush and bird life to Rākaumangamanga for future generations of their hapū, saw this group take out the top spot this year and go on to achieve national recognition.

Across all the past entries we've been wowed by the visionary approach of community groups and leaders to get rid of pests, restore waterways and wetlands and to help native life flourish. The mahi happening around Taitokerau is inspiring - and we think that's well worth celebrating.

Tiakina te taiao, tiakina te iwi e

Protect the environment, protect the people

Award categories

Environmental action in the community

This award recognises individuals or groups who are working collaboratively within their community to protect and improve Northland's environment.

The winner of this award will demonstrate:

- » how working collaboratively within their community was critical to the success of an environmental project
- » an effective project with measurable outcomes that helps to protect and improve Northland's environment.

Environmental action in pest management

This award recognises individuals or groups who are committed to projects and activities that support pest management in Northland.

- » an effective project with measurable outcomes that supports and advances pest management in Northland
- » sharing ideas and resources among others to help transfer knowledge and collectively lift pest management outcomes.

Mō tātou, ā, mō kā uri ā muri ake nei For us and our children after us

Environmental action in education

This award recognises those in the education sector who are driving learning and action to bring about change on environmental issues. The award is specific to schools, kura kaupapa Māori, early childhood centres or tertiary institutions, and can include the whole school, groups or individuals.

The winner of this award will demonstrate:

- » evidence of student engagement and empowerment
- » an effective project with measurable outcomes that helps to protect and improve Northland's environment
- » inclusion of the wider community.

Environmental action in water quality improvement

This award recognises individuals or groups who are taking action to protect and enhance water quality and biodiversity values within water bodies in Northland.

- » a commitment to a project or activity that undertakes to improve water quality or to protect, conserve or restore biodiversity
- a commitment to soil conservation, erosion
 control and/or riparian management
- » an effective project with measurable outcomes that helps to protect and improve Northland's environment.

He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata, he tangata, he tāngata

What is the greatest thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people

Environmental leadership

This award recognises an individual or group whose leadership, support of others and willingness to share ideas and resources is making a significant contribution to Northland's environment.

The winner of this award will demonstrate:

- » leadership and support of others to achieve a collective goal
- commitment to a project that supports the protection and improvement of Northland's environment
- » willingness to share ideas and resources, and to lead the way by implementing good environmental practices.

Kaitiakitanga

This award recognises individuals or groups who are taking action to protect and enhance water quality and biodiversity values within water bodies in Northland.

- » a commitment to a project or activity that undertakes to improve water quality or to protect, conserve or restore biodiversity
- » a commitment to soil conservation, erosion control and/or riparian management
- » an effective project with measurable outcomes that helps to protect and improve Northland's environment.

Whatungarongaro te tangata toitū te whenua

As man disappears from sight, the land remains

Environmental action on climate change

This award recognises individuals or groups who are taking action to adapt to a changing climate and transition to a low-carbon future for Northland.

The winner of this award will demonstrate:

- » an effective project with measurable outcomes that seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or improve resilience to climate change in Northland
- » sharing ideas and resources to help transfer knowledge and collectively improve community resilience across Northland.

Environmental action in industry

This award recognises businesses (individual or a collective) that demonstrate a notable contribution to the sustainable development of natural resources in Northland.

- » the use of systems, technologies, processes or practices that help to protect and/or improve Northland's environment
- » best practice in industry beyond regulatory requirements.

Te Tohu Matua -Supreme Award

This award will be given to recognise the most outstanding achievement from the eight category winners.

Hapaitia te ara tika pūmau ai, te rangatiratanga mo ngā uri whakatupu

Foster the pathway of knowledge to strength, independence and growth for future generations





Why enter?

Once again, it's time to recognise the people who are making a difference to Northland's environment. We want to celebrate you, our community of Taitokerau.

Celebrate your successes

Be recognised for the great work you are doing to protect, enhance and improve the environment of Taitokerau.

We're so busy getting the mahi done that we sometimes forget to celebrate the people, projects and teams who make outstanding contributions to our environment.

Raise your profile

Promote and showcase your community, project and contribution to the rest of Northland.

If you're keen to get more people involved, or just raise the profile of your mahi, the awards will highlight all finalists and winners.

Meet like-minded people

You will have the opportunity to share ideas and expertise with the wider Northland community. Connect with your peers, learn new skills and share innovative ideas.

Recognition and reward

The winners of the awards will be announced and celebrated at an awards ceremony on Thursday 27 May 2021. The event will provide an opportunity to network and share success stories.

