

Common Climate Network Local Government  
Scorecards 2019: [www.commonclimate.nz](http://www.commonclimate.nz)

1. Group surveyed	<i>CC &amp; DC Mayoral Candidates in the Horizons Region</i>
2. Number of total candidates that ran for Mayor	19
3. Number of candidates that responded	10
4. No. of candidates that were elected unopposed and were not required to fill in the questionnaire	2
5. Voting method	<i>FPP for Horowhenua, Manawatu, Rangitikei, Ruapehu and Tararua District Councils Mayors,</i>  <i>STV for Palmerston North City Council Mayor</i>  <i>Rangitikei &amp; Whanganui Mayors elected unopposed</i>
6. Group coordinating this council	<i>All Saints Parish Green Taskforce</i>
7. Contact for more information	Common Climate Network <a href="mailto:commonclimate2019@gmail.com">commonclimate2019@gmail.com</a>

**Candidate scores**

<i>Candidate</i>	1. Position on climate change	2. Vision for the next 10 years	3. An inclusive transition	4. Advocacy to central government	5. Working constructively	6. Transport	7. Energy efficiency	8. Waste	9. Urban development	10. Governance and management	<i>Total</i>
Andy Asquith	<b>A+</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>B-</b>

Palmerston North City Council Mayor											
Bernie Wanden Horowhenua District Council Mayor	<b>D</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>C-</b>
Jacques Windell Ruapehu District Council Taumarunui Ward, Mayor	<b>A+</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A-</b>
James Harold Taranaki District Council Mayor	<b>A-</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>C-</b>
Maruna Engu Palmerston North Mayor	<b>D</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>C+</b>
Mitch McHardy Taranaki District Council	<b>A-</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>

Mayor											
Russell Johnson Manawatu District Council Mayor	<b>A+</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A-</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>C+</b>
Shane Casey Manawatu District Council Mayor and Feilding Ward	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>A-</b>	<b>E</b>
Teanau Tuiono Palmerston North City Council Mayor	<b>A+</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A-</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A-</b>	<b>B+</b>
Tracey Collis Taranaki District Council Mayor	<b>A-</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>C</b>

**Candidates that did not respond or who were elected unopposed**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Mayor/Ward if applicable</b>	<b>Reason for no response</b>
Andy Watson	Rangitikei District	Elected unopposed
Don Cameron	Ruapehu District	No response

Grant Smith	Palmerston North City	No response
Hamish McDouall	Whanganui District	Elected unopposed
Helen Worboys	Manawatu District	No response
Hussein Kikhounga-N'Got	Palmerston North City	No response
Michael Feyen	Horowhenua District	No response
Ross Barber	Palmerston North City	No response
Victoria Kaye-Simmons	Horowhenua District	No response

## Process

We sent a questionnaire to all candidates in councils where we found volunteers willing to coordinate the questionnaire. The multi-choice answers had set scores. The text answers were graded by a group in each region, with guidance and moderation from the central Common Climate Network team as needed.

Each candidate received a total score and sub-totals for all topics. These were calculated as a percentage of the total possible score for each topic. The grades assigned correspond directly to the percentage each candidate scored.

*A 'no response' does not mean the candidates did not try to respond as technical issues may have prevented some candidates from completing the questionnaire. This does not necessarily mean they think climate change issues are not important.*

## What these grades mean

A+	90-100%	The candidate demonstrated a deep understanding of the issues, identified positive actions to take to address these issues and either referred to timelines or measures to show success in achieving progress in this area or identified collaboration or advocacy to achieve best results
A	85-89%	
A-	80-84%	
B+	75-79%	The candidate demonstrated a good understanding of the issues and identified positive actions to take to address these issues
B	70-74%	
B-	65-69%	
C+	60-64%	The candidate demonstrated a basic or acceptable understanding of the issues – maybe only concentrated on one area within the issue. And was positive and may have identified some actions to take.
C	55-59%	
C-	50-54%	
D	40-49%	Candidate showed a limited understanding of the climate crisis and how councils can respond, provided few ideas for positive actions.
E	0-39%	Does not appear to understand the issues or engages in straightforward denial of the climate crisis, did not answer the text questions and/or has put 'climate negative' answers.

X		Did not fill out the questionnaire
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## Questions and answers

The questionnaire covered ten topics on climate action. Text answers were restricted to 280 characters. Specific questions were added by the local coordinators in some regions.

### 1. What is your position on climate change?

We ask candidates to agree or disagree with five statements to help us see where they stand on climate action.

- I believe councils have an obligation to take a greater leadership position on reducing their own emissions and advocating to central government for greater action on climate issues.
- I believe councils have an obligation to reduce their emissions in ways that will be beneficial to businesses, residents and communities.
- I think we need to make some changes but not too quickly or this will 'rock the boat' too much.
- I am neutral on climate change – I will support what the council as a whole decides to do.
- I think the risk of climate change has been exaggerated and should not be treated as an emergency.

### 2. What is your vision for the future?

If you were to look back in 10 years time, how would you like to see that your city/district/region has responded to climate change? (Text answer)

### 3. How will you support an inclusive transition?

“With previous economic transformations, the shift to a low-emissions economy will create both opportunities and downsides. Some existing firms and jobs will disappear, while new business and occupations will emerge. Some workers will be especially vulnerable to changes in employment and should be given the opportunity to acquire new skills” – [Productivity Commission](#), 2018

Any change in industries and work will affect some groups more than others. We want to make sure that councillors can address these issues across the whole community by supporting groups affected by the transition. This topic also asks how they will take into account tangata whenua and Te Ao Māori, Pacific peoples, gender, diversity and social equity considerations. (Text answers)

- How would you ensure that the Council can support those affected by the transition to a low carbon economy to move to new jobs and ways of doing business?
- How would you include tangata whenua and Te Ao Māori considerations in Council work?
- How would you include Pacific peoples and Pacific peoples considerations in Council work?
- How would you include gender, diversity and social equity considerations in Council work?

#### **4. What will you advocate to central government on?**

As well as delivering Council services, Councils have a role to play in advocating for climate action to central government on behalf of their residents.

Would you support the Council advocating to central government on: (yes/no)

- Emissions reduction
- Just transition measures
- Support for electric vehicles
- Support for greater and safer cycling and walking
- Support for green building standards
- Support for energy efficiency standards
- Support for sustainable procurement

#### **5. How will you make sure you will work collaboratively?**

Working constructively through a Regional Climate Change MoU

At their meeting on August 27th Horizons Regional Council endorsed a Climate Change Memorandum of Understanding for all Councils in the Horizons Region\*, with the intent that it forms part of the 2020-2023 Triennial Agreement for the region.

\*<https://www.horizons.govt.nz/calendar/regional-council-meeting-2019-27-08.aspx> Agenda item 19-121

How important do you think this will be for the work of your council? (Very/Somewhat/Not at all)

Climate change will affect all parts of society, so a cohesive approach is needed with everyone working together and contributing according to their strengths. How would you ensure you work together with other councillors in a collaborative way, with other councils in the region, government and community groups? (Text answer)

#### **6. What are your priorities for transport?**

Transport makes up [nearly 20%](#) of New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions\*, but it is one of the easiest sectors to address, by switching commuters to public transport, cycling or walking, and greater electrification of public transport. Making progress here will help reduce New

Zealand's emissions while we find solutions in other areas. Reducing transport emissions will also help improve the quality of air in our cities.

We ask about various aspects of transport and climate change, including public transport, Council fleets, and increased safer cycling and walking.

### **7. What are your priorities for energy efficiency ?**

New Zealand has a high level of renewable energy. But [greater demand for electricity](#) (from growth and conversion of heating and transport to electricity to reduce carbon emissions) will mean more power stations need to be built and these all will need to be renewable. Increasing energy efficiency in industry, businesses and homes will [help reduce the demand](#) for electricity as well as the cost.

We ask candidates about energy efficiency in council facilities, new developments, suppliers, and local renewable electricity generation.

### **8. What are your priorities for waste?**

Emissions from waste [contribute 5%](#) of New Zealand's overall emissions, largely methane from food waste\*. Greater composting and using the compost for planting can reduce emissions and increase the carbon stored in soil. Consumers are also increasingly aware of the waste produced from household and business activities and the potential impact on the environment.

We ask candidates about reducing waste within council activities and their supply chain, food waste collection schemes, solid waste collection and disposal, and recycling of 'hard to recycle materials' onshore and within the region.

### **9. What are your priorities for urban development?**

Growing cities need housing, but not at the expense of the environment. The [lowest emissions](#) come from compact urban development that makes the best use of land that has already been converted to residential or industrial use, and is close to existing infrastructure\*. This means higher density housing with increased energy efficiency. Preserving agricultural land for food production as well as keeping or increasing native bush and forestry will also protect food and water supplies and biodiversity, and increase the amount of carbon that can be stored in the soil.

We ask candidates for their attitudes to high density development, development in existing suburban centres, on new greenfields sites, and how to protect and enhance existing green space, waterways and forest. For rural areas, the question can also cover productive land.

### **10. What is your governance and management approach or experience?**

Local Government New Zealand provides [training](#) for recently elected councillors on local government, governance and financial management.



We ask candidates if they have undertaken training in local government, governance and financial management in the last three years. And if not, would they commit to that training within their first three months in office.

We have developed these questions through extensive reading and talking to experts, and sincerely hope that these questions will help voters choose the best candidates to address climate change issues on their councils, for the sake of our present communities and for future generations.