



Impact Report 2023

Date: 31/08/23

Photo Credit South Coast Environment Centre

Contents

03 Staff & Board

04 Co-Chairs & EO Report

05-12 Network Updates

05 Welcoming New Members

06 Network Collaboration

07 Rebrand, Comms & Advocacy

08-09 Community-Led Climate Resilience

10-11 Peer-To-Peer

12-13 Hui

14-15 Funding Report

16 Becoming Better Te Tiriti Partners

17 Becoming Better Allies

18-23 Impact

18-19 Sustainability

20-21 Restoration

22-23 Connection



Staff & Board

Our Staff

Our team have an FTE of 2.8 combined.



Georgina Morrison
Executive Officer



Anna Worsey
Coordinator



Tessa Aylward
Finance Officer



Vicky Vajda McNab
Comms & Advocacy
Lead



Jen Pannell
Data Curator



Natasha McGowan
Revenue & Partnerships
Specialist

Our Board



Ben Alder
Christchurch
Envirohub



Ellieda Komene
Go Eco &
Environment
Network Manawatū



Emma Horgan
Sustainable
Hawke's Bay



Janet Cole
EHA Co-Chair
Kaipātiki Project



Joanna Pahl
Nelson
Environment
Centre



Marielle Haringa
Independent



Mike Maahs
EHA Co-Chair
Waiheke Resources
Trust



Stephen van
Wonderen
Whāingaroa
Environment Centre



Susie Robertson
Kaibosh



Tina Ivory
EHA Treasurer
Ecomatters



Co-Chairs & EO Report

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Nga mihi o te wā ki a koutou katoa.

We have pleasure in presenting the EHA impact report 2022/23. The key theme this year is growth & momentum. Our 22 hubs show sustained growth in capacity & capability, resulting in greater collaboration & participation than ever before.

Our enhanced focus on system change and advocacy, along with our fresh new brand, is generating excitement for the coming year.

The regional hui in Tauranga and Timaru, and the national hui in Karapiro, were catalysts for networking; leveraging the potential of increased energy and acceptance of the urgency for community climate and environmental action. Hubs are now ideally positioned for leading development of community resilience as evidenced during this year's extreme weather events.

Our increased staff capacity is supporting delivery around our Board's bolder aspirations, including planning joint action with partners: Community Energy Network, Zero Waste Network and Para Kore. Our interactive online map supports this collaboration and continues to grow with new regional maps showing the impact of member hubs.

We continue to value our partnership with the Ministry for the Environment and associated core funding that enables the impact shown throughout this report.

Environment Hubs are integral community infrastructure. Our continued and increased collaboration helps sustain a healthy network & allows us to grow our wider impact.

Ki te kotahi te kākaho, ka whati; ki te kāpuia, e kore e whati.

(When a reed stands alone it is vulnerable, but a group of reeds together is unbreakable. A tongikura by King Tāwhiao in reference to strength in unity).

