

ECO-KIWI PLEDGES



2022



INTRODUCTION

These Pledges can be used by anyone, and have been prepared by the Eco Village Group of the Redcliffs Residents Association Christchurch, under the **CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY** declared for Redcliffs.

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The Pledges are intended to address concerns that the over-use of fossil fuels and the level and growth of global population and consumption are resulting in serious impacts on our planet's environments and resources.

While Central, Regional and Local governments can create public works and incentivise and regulate certain matters to try and reduce emissions and environmental damage, and while businesses can change services and products, every citizen also needs to play their part by changing their perception, activities and consumption.

PRINCIPLES

The Pledges follow the principles below and generally promote sustainable living and the healing of our planet and our local environment, in particular:

- Increase the amount of native plants, reduce weeds and other invasive introduced plants, and aim for 30% of all land to be in native ecosystems.
- Encourage the increase of native birds, insects, reptiles and fish, and reduce introduced predators.
- Increase the amount of walking, running, scooting, cycling and busing, and reduce the use of fossil-fuelled vehicles.
- Increase production and consumption of local, fresh and organic/regenerative fruit and vegetables, and reduce the consumption of meat.
- Encourage sustainable use and protection of soils.
- Increase the capture of rainwater and reduce the contamination of stormwater and groundwater.
- Increase the use of natural and low emission building materials, house weather tightness, insulation, thermal mass, solar access and passive heating, and reduce the level of fossil-fuelled home heating.
- Encourage the transition to sustainable businesses and employment.
- Encourage better understanding of and care for other people and the natural environment.
- Encourage the reduction of greenhouse gases and air pollutants.
- Carefully consider the actual need for any consumer goods, and reduce the amount of waste, pollution and litter in the environment.
- Promote safety, resilience, durability and flexibility to withstand natural disasters.
- Respect all local cultures, heritage and arts, and encourage non-motorised recreation.

PLEDGES

We encourage you to adopt any of the following specific actions, which you are not already doing, for the next 8 years till 2030:

Biodiversity

1. Plant your own native habitat and include a lizard den, on your property, or go to community native tree planting and maintenance days. Check each week and note any new creatures and how they benefit others and people. Use **inaturalist.nz**.
2. Keep pulling out and properly disposing of all weeds on your property.
3. Keep trapping possums, hedgehogs, rats, mice and wasps on your property.

Transport

4. Reduce your fossil fuelled vehicle and air travel by a further 10% this year. Buy a manual or an electric bike and choose and electric vehicle if upgrading.
5. Treat yourself to two “car-less days” each week (walk, scoot, bike, bus or share ride instead).

Food, Health & Soil

6. Grow more fruit and vegetables for more homemade meals, with two meat free days a week.
7. Maintain your compost system and vegetable garden and keep your soil mulched, or support your community garden.

Water

8. Store some of your roof water for garden watering and wash your vehicles on lawns, not hard surfaces.
9. Don't waste water: fix any leaks; turn off tap when brushing teeth; wash vegetables in a container and tip onto garden; make sure dishwashers have a full load; use gauge on jugs/ kettles to boil no more water than needed.

Building

10. Install natural wool insulation in ceilings, walls and under-floor, after draught-proofing your home.

Energy

11. Reduce your household energy from suppliers by a further 10% this year. Choose the most energy efficient, if replacing appliances and don't leave them on "standby" power.
12. Get the most from the sun, prune trees shading house windows in winter.

Economy & Resources

13. Continue to support your local shopping centre and farmer's market weekly, and choose environmentally friendly product alternatives.
14. Keep a "to do /shopping" list, and do as many things as possible each vehicle trip.

Education & Communication

15. Support your local schools and take your children to local native restoration projects and learn about nature together.
16. Don't dwell on what you are losing by reducing emissions, dwell on what you are gaining.

Climate & Air

17. Start the Citizen's Climate Change Challenge.
Using the "Household Calculator" at: toitu.co.nz/calculators, will help you measure your actual household CO2 emissions and the reductions you make. You will also be able to compare your emissions with the NZ average and you will find lots of tips on ways you can reduce your emissions further. The Citizens Climate Change Challenge is to reduce your emissions by 1% each month, or 10% each year so you will halve your emissions by year 2030 (as urged by the International Panel on Climate Change).

Waste/Pollution

18. Put your dog poo in a plastic bag and into your "red" bin.
Don't leave the poo or the bag for someone else to deal with.
19. Buy only what is necessary, durable, repairable, non-plastic/synthetic, locally made, toxin free, recycled and recyclable and leave goods packaging with suppliers. Buy in bulk, as refills, and as concentrates to reduce waste and cost.
20. Share some of your chattels on mutu.co.nz, and hire rather than buy.

Resilience

21. Obtain or assemble a "getaway kit" (see getthru.govt.nz).
22. Pursue a new life skill (e.g. first aid, gardening, cooking, sewing, or building).

Culture & Recreation

23. Spend more time on family and community activities and new living skills.
24. Increase your walking, running or biking. Create circuits to follow from and to home or work (avoid using your vehicle).

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