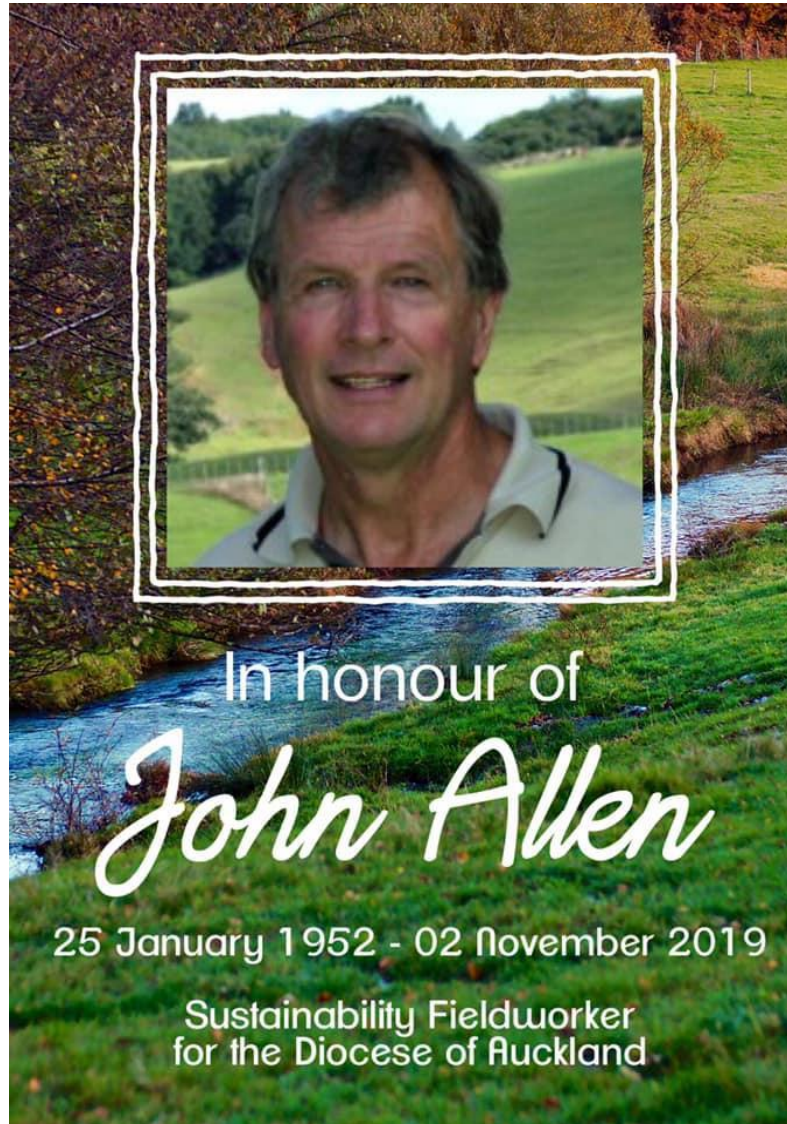


# AUCKLAND ANGLICAN RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS (AARCC) PLAN

## JUNE 2020





The Auckland Anglican Response to the Climate Crisis Plan was developed by Auckland Climate Action Network (ACAN), Social Justice Group (SJG) and ADJust. This work would not have been possible without the initiative and passion of John Allen, the former Sustainability Fieldworker who passed away suddenly in November 2019.

## Background

At the 2019 Auckland Diocesan Synod it was agreed that a group including the Auckland Anglican Climate Action Network (ACAN), the Diocesan Social Justice Group (SJG), Diocese of Auckland Young Anglicans for Social Justice (ADJust) and the Sustainability Field Worker at the time (John Allen), were tasked with drafting a Diocesan Zero Carbon Plan.

As the collaboration group worked together and listened to Sustainability Champions, it was clear that the document needed to evolve into a framework that went beyond only the goal of mitigating our carbon footprint, to becoming a framework for the Diocese's overall response to the climate crisis. Thus, it was decided to re-name the plan from the Diocesan Zero Carbon Plan to the Auckland Anglican Response to the Climate Crisis (AARCC) Plan.

In September 2019 the Auckland Diocesan Synod passed the following motions:

### Motion 5

That this synod:

1. Endorses the motion passed by the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) in April 2019 at its meeting in Hong Kong, calling for action on Climate Crisis and the urgency of taking immediate action on the drivers, as well as consequences of global warming.
2. Requests that the Diocesan Council provides resources and help to Ministry Units in the Diocese to develop action plans and resources for sustainable and regenerative living and the reduction of greenhouse gasses at Individual, Ministry Unit, and Diocesan levels, in response to part 4 of the ACC Motion.
3. Recommends the means to this action be the establishment of the volunteer role of "Sustainability Champion" within each Ministry Unit.
4. Expresses its support for the peaceful protest action of young people and others on issues of climate justice, including the Strike 4 Climate movement and its upcoming protest march on Friday 27 September 2019.

### Motion 6

That this Synod:

1. Notes the declaration by Auckland Council of a Climate Emergency;
2. Recognises the beneficial impacts of earlier Diocesan Climate Actions around Fossil Fuel Divestment and Carbon Offsetting, and the urgency of taking immediate action on both drivers, as well as consequences of global warming;
3. Requests the Diocesan Council supports and funds the preparation of a Zero Carbon Plan by 31 March 2020 to implement the commitment set out in Standing Resolution



- 50; achieved by collaboration between the Anglican Climate Action Network, the Social Justice Group, ADJust, and the Sustainability Field Worker;
4. Requests opportunities are provided for informed input to be made from across the Diocese as part of the preparation of this plan.

Since the 2019 Auckland Diocesan Synod, the collaboration group has met on a monthly basis to determine the direction of the AARCC Plan. In February 2020, the first Sustainability Champions workshop was attended by approximately 35 people from Dargaville to the Coromandel, and covered a broad theological spectrum. This workshop provided an opportunity to hear perspectives and gather further input towards the AARCC Plan from across the Diocese.

The AARCC Plan was presented to Auckland Diocesan Council on the 28th of May 2020. It was agreed that this plan would be adopted as a framework for Climate Action across the Anglican Diocese of Auckland.

Furthermore, the Diocesan Office Management will report regularly to Diocesan Council and Synod on their carbon emissions and actions taken to reduce their emissions. Neligan House will develop a plan for reducing carbon emissions with consideration for:

1. A sustainability audit of Neligan House;
2. Enacting recommendations from the sustainability audit;
3. Engagement of qualified consulting engineers to advise on the installation and operation of solar panels around and on diocesan owned buildings;
4. Support the transition of Diocesan-owned petrol and diesel vehicles to electric vehicles and incentivising low carbon transport options including public transport;
5. Support the offset of remaining Diocesan Office carbon emissions;
6. Investigate and instigate discounted bulk supply of electricity for Ministry Units from low-carbon supplier(s).

The AARCC Plan is a living document and there will be an annual iterative cycle of review, amendments and new initiatives.

## Aim

The aim of the AARCC Plan is to provide a framework for climate action by offering support and guidance for Anglicans to make changes at the personal, Ministry Unit, Diocesan and wider societal level, in order to reduce our carbon footprint, respond to climate change and better care for God's creation.

The plan will be applied in accordance with the Auckland Diocese Healthy Church Model, Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion, the 1991 Te Pouhere Constitution, the 2015 Paris Agreement and the 2019 New Zealand Zero Carbon Act.

### Framework focus area



#### Liturgy and Worship

Our response begins with recognising our role in the world not as dominating consumers, but as kaitiaki – caretakers of creation and its resources. We want our engagement with climate justice to be grounded in our Christian spirituality and liturgical life.

**Goal:**

- to incorporate creation care into our worship and liturgical practice (including the celebration of Season of Creation).



#### Education

It is important that we build our understanding of environmental issues in order to engage meaningful action. We seek to learn from experts and practitioners in the area of sustainability as we work together for the common good of all creation.

**Goal:**

- to enable the Diocese and Ministry Units to have an educational focus on climate change and sustainability issues.



## Mitigation

In response to the immediate climate crisis we have to consider how we can take responsibility as a Diocese, as Ministry Units and as Individuals and Families to reduce our carbon footprint.

### Goal:

- to resource the Diocese and Ministry Units to reduce carbon footprints.
- to encourage and facilitate Diocesan staff, offices and Ministry Units to move towards renewable energy sources for their operations.
- to encourage carbon sequestration through tree planting; biochar burying; and regenerative gardening.



## Advocacy and Outreach

As the church, we have a role to play in reaching out to our wider community and speaking out on the structural issues that put the environment at risk.

### Goals:

- To support and encourage the Auckland Diocese and Ministry Units to be a prophetic voice for social change and for reform of political and economic structures that cause or exacerbate climate change.
- To encourage Ministry Units to reach out to the wider community and collaborate with local initiatives for creation care and to be role models of sustainable practices.