Georgina Morrison - Executive Officer
Janet Cole & Michael Maahs - Co-Chairs

Network Updates

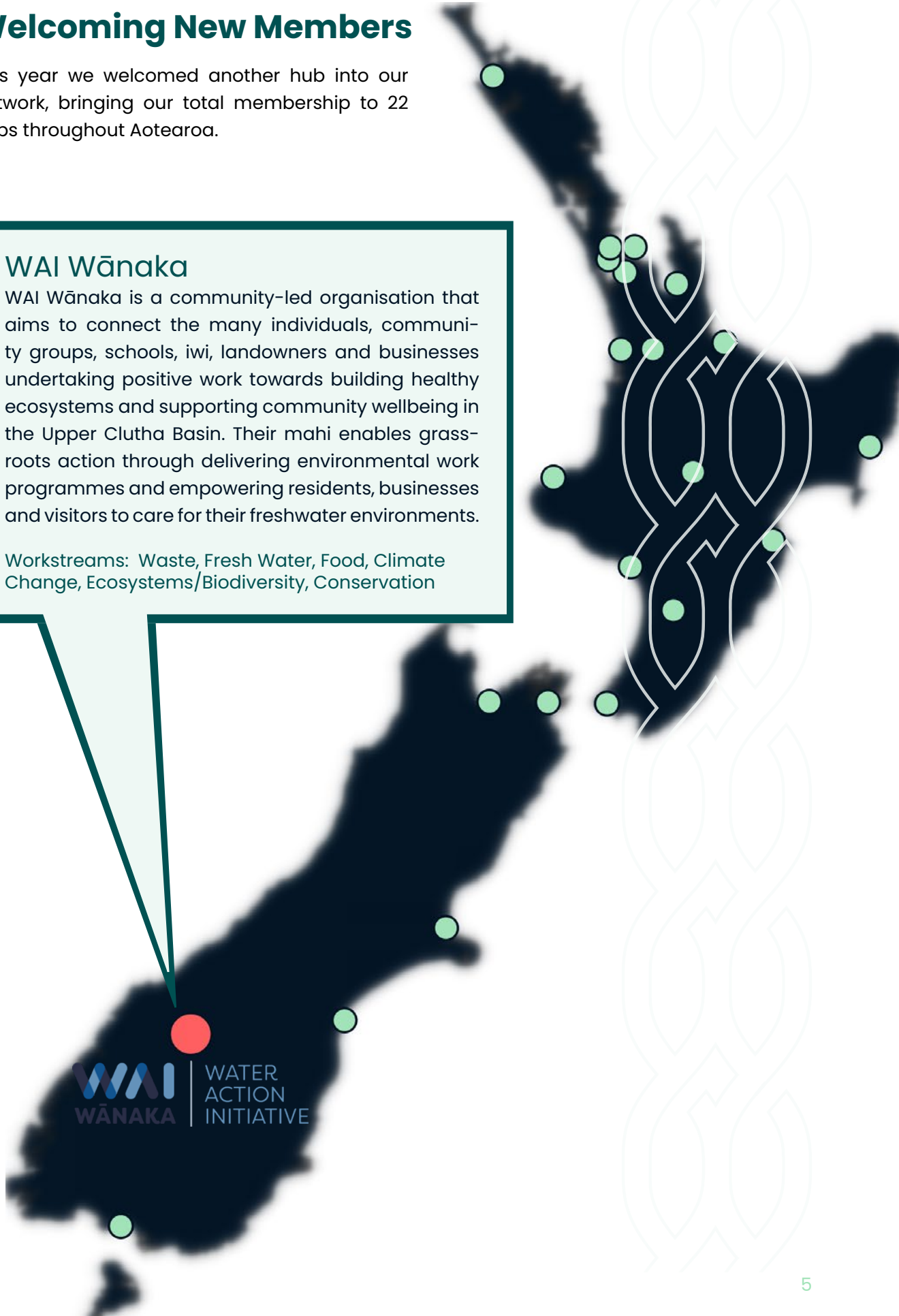
Welcoming New Members

This year we welcomed another hub into our network, bringing our total membership to 22 hubs throughout Aotearoa.

WAI Wānaka

WAI Wānaka is a community-led organisation that aims to connect the many individuals, community groups, schools, iwi, landowners and businesses undertaking positive work towards building healthy ecosystems and supporting community wellbeing in the Upper Clutha Basin. Their mahi enables grass-roots action through delivering environmental work programmes and empowering residents, businesses and visitors to care for their freshwater environments.

Workstreams: Waste, Fresh Water, Food, Climate Change, Ecosystems/Biodiversity, Conservation



Network Collaboration

We are collaboration catalysts for our hubs, facilitating connection & collective projects.

This year our hubs came together to submit several joint funding applications for collaborative projects. Ten of our hubs took part in at least one of the projects, which included Auckland EcoFest, tenders for a National Strategy to reduce Household Food Waste, and The Plastics Innovation Fund.

"We visited a lot of the other centres around the country and we unashamedly borrowed ideas, experiences and encouragement from them to help us do what we've done here. We feel very much part of a movement across the whole country & we are very happy to be involved. Together we are much stronger."
South Canterbury Environment Centre

Auckland EcoFest

"Under EHA's umbrella, our four hubs were able to make a joint application to Auckland Council's Auckland Climate Fund. This additional funding helped us to promote the festival more widely, and will also go towards developing a new purpose-built website for next year's festival" - Carla Gee, EcoMatters.

Our four Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland hubs (EcoMatters, Beautification Trust, Kaipātiki Project and Waiheke Resources Trust) got together to host a month-long celebration of our environment. Around 10,000 attendees enjoyed 300+ events, activities, installations and workshops for people of all ages and at any stage of their sustainability journey.

"We're all working with the same sustainability kaupapa in our communities, so coming together for EcoFest was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to connect, learn from each other & amplify our impact across Tāmaki Makaurau"
Daniel Barthow, Beautification Trust.



EcoFest Te
Aka Raataa
Giveback Day

Our Network

We have

2309

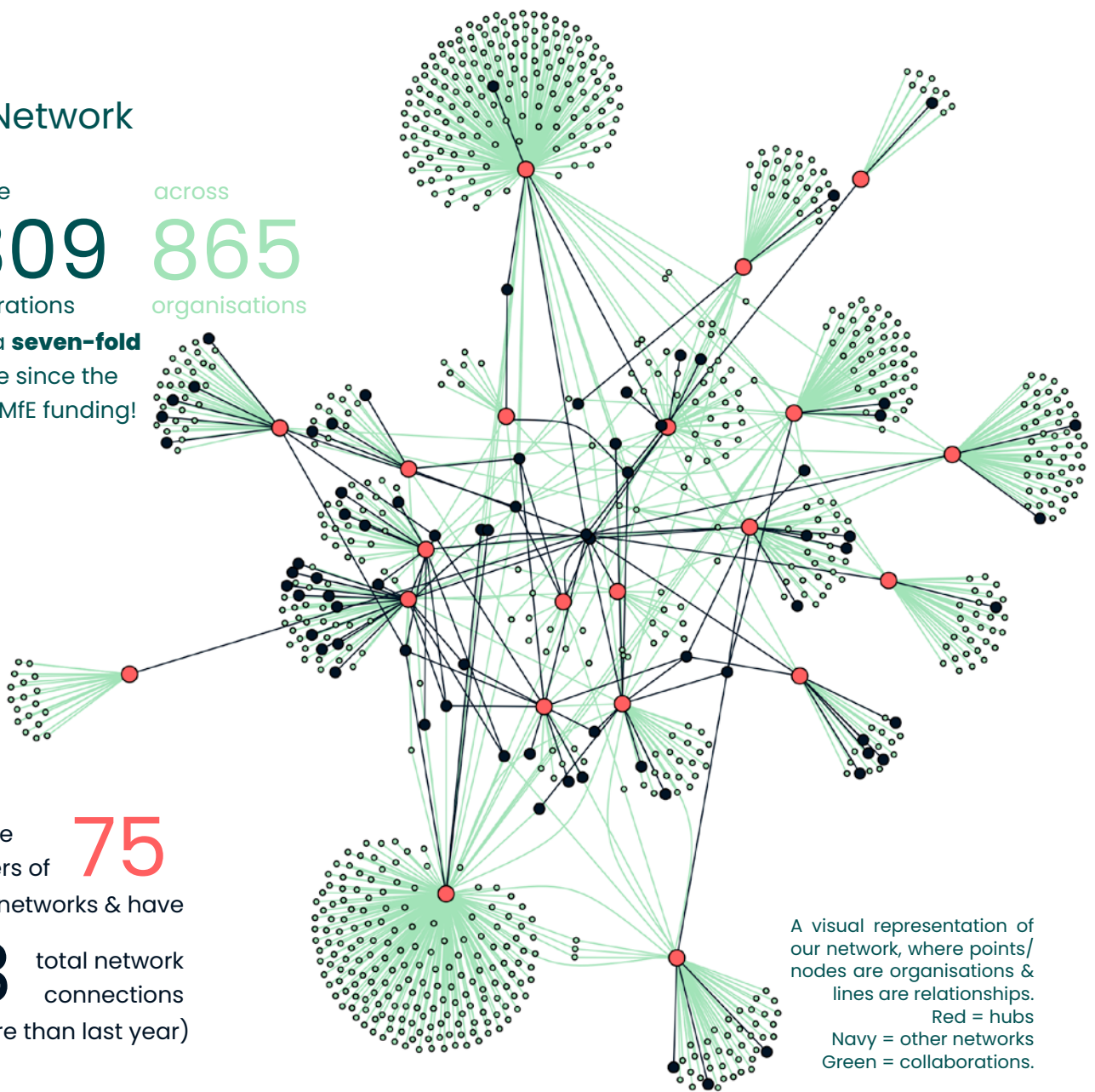
collaborations

Nearly a **seven-fold** increase since the start of MfE funding!

across

865

organisations



Hubs are members of

75

unique networks & have

113

total network connections

(60 more than last year)

A visual representation of our network, where points/nodes are organisations & lines are relationships.
Red = hubs
Navy = other networks
Green = collaborations.

Rebrand

As we grow and mature as a network, we are establishing more partnerships & collaborations, and expanding our collective reach. To support this growth, we developed three transformative pieces of work for our organisation: a rebranding process, the creation of a Theory of Change and the development of a new website.

We translated our kaupapa & aspirations into a new visual identity. Our new brand represents what we stand for; our collaborative nature, our commitment to Te Tiriti and our collective strengths. Our Theory of Change informs our strategic direction to support our sustainable growth & improve our collaboration. Our newly-launched improved website brings together our new brand and Theory of Change to showcase our collective impact and mahi.



Comms & Advocacy

We are coordinating & developing our communication and advocacy to showcase our collective impact, promote systemic change, & improve policy at local & national levels. We have allocated more resources to submissions & campaigning, relationship building within the environmental and community sector, & amplifying our collective voice for change.



Food ready for the community at WRT

“We immediately put a call out for volunteers and goods donations and had an amazingly fast reaction from the community. Hundreds of wonderful volunteers turned up and quality clothing and household items, kai, toys and bedding were donated. People have come from around the country to process donations, dig out silt, clean up roads, get goods into hard-to-reach areas, evacuate people and animals, and care for the displaced”.
Emma Horgan-Heke,
Sustainable Hawke’s Bay CEO
and EHA Board Member

Community-Led Climate Resilience

Hubs As Emergency Responders

Our hubs played a crucial role supporting communities affected by the severe climate events that hit Te Ika-a-Māui in early 2023. Sustainable Hawke’s Bay, Waiheke Resources Trust and Tairāwhiti Environment Centre provided essential support to our communities before, during and after the events. Organising sandbags for damage prevention, provision of shelter, food and basic supplies, donations collections, and cleanup working bees were a few of the many ways they assisted their communities.

Environment Hubs Aotearoa activated its network and connections to help raise funds and collect supplies to assist our affected communities. And in the aftermath, we are also leading discussions and research around preparedness for climate-related emergency events, and community resilience building.

Community Response Research

Environment Hubs Aotearoa has been resourced by The Whakatapu Aotearoa Foundation to lead original research into community responses and resilience following the climate disasters in early 2023. We will be conducting surveys, focus groups and interviews to capture the lived experiences of communities during and after these severe weather events, and co-design a roadmap to inform Civil Defence, Government and stakeholders on how to build better community preparedness.

This project was designed with input from Zero Waste Network, Community Energy Network, Para Kore and others. We are proud to be collaborating with researchers from several organisations, such as Massey University & Sustainable Hawke’s Bay.

The Compost Co.

WAIHEKE RESOURCES TRUST



Turning waste into resource
to replenish local soils

Peer-To-Peer

Our Peer-to-Peer programme supports visits between hubs, sharing knowledge & experience throughout our network. This year there were four peer-to-peer visits. We have selected some highlights below.

Envirohub Marlborough to Christchurch Envirohub

May 2023

As a growing hub that is expanding & collaborating with more organisations, Envirohub Marlborough wanted to visit a hub with a similar model to theirs to learn more about their inner workings. They brought back great ideas for expanding their capacity, including how to create internship opportunities, connecting with tertiary institutions, swap events, school “taster” sessions and expanding their Conservation Kids programme.

“We are big believers in sharing our journey & learning from others who have done the hard mahi before us or have done things differently.”
- Ailie Suzuki, Envirohub Marlborough

Kaipātiki Project & Beautification Trust to Waiheke Resources Trust

September 2022

This double peer-to-peer visit was packed with tours, project planning & shared kai. It facilitated development of the collaborative Auckland-wide Ecofest project, provided know-how for a teaching garden and composting facilities at Kaipātiki Project, and inspired Beautification Trust to work on collectively offering interning opportunities between the hubs.

“An invaluable way of sharing each other’s knowledge, resource sharing & identifying future opportunities of collaboration”
- Blanka Ros, Kaipātiki Project



Christchurch Envirohub to Sustainability Trust

May 2023

Our Christchurch Hub paid a visit to Te Whanganui-a-Tara in order to gain insight into effectively running collaborative spaces in the waste and recycling sector. They came away with model strategies for waste collection programmes, and resources from Sustainability Trust’s education curriculum that they plan to use in their Envirokids programme.

“It takes away communication barriers and fosters collaboration, knowledge sharing, tacit knowledge and relationship building with other hubs”
- Ben Alder, Christchurch Envirohub

"It feels great to be a part of this awesome group of people. I've come away feeling more inspired and connected. I definitely feel it has helped with my capacity as I feel that my work is a part of a greater collective good."

— South Island Hui attendee



Hui

Every year we bring hubs together to exchange experiences and network in three hui filled with a wide range of speakers, workshops, round-tables, project presentations and collaboration opportunities.

In October 2022, we had our national Strengthening Communities Hui shared with Community Energy Network and Zero Waste Network. With the theme "regional connections", the hui brought together members from across the three networks to explore our work and potential opportunities at a regional level. We had three days in the Waikato region, visiting Xtreme Zero Waste and Go Eco, and enjoying learning and exchange opportunities. We also held our AGM at the event, where EHA members elected three new board members.

Our South Island Regional Hui took place in Te Tihi-o-Maru (Timaru), in March, hosted by the South Canterbury Eco Centre team at their beautiful new centre. Members of our six hubs across Te Waipounamu spent a weekend learning, exchanging and collaborating.

In late May, we had two fun days connecting in Tauranga, at our North Island Regional Hui 2023. The Envirohub Bay of Plenty team hosted members of our 16 Te Ika-a-Māui hubs.

For all of us at Environment Hubs Aotearoa, it is so valuable to be able to connect in person with our hubs' teams and we always come away with lots of ideas and a list of actions to help support them better.



Strengthening Communities Hui



Strengthening Communities Hui



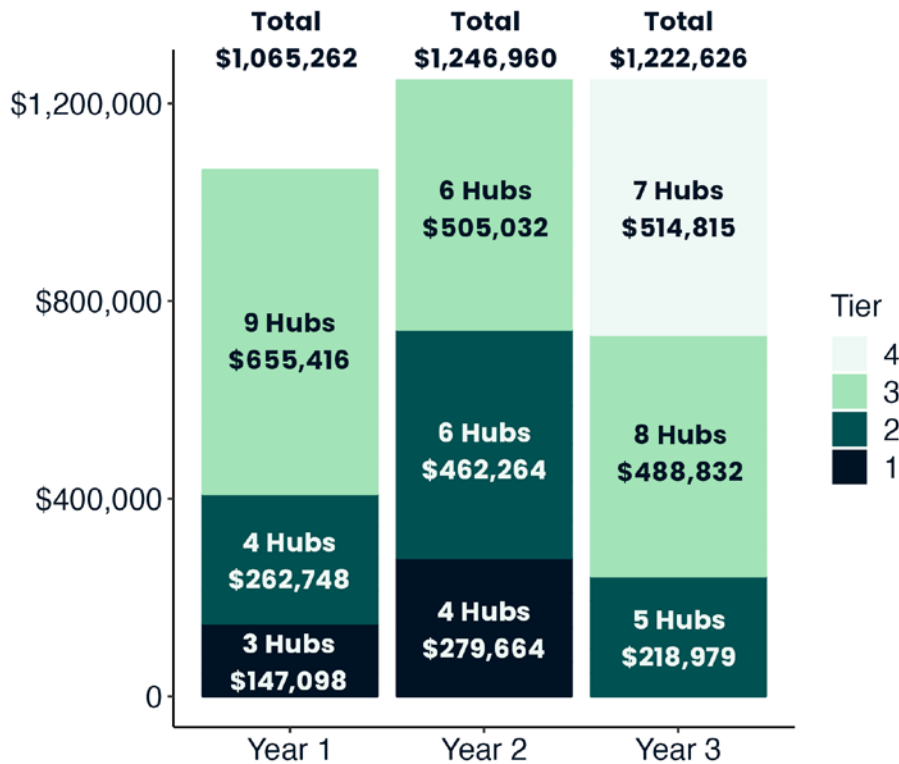
South Island Regional Hui



North Island Regional Hui

Funding Report

We are continually refining our unique funding distribution model in order to improve transparency and robustness, and to ensure it meets the needs of our hubs. The criteria give hubs goals to focus on, while allowing for the fact that hubs are diverse and are at different stages on their journeys.



This year, we distributed \$1,222,626 of MfE funding across 20 hubs. We also added a fourth tier to our scoring system, to allow better differentiation between hubs and more ambitious criteria.

Our Model

Hubs self-assess across eight criteria using a points system, with scores collectively moderated by EHA staff. Total scores are used to determine tiers. Criteria are:

- Participation in EHA network
- External collaboration and community networks
- Physical presence in the community
- Inclusiveness and accessibility
- Growth mindset and proven outcomes
- Financial robustness and governance
- Te Tiriti partnership
- Demonstrated impact

What Our Hubs Say

"We truly value the support we receive from EHA and feel incredibly fortunate to have this organisation in New Zealand. With their leadership and support, hubs across the country are able to achieve so much more, for our unique environment & our beautiful communities."

EHA funding has been instrumental in our ability to employ staff to progress our core work, which has in turn accelerated our strategic goals and output for our community. The provision of specialist training & workshops, shared resources, buyers groups & hui have been incredibly valuable for our team."

Amy Healey - Chair, Envirohub Marlborough

Our funding strengthens hubs' capacity and capability by covering operational costs. This focus on operational funding is integral for our hubs in a world where the more readily available project funding often does not allow for these costs.



Hubs are funded by a total of 208 other funders, up 88 since the start of funding

Hubs bring in funding for their communities too.

154 grants umbrellaed across the motu

53 more than in the first year of funding

Key Stats

hubs employ

328

people over **198 FTE**



150

new staff and interns this year
69 of the positions were new

7,000

volunteers support our hubs



clocking in over

78,000

hours

a **63% increase** since the start of funding

This year, hubs brought in a total of \$11,758,589 of funding across the network, with MfE funds making up 10% of the total funding.



Community enterprise is also growing. This year's total of \$5,547,942 is more than **3x higher than at the start of MfE funding.**

"Going through the EHA funding process inspires a period of self-reflection, a time to consider how you can continue growing and what you can achieve. It's cool to look at what hubs in the higher tiers are achieving. That's the value of EHA, as seeing what's possible really opens up your mind." - Sustainable Taranaki

Becoming Better Te Tiriti Partners

We recognise Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the founding document of Aotearoa. We acknowledge and maintain that hapū in Aotearoa never ceded tino rangatiratanga. We acknowledge that our organisation has a lot of work to do in order to honour Te Tiriti. We will work hard to support our staff, board and hubs on their journey to better understand Te Ao Māori & to be good partners.

We honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi as a living guide for our mahi. It shapes our engagement with tangata whenua and our pursuit of a sustainable Aotearoa. This commitment is a key part of our kaupapa to nurture te taiao & to empower resilient communities.

We are working on a Māori Allyship Framework with a tangata whenua consultant to grow our understanding of Te Ao Māori, review our own internal processes & actively support our staff, board & hubs to become better tangata Tiriti. We offer tikanga & decolonisation workshops, kōrero opportunities & resources to support hubs in their journeys.

Every year, we ask hubs “What have you done this year to be a better tangata Tiriti partner?”. Here’s what our hubs had to say:

Mahi

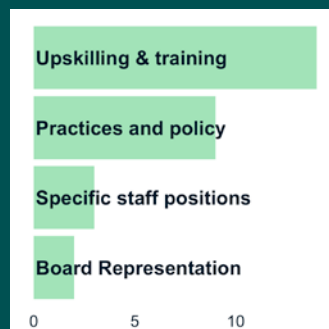


Hubs act as te tiriti partners through their work, primarily through use of Te Reo, running specific events such as Matariki, and weaving Matauranga Māori through their programmes.

Example:

“We have employed a Kairuruku Reo Māori to support our programmes. This also allows us to provide our sessions in Te Reo Māori from a Te Ao Māori perspective.”

Organisation



Inside of the organisation, most hubs mentioned ongoing upskilling such as decolonisation training for staff. Many also mentioned improvements to internal practices and organisational policy, and some have created specific staff roles to support their te tiriti journey.

Example:

“We have changed our deed to make room for co-governance.”

Relationships



Relationships are the foundation of te tiriti partnership. Many hubs run collaborative projects. Some provide free resources to Māori organisations, or actively support tangata whenua in exercising kaitiakitanga.

Example:

“We supported our local Marae to develop their awa restoration plan for their application for Million Metres funding. The Marae wove mātauranga Māori and our hub’s methodology throughout the restoration plan & implementation.”

Every year, we ask “What have you done this year to be a better ally in supporting marginalised groups?”. Here’s what hubs told us:

Who?



Hubs support many marginalised groups through their work, most often low income people, plus nearly half of hubs actively support migrants & refugees.

Example:

“We have a collaboration with Auckland City Mission Street Guardians, this is a very special project that enables homeless people who normally live on the streets of Central Auckland access to, and participation in, environmental restoration”

Organisation



Internally, hubs show their allyship through targeted policies, having a representative staff & board, paying staff a living wage, and more.

Example:

“We overhauled traditional sick days to health days enabling employees to take time off with no questions asked to improve wellbeing, injury & health (physical & mental)”

Becoming Better Allies

Our hubs celebrate our diverse communities and actively promote inclusion, equity, respect and engagement of minorities and marginalised groups. Most activities are free or low cost, making sustainable living education accessible to the wider community.

As an organisation, we demonstrate allyship by offering free & low-cost access to events and resources, paying a living wage, supporting mental health and wellbeing for staff and members, and building a culture of trust and respect in our team and network.

Mahi



The work our hubs do supports marginalised communities in many ways. Most hubs spoke about providing low cost goods, and running specific programmes aimed at disadvantaged groups. Other key workstreams include kai sovereignty, and supporting ally organisations.

Example:

“We work alongside the Hamilton Migrant Settlement (HMS) Trust to provide free or low cost access to bikes, and with HMS Trust and K’aute Pasifika to reduce energy hardship”

Our Impact

Measuring impact can be tricky, but we capture comprehensive quantitative & qualitative data, & impact stories to show the diversity of mahi in the network. We're continually improving this process collaboratively with our hubs. This year, the data shows substantial growth overall, not just through increased network size but because hubs are expanding their operations. Improved capacity, capability & collaboration enables our hubs to increase their community engagement and impact each year.

Read more impact stories at environmenthubs.nz/impact



Tania Ashman, