

# Climate Action Aotearoa Web resource

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# Introductions

# Climate and Community

Climate change is a health issue, an equality issue, an educational issue, an economic issue, a cultural issue, a scientific issue, a security issue and a local community issue, as well as an environmental issue.



# Philanthropy and Climate Action

- **Philanthropy has an important role to play** in the climate action ecosystem - resourcing change-makers and movements for collective impact.
- **A 'Tika' transition to a low carbon society**, with increased equity, climate resilient communities and better outcomes for our environment is a critical responsibility.
- Yet only around **4% of philanthropic funding** in Aotearoa goes to environmental outcomes
- Māori communities are leading change at the level of whānau, hapu and iwi level and would like wider systems to engage with them

**“Lift your chin and look at the horizon - the decisions will be different.” Mike Smith, Co-Chair Pou Take Ahuarangi  
National Iwi Chairs Forum**



# The Funders Commitment

Research on climate action commissioned by  
Community Trusts in 2021.

The research showed that community  
organisations:

- ❖ are concerned about climate change.
- ❖ believe action is needed to reduce emissions.
- ❖ BUT there are barriers in terms of lack of resources
- ❖ Want funders to take a position of leadership and provide support for climate action.

**Taking climate action can  
contribute to greater equity,  
community resilience and  
wellbeing**

# The Funders Commitment

The Funders Commitment on Climate Action officially launched in December 2021

## What is it?

- short voluntary pledge outlining **seven commitments** that signatories commit to
- modelled on overseas commitments where funders have decided to show leadership on climate action - Uniquely Aotearoa edge
- 13 Funders signed up so far - granting capacity of over \$100m per annum

- ❖ **Reflecting Te Tiriti o Waitangi and supporting Māori aspirations on climate action**
- ❖ **An equitable transition**
- ❖ **Enable leadership**
- ❖ **Commit and share resources**
- ❖ **Learn and grow**
- ❖ **Decarbonize our investments and operations**
- ❖ **Report on progress**

# A Tika Transition

“A tika transition to a low-emissions economy is one that embraces tikanga Māori as a source of solutions, upholds the principles of te Tiriti o Waitangi and is consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”



# Why a Tika Transition?

- What a just transition looks like in Aotearoa
- Tikanga Māori provides a broad scope of questions and considerations that ensure we are on our right path
- Centring tikanga ensures that our approaches to change are dynamic and responsive to all components of our decision making
- By emphasising rightness, a tika transition meets each person/organisation/community with where they are at





# Principles

**Whanaungatanga** embraces whakapapa, kinship and relationships.

**Kaitiakitanga** is the exercise of environmental guardianship.

**Utu** rests on the idea that ‘for everything given or taken a return of some kind [is] required’.

**Mana** has to do with the place and leadership status of the individual in the group.



# Principles Applied to Tika Transition Guide

## 1

### Reflecting Te Tiriti o Waitangi and supporting Māori aspirations regarding climate action

We commit to the spirit of partnership with iwi/hapū Māori to address the causes and impacts of climate change. We will seek to enable Māori aspirations and recognise mātauranga Māori in climate action, respecting whakapapa, tino rangatiratanga, rite tahi (equity) and kaitiakitanga.

#### Tika Transition questions to guide our commitment journey:

Whanaungatanga	Kaitiakitanga	Utu	Mana
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is partnering with mana whenua an underpinning value to our transition work?</li><li>• How are we nurturing relationships with mana whenua in our rohe?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Are Māori enabled to practice kaitiaki duties?</li><li>• What are the aspirations of Māori in our rohe?</li><li>• How do we support these aspirations?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is our partnership one of reciprocity?</li><li>• How do we recognise and value mātauranga Māori in climate action?</li><li>• How are we enabling Māori-led climate action?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do transition proposals impact on Treaty settlement commitments?</li><li>• How is the mana of all parties enhanced?</li></ul>

# Take-Utu-Ea

Hirini Moko Mead discusses the process termed "*take-utu-ea*" where *take* (the issue) is identified as a breach of tikanga, or what is right. *Utu* (recompense) becomes a motion toward balance, and *ea* (resolution) is found when restoration has occurred.



## Applied to Resource

- Take-utu-ea adapted to serve the purpose of presenting resources identified as helpful and powerful in initiating or engaging with a tika transition
- From resources on international frontline action, to guidance on engaging with Te Tiriti in governance settings

## Take - The Breach

*Wildfires, sea-level rise, biodiversity loss, species loss, flooding, pollution.*

The alarm has been sounded for many years now by our acting stewards, Indigenous people, youth and community leaders, urging action and commitment on a global scale as communities witness unprecedented weather events to the detriment of wellbeing, security, and in the worst situations, sovereignty.

A Snapshot ↓

Climate Change Complicity ↓

The Frontline ↓





# Utu - Towards Balance

The concept of *utu* rests on the idea that for everything given or taken, a return of some kind is required. Collaboration in our action against climate change relies on *utu* as it becomes a fundamental driver of action, requiring personal and collective action and reciprocity for all involved.

One strong consensus within climate action spaces is that the change required to sustain our futures requires everyone. Our collective strength relies on our diversities - of knowledge, strengths and skills. Transformation is cultivated through multi-disciplinary approaches to climate action, gathering the strengths of varying worldviews and knowledge systems on a tika path towards balance.

International ↓

National ↓

Iwi/Māori Strategies ↓

Community Action ↓

# Ea - The Resolution

For signatories of the Funders Commitment on Climate Action, a *Tika Transition* can provide a framework to take action on the commitments and help to resolve injustices connected to climate change in Aotearoa.

*A Tika Transition* is guided by tikanga principles and tika actions.

Below is a link to a “guide” for signatories to consider, when realising the climate action Aotearoa commitments.

[Download the Tika Transition Guide](#) 

Click on the links below to learn more about implementing a *Tika Transition* in key aspects of philanthropy, including access to supporting resources.

Governance ↓

Strategy ↓

Investment ↓

Grantmaking ↓

Operations ↓

# Tika Transition in practice

A Call to Action



- Collectively doing what is right, what is tika!
- Through unity & collaboration.
- We all have a climate action role in community.

# Governance / Leadership

## Questions:

- Why are we engaging with te Tiriti o Waitangi?
- How does te Tiriti relate to our values and work?
- Do we understand our communities aspirations toward a climate resilient region?
- How is the power of philanthropic resources enabling leadership and aspiration in communities?
- Has mana been considered in how leadership is structured and maintained?
- Are our governors and leaders climate competent?
- Do our governors have climate related oversight built into Board processes?

*Tika Transition* Governance and Leadership is consistent with the intent of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Governance and Leadership are representative of the community we serve, and we have the authority (**mana**) to lead.

Governance and Leadership fosters healthy relationships (**whanaungatanga**) to support the self-determination of communities.

Governance and Leadership commit to facilitating the stewardship (**kaitiakitanga**) of resources by the communities they maintain ties to.





# Strategy

## Questions:

- Who are our community?  
Who are mana whenua?
- How are they impacted by climate change?
- Is Tiriti partnership an underpinning value to all transition work?
- Do you understand where your organisation stands in its climate governance journey and how you will need to evolve?
- Has Mātauranga Māori and local knowledge been included?
- How will the outcomes (costs/benefits) of the transition be distributed?

Organisations are responsible for considering foreseeable risks and opportunities, including considering obligations to promote decarbonisation and adopt sustainable practices.

Changing mindsets is critical – from having a ‘sustainability strategy’ to having a ‘sustainable strategy’ for every capital: human, financial, social, cultural and environmental. This requires systems change, climate justice strategies and more innovative, proactive and collaborative funding approaches.

Strategy



# Investment

## Questions:

- Do our existing investments reflect the *tika transition* principle of Kaitiakitanga?
- Are our investment partners/suppliers committed to climate responsible investing and practices?
- Do we know our targets / measures for climate responsible investments?
- Have the rights and interests of future generations been considered in our decision making?
- Do we have the right information that helps us assess all climate risks along the entire value chain?

A *Tika Transition* requires that investments are aligned with principles that are tika, specifically, **kaitiakitanga** – ensuring climate action investment strategy, policy and decision making considers the impact on all resources and people significant to place, for this generation and the ones coming.

*Tika Transition* investment encourages socially and culturally responsible investing.

Investment



## Resources:

### THE DECISIVE DECADE: ORGANISING CLIMATE ACTION

M2020



#### Systems Change

This report proposes a framework and set of strategies for shifting from incremental to catalytic collaboration in the climate action field. This involves three interconnected processes: 1) highlighting climate action by creating public awareness and scientific evidence; 2) orchestrating climate action by curating partnerships, convening actors and allocating resources; 3) operationalising climate action by developing and implementing solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

#### Funding the Future

What role and answers do foundations have in the face of the greatest crisis of the century? How can every foundation bring a climate perspective to its portfolio? This Climate Philanthropy Guide addresses these questions, offers insightful case studies and provides hands-on advice that can be implemented immediately.

The guide is a useful resource for foundations from whichever sector to start thinking about how they can contribute to tackling the climate crisis while delivering on their core mission.



## Resources:



#### Investment Roadmap - actions to achieve a transition to Net Zero

Investors have the opportunity and responsibility to ensure their investment portfolios align to the Paris Agreement and transition to a Net Zero position. The concept of Net Zero is not fully developed, however, urgent action is needed if the effects of climate change are to be contained.

The below topics are linked to their corresponding section in the roadmap:



Governance



Investment Portfolio



Engagement



Reporting



Asset Consultants



# Call to Action

Take a look at the Shared Resource

Approach the signatories if you have climate action initiatives that need support

Share your knowledge and wisdom with us - how can we advance meaningful climate action?