## Sustainability Champions and Green Teams

In order to make the AARCC Plan happen at the Ministry Unit level, we are calling for volunteer Sustainability Champions passionate about climate justice and willing to lead the way for their Ministry Unit. Some Ministry Units may like to form a Green Team made up of several Sustainability Champions to develop a climate action plan for their specific context. Other Ministry Units may develop a climate action plan with the Ministry team, vestry or council.

The Sustainability Fieldworker is available to resource and support Ministry Units to develop a plan of action relevant to their local context that connects with the wider AARCC plan.

Some Ministry Units may have current environmental and community projects and activities already. We would love to share these stories with the rest of the Diocese and wider community.

To get in touch with the Sustainability Fieldworker, email Cathy Bi-Riley at [sustainability.fieldworker@aucklandanglican.org.nz](mailto:sustainability.fieldworker@aucklandanglican.org.nz)

## Why have an ‘Auckland Anglican Response to the Climate Crisis’ Plan?

Climate change has become a pressing global crisis that is already impacting our health, homes and livelihoods. The New Zealand Ministry for the Environment projects that due to climate change, New Zealand is likely to experience higher surface temperatures, rising sea levels and more frequent drought and flooding by the end of this century.<sup>1</sup> Some of these impacts are already evident as Auckland and Northland experienced one of the driest summers on record over January and February 2020<sup>2</sup>.

As part of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, it is important to acknowledge the significant impact that climate change and sea level rise will have for our Pasifika neighbours. Archbishop Winston Halapua said in a 2015 statement: *“The rising sea level speaks loudly for action. For some of us from Polynesia the truth is as plain as writing on the wall. Our land and our livelihoods are drowning and others refuse to see it.”*<sup>3</sup>

Mitigating global warming caused by greenhouse gases is not just the responsibility of governments but of all of us because we all contribute greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. The Diocese has over 100 buildings spread throughout the Northern region, some 150 staff and active communities running events and activities. Buildings use electricity, staff and church attendees use motor vehicles, and activities and events produce waste; all which contribute to our carbon footprint. As citizens and communities, we have a role to play as leaders in caring for our creation and advocating for political and social change that uphold the integrity of creation.

### Theological Imperative

As Christians, we affirm a Creator God who upholds the inherent worth of earth and earth’s other-than-human community (Gen 1:25). As members within this vast and complex earth community, human beings have been given a role as mutual custodians to ‘serve and preserve’ God’s creation (Gen 2:15).

The teaching of Jesus to ‘love your neighbour’ (Matt 22:39; Mk 12:31) includes the earth and earth’s other-than-human community. We cannot love our neighbour and destroy the earth.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/likely-impacts-of-climate-change/likely-climate-change-impacts-nz>

<sup>2</sup> <https://niwa.co.nz/news/auckland-set-to-break-dry-spell-record>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.auckanglican.org.nz/latest-news/media-releases/we-chose-to-fight-climate-change-rather-than-drown>



Throughout the Bible we see examples of the earth crying out against injustice and resisting oppression (Jeremiah 12:4-6).

The negative consequences of climate change in the form of sea level rise and increased frequency of natural disasters, will impact significantly on our Pacific neighbours. Communities already experiencing poverty have the least resources to adapt to a changing environment and will be likely to suffer more as a result of climate change.

As Anglicans, our Fifth Mark of Mission is *'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth'*, specifically addresses our responsibility to the earth and all that dwell in it.

Alongside this, our Fourth Mark of Mission: *"To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation,"* is also a vital part of the church's response to climate change.

Our church thus has a prophetic role to champion new public policies and actions that address the underlying causes of the climate crisis. Our prophetic role also extends to exploring and understanding the ways in which our society has been structured and how these structures are responsible for, and profit from, the destruction of our environment. Ecological justice and restorative action for all the earth lies at the heart of what it means to be Christian in the twenty-first century.

## Scientific Evidence

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), represents thousands of scientists who study the atmosphere, seas and land. It is an international body established by the UN in 1988 and their findings have the support of almost every major national scientific body around the world.<sup>4</sup>

In October 2018, the IPCC released its special report *'Global Warming of 1.5°C'*<sup>5</sup>, a document that sought to map differing greenhouse emission pathways and their impacts. The findings of that report were unequivocal: global warming is due mainly to human greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas) and from deforestation. Warming of two degrees Celsius would have catastrophic effects on the planet and human life.

Unless immediate mitigation action is taken the likelihood of temperatures rises of 3 degrees or more by 2050 is very possible. Such temperature increases will result in climate changes that could well threaten the ability of human beings to continue to inhabit our planet.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://climate.nasa.gov/scientific-consensus/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

The report explained that countries would have to cut their anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions, such as from electricity generation and transport, to net zero by around 2050. To reach that goal, it said, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions would have to start dropping well before 2030 and be on a path to fall by about 45 percent of 2010 levels by 2030.<sup>6</sup>

### Political Context – from Global to Local

After many years of talking, the world community of nations agreed at the Paris 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference ('Paris 2015') to a commitment to work together to limit global land and ocean surface temperature rise to less than 2°C and aim for no more than 1.5°C of pre industrial levels. The agreement was signed by 196 countries. New Zealand is a party to this agreement.

In November 2019 the Climate Change Response ('Zero Carbon') Amendment Act was passed with near-unanimous support of Parliament. The passing of the bill is the culmination of efforts by many individuals and groups, with over 10,000 submissions, including some from within the Diocese.

The Zero Carbon Act commits New Zealand to 45% reduction in carbon emissions below 2010 levels by 2030 and zero net carbon emissions by 2050 or sooner. It sets a legally binding pathway to this target and requires the Government to make a plan to achieve this. The Act establishes an independent Climate Change Commission tasked with providing expert advice on targets, policies and climate risks and with holding the Government to account.<sup>7</sup>

Next the New Zealand government will need to produce policies that move us towards a zero-carbon economy over the next 30 years; and doing so in a way that looks after those adversely affected. Although the Act is a legal requirement, it will only be effective if the people of New Zealand insist that action must be taken and are prepared to act themselves.

Locally, many local councils have declared a Climate Emergency in 2019, acknowledging the urgency of the situation and the need to take immediate action. Auckland Council is currently in the process of developing Auckland's Climate Action Framework, which sets goals in a range of areas such as transport, renewable energy, infrastructure, building and low-carbon food systems.

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/02/SPM3a.png>

<sup>7</sup> <https://zerocarbonact.nz/assets/Uploads/ZCA-summary-FINAL.pdf>

## 2020 Action Plan going forward

Some of these actions will flow into 2021 and beyond. New action points, proposals and campaigns will be developed as appropriate.



### Liturgy and Worship

**Action One:** To gather existing theological and liturgical resources relating to creation care and climate justice and share them online.

There are many existing resources including prayer, liturgy, small group discussion, theological reflection, biblical exploration, podcasts, books, videos, Sunday school materials etc. The AARCC Collaboration group will bring together materials most relevant to our New Zealand Anglican context and also other useful websites beyond that. The Cherished Earth website [cherished-earth.org.nz](http://cherished-earth.org.nz) currently hosts blog posts and resources relating to how churches can improve their sustainability and decrease their carbon footprint. The ADJust website: [adjustnz.org](http://adjustnz.org) currently hosts a range of action and reflection resources related to the liturgical year. Further New Zealand specific resources will be developed and referenced over time.

**Outcome:** There would be an easily accessible place for Sustainability Champions, Green Teams and interested clergy to explore resources relevant to them.

**Action Two:** To encourage Ministry Units to incorporate creation care into liturgical practices, and in particular the regular celebration of Season of Creation as a time to focus creation care and climate action.

Season of Creation begins on the 1st of September - the Global Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to 4th October - Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi. Some Ministry Units already use this time as an opportunity to focus on creation care. This is an opportune time to focus actions and activities related to creation care and climate justice. The Sustainability Field Worker will work with Ministry Units to explore how they could incorporate this into the life of their Ministry Unit.

**Outcome:** Care of creation would become a regular part of the liturgical practices of Ministry Units and provide an opportunity for church attendees to reflect on their relationship

with God's creation and how they can better care for creation and respond to the climate crisis.

**Action Three: To develop resources to support Ministry Units to engage children, youth and young adults in creation care**

It is important that creation care is not focused only on adult members of Ministry Units, but also includes children and youth, who are an essential part of the life of the church. The Sustainability Field Worker will seek to collaborate with other relevant Diocesan staff to develop resources and explore meaningful engagement with young people in this area.

**Outcome:** Ministry Units would feel equipped to explore creation care with their young people. Young people would be included during the Season of Creation and other activities of the church related to creation care.



**Education**

**Action one: Run regular training for Sustainability Champions to equip them to be able to work more effectively with their Ministry Unit and wider community.**

This training will provide an opportunity for new and existing Sustainability Champions and Green Teams to build a sense of network and community. This will be a space to provide specific training, introduce resources, share stories/learnings, forming action plans and launch campaigns. These may be on an annual or biannual basis.

**Outcome:** Sustainability Champions and Green Teams feel supported and equipped to work with their Ministry Unit.

**Action Two: Hold regular workshops within the Diocese with a focus on sustainable living and themes related to responding to climate change and caring for creation.**

These workshops will build on the experience obtained over the last 8 years by the Anglican Climate Action Network (formerly the Diocesan Climate Change Action Group). Workshops will be organised based on the interest and request from Sustainability Champions and Ministry Units. They may feature guest presenters and speakers. The format may vary depending on what is appropriate.

**Outcome:** Workshop attendees feel motivated and come away with practical ideas and action points for sustainability, engaging in climate justice and creation care.

**Action Three: Present and raise awareness about the church’s responsibility to creation care and climate justice at Anglican events, gatherings and training.**

The Sustainability Field Worker and members of the AARCC collaboration group will make themselves available to speak at Diocesan events and training events as well as at Ministry Unit gatherings.

**Outcome:** Wider understanding and support from clergy and Diocesan staff about the importance of climate justice and creation care, as well as practical actions that the church can take to respond to the climate crisis.



### Mitigation

**Action One: Aim to measure the operational carbon footprint of at least 10 Ministry Units per year and introduce plans to reduce their carbon footprint as much as possible, and offset carbon footprint through tree planting and other carbon sequestering practices**

The Sustainability Field Worker would be responsible for working with Sustainability Champions, Green Teams and Ministry Unit vestries to calculate the operational carbon footprint of Ministry Units in areas of electricity and gas, transport and waste, using existing calculator tools such as the one developed by Toitū Envirocare (<https://www.toitu.co.nz/>). Each Ministry Unit would be supported to develop a plan for reducing their carbon footprint in these and other areas. Ministry Units are encouraged to consider options for offsetting their carbon footprint in creative ways that engage all members of the Ministry Unit and reach out to the wider community.

**Outcome:** Ministry Units are able to make a tangible difference to their carbon footprint and have a clear action plan unique to their context. More church attendees would be inspired to make changes in their own lifestyle. Relationships would be built between the Ministry Unit and the wider community.

**Action Two: Measure the operational carbon footprint of the Diocesan Offices and staff, including staff transport, and introduce plans to reduce this footprint by 45% by 2030**



Diocesan Offices would measure their carbon footprint in the three areas of energy (electricity and gas), transport and waste using existing calculators. This would be regularly reported to Diocesan Council and synod. The Diocesan offices will explore developing a Climate Action Plan that includes a sustainability audit of Neligan House and Holy Trinity Cathedral, exploration of renewable energy options, electric vehicles, encouraging use of public transport, cycling, and carpooling, waste reduction and carbon offsetting.

**Outcome:** The Diocesan Offices tangibly reduces its carbon footprint and is seen to lead the way. More Ministry Units are inspired to follow suit and benefit from the learnings of this process.

**Action Three: Develop easy to use resources to assist Ministry Units to understand carbon footprints and options for mitigation and carbon sequestering.**

The Sustainability Field Worker with the support of the AARCC collaboration group will develop resources relevant to the church context to assist Sustainability Champion teams, vestry members and clergy to understand carbon footprints and options for mitigation and sequestering. The resources will draw on the expertise of the AARCC collaboration group and the experiences of churches in New Zealand and overseas, to present options, ideas and guidelines. The resource will be available online and updated and adapted as required.

**Outcome:** There would be an easy to understand resources, specific to the New Zealand church context that explains carbon footprints, mitigation, and carbon sequestering options.



### Advocacy and Outreach

**Action One: To coordinate and undertake advocacy and lobbying around climate justice actions and to have a visible Anglican presence at non-violent direct-action events that seek action on climate change. e.g. 'Strike for Climate.'**

Sustainability Champions have raised the importance of having a united and coordinated voice when engaging in public action. The visible leadership of the Bishop and clergy in support of immediate action on climate change both inspires hope in the community and holds sway with secular media, political leaders and decision makers. The AARCC collaboration group will continue to:

- Make submissions to regional and national governments;
- Coordinate advocacy action;

- Collaborate with other Christian and Secular groups with similar values on meaningful climate justice campaigns

**Outcome:** the Anglican Church will be seen as a prophetic voice for climate justice in the public space, and stand for structural and systemic change in line with our values and mission.

**Action Two:** To reach out locally and collaborate within the wider community on events and projects (e.g. Earth Day, community gardens, at the marae).

Where possible, Ministry Units are encouraged to reach out to the wider community and collaborate with existing groups/local activities as they engage in actions for creation care and climate justice. This places the church as an active and visible prophetic voice on issues related to the integrity of creation. These stories are important to highlight through Anglican media, social media and Synod.

**Outcome:** Ministry Units would strengthen relationships with other community organisations in the local area and be seen as an active member of the community, leading the way in the area of creation care.