All Northland Regional Council Whakamānawa ā Taiao - Environmental Awards finalists will receive:

- » Four tickets to the awards function in Kerikeri on Thursday 27 May 2021
- » A certificate of achievement
- » Inclusion in the awards collateral and communications programme.

Award winners of each category will receive:

- » A trophy and certificate of achievement
- » Inclusion in the awards collateral, media and communications programme
- » A cash prize of \$1000.

An additional trophy will be presented to Te Tohu Matua - The Supreme Award winner who will hold this for one year.

* The awards ceremony taking place is subject to national COVID-19 pandemic alert levels.

Entry criteria

Entrants can be individuals, community groups, schools, whānau, hapū, iwi, businesses or leaders. We recognise those who are doing their bit for Northland's environment. All entries must relate to Northland and demonstrate significant benefit to the region's environment. You can nominate yourself, or someone else with their approval.

For any questions, contact our team: events@nrc.govt.nz or phone 0800 002 004.

Judging criteria

Judges are looking for innovative projects which positively impact Northland's environment, people and economy. This includes initiatives that align with Northland Regional Council's core areas of focus and consider Māori perspectives.

General criteria - what will the judges be looking for?

- » How the initiative benefits Northlands environment, people and economy
- » How the initiative aligns with Northland Regional Council's areas of focus of healthy waters, flourishing native life, resilient communities, a strong economy, effective transport networks and meaningful partnerships with tangata whenua.
- How the initiative has considered
 Māori perspectives.
- » The scale of the project and whether it can it be transferred to other areas in Northland.

Category criteria

As well as the general criteria, the judges want to see evidence of how your initiative meets the specific category criteria. See each award description for this information (page 5-11 of this guide).

Your entry must be supported by a summary of the project/activity* (200 words max) that includes:

- » When the project/activity/contribution started.
- » A description of the purpose and objectives of the entry. Explain the environmental issue/s being addressed.
- » A brief description of who is involved and how the initiative impacts on Northland's community and environment.
- » A summary of the outcome of the project including measurable change, any improvements, and results.
- * This information may be used in marketing material.

How to enter

Step one

Choose your category

Before you begin your application, choose your award category. You can submit a nomination for a maximum of two categories.

Step two

Enter online

Complete the relevant fields in the online form at www.nrc.govt.nz/environmentalawards Use the 'save and return' function to save your progress.

Applications close on Tuesday 6 April 2021.

Step three

Confirmation

You'll receive an email letting you know we have received your application and outlining the judging process.

Key dates

22 February

Entries open

www.nrc.govt.nz/environmentalawards

6 April

Entries close 5pm, Tuesday 6 April 2021.

7 April - 23 April

Judging

Northland Regional Council representatives will shortlist the entries and make recommendations to the judging panel. This panel includes a combination of internal and external judges.

28 April

Finalists announced

We'll be ready to share the good news and announce finalists on Wednesday 28 April. Finalists will be invited to attend the awards ceremony, with limited tickets provided.

27 May

Awards ceremony

Winners including Te Tohu Matua -Supreme Award will be announced at the awards ceremony. It's a great opportunity to find out about the amazing mahi happening in Northland and to meet the people behind thse projects.

Rules of entry

- » Nominations are open to Northland-based projects or activities, or initiatives that have been developed in Northland and can show demonstrable benefit to the environment. 'Northland' region is defined by the Northland Regional Council boundaries, which you can view on our website.
- » Your entry must relate to a project/activity that was started, carried out, or for which a significant piece of work was completed, since 1 January 2020.
- » The project or activity must be of long-term benefit to the local environment and show evidence of good resource management.
- » By entering you agree to participate in any marketing and promotional activities associated with the awards programme and to work with Northland Regional Council to share your work at an open day showcasing your project.
- » There is no cost to submit an entry to the awards. If selected as a finalist, up to four tickets to the awards ceremony will be provided. Further tickets may be purchased. All travel costs to the awards are at the expense of the finalist.

- Individuals and organisations must not be under investigation by any NZ statutory body, and you must have a good track record of compliance with Northland Regional Council.
- » Nominations will not be considered where Northland Regional Council deems a conflict of interest exists (for example, entries by council staff or projects where judging personnel are involved). Staff and councillors of Northland Regional Council may not make a nomination.
- » Judges reserve the right to consider a nominee in a different category if they deem that to be more appropriate.
- » Judges reserve the right not to award a category winner where they believe there were no suitable entrants that fully met the judging criteria.

Contact us

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