

# LGOIMA about leadership on climate action

Fri, 8 Nov 2024, 16:07

Dear Auckland Council,

As we approach the end of 2024, it is clear that Auckland Council is not "*on track to deliver its climate action plan*". This means Council has failed to achieve the second C40 leadership standard committed to in February 2021. ("Deliver")

This is no surprise, as there is substantial evidence that Council did not use "*the necessary financial, regulatory and other tools at their disposal to address the climate crisis*" nor did they "*mainstream the climate targets into the most impactful decision-making processes*". This means Council has failed to achieve the third C40 leadership standard also committed to in February 2021. ("Mainstream")

Arguably, Council has also failed to achieve the fourth and fifth leadership standards. ("Innovate" and "Lead")

These are failures of **leadership** and they follow a pattern of inadequate action.

My questions span the terms of current and previous Council CEOs, mayors and elected councillors, when the following critical political decisions were made by the Governing Body:

1. The declaration of a climate emergency in June 2019.
2. The approval of the Auckland Climate Plan in 2020.
3. The commitment to the new C40 Leadership Standards in February 2021.
4. The approval of the TERP in August 2022.

**For each of the above four political decisions, could you please advise:**

- **a) Whether it was the CEO, the Mayor or the Governing Body who had the responsibility to provide immediate leadership action? That is, whose role included the responsibility to translate the Governing Body's political decision into immediate and effective executive direction, and the responsibility to ensure the direction led to success?**
- **b) What immediate leadership action was taken by any of these three entities? That is, what directions were given that were intended to translate the Governing Body's political decision into immediate and effective executive direction?**

**Finally, could please advise what programme was established (if any) within the umbrella group of Council organisations to release staff from "entrenched ways of**

**working” and to eliminate “organisational conservatism”? While these problems were identified within the TERP, it is unclear that there has been any significant attempt to address them.**

For your convenience, here is a copy of the C40 Leadership Standards 2021–2024 that Council committed to:

1. Plan. City has adopted a resilient and inclusive climate action plan aligned with the 1.5°C ambition of the Paris Agreement, and updates it regularly;
2. Deliver. In 2024, city remains on track to deliver its climate action plan, contributing to increased resilience, equitable outcomes and halving C40’s overall emissions by 2030;
3. Mainstream. City uses the necessary financial, regulatory and other tools at their disposal to address the climate crisis and mainstreams their equitable climate targets into the most impactful city decision-making processes;
4. Innovate. City innovates and starts taking inclusive and resilient action to address emissions beyond the direct control of the city government, such as associated with goods and services consumed in their city;
5. Lead. Mayor and the city demonstrate global climate leadership and inspire others to act in support of the Paris Agreement.

Thank you. I look forward to the response.

Heidi O'Callahan