Our climate change journey so far

- **2003**: Project Manukau, Mangere Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades, reducing emissions by 40 per cent.
- **2009**: Master's degree thesis on climate change impact at Watercare, understanding climate risks to the business.
- **2014**: Energy Policy includes net 2050 emissions 2050 target.
- **2016**: Updated greenhouse gas methodology and inventory.
- **2017**: Treatment plant designs factors in sea level rise to Snells-Algies Wastewater Treatment plant.
- **2018**: Signatory to the Climate Leaders’ Coalition.
- **2019**: First integrated report delivered.

Our focus going forward

- **Low carbon infrastructure delivery**
- **Reduction in process and treatment emissions**
- **Energy neutrality at our two largest wastewater treatment plants**
- **Energy efficiency of our operations and generation of renewable energy**
- **Planting and carbon sinks**
- **Collaborate on the impacts of climate changes to development and land use**
- **Partner with utilities for long-term planning**

Climate change impacts Watercare on an environmental and social level.

Key areas are represented by these five United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

1. **Clean Water and Sanitation**
2. **Affordable and Clean Energy**
3. **Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**
4. **Responsible Consumption and Production**
5. **Climate Action**

Our climate change strategy

**Climate change mitigation**

- To operate a low carbon organisation, aiming for net zero carbon by 2050

**Climate change adaptation**

- To adapt our organisation to be resilient in a changing climate

As a business and a country this is one of the largest challenges that we face.

We are committed to taking responsibility and to doing our bit. We have developed a climate change mitigation and adaptation strategy to guide the way we operate.

- We will increase our resilience by making sure that the location, design and operation of infrastructure projects includes flexibility and the potential to adapt to future climate conditions.
- We will reduce our emissions and operate a low carbon business, setting targets and establishing pathways to achieve net zero emissions.
- We will re-look at how we deliver our major infrastructure programmes, requiring emissions to be considered as part of their design and operation.

We will be innovative, collaborative and challenge our thinking.
With summer stretching out ahead of us, the longer days and warmer weather make it the perfect time to visit the Watercare Coastal Walkway. The seven-kilometre track that runs along the Manukau Harbour foreshore between Ambury Regional Park and Otuataua Stonefields is perfect for walking, cycling and bird-watching. It was created during New Zealand's largest coastal rehabilitation project which saw the removal of 515 hectares of wastewater oxidation ponds and the construction of 13 kilometres of beaches. At the time, Watercare teamed up with local community groups to plant more than 270,000 native trees along the tracks.

As well as featuring native planting and harbour views, the coastal walkway is a home away from home for thousands of migratory wading bird species. On average, more than 30,000 wading birds feed on the harbour's mudflats each day. It's important for the birds to have a safe place to roost between the tides. They used to use the walls that separated the old oxidation ponds, so when the ponds were decommissioned and returned to the harbour in 2003, we built 'artificial' island roosts to make sure the birds had a place to rest.

A good roost is especially important for species such as the eastern bar-tailed godwits, which fly non-stop from their breeding sites in Alaska – which is the largest, non-stop migration journey of any bird in the world. For the birds' safety, dogs are not allowed on the coastal walkway. Instead, they are welcome at Greenwood Road Park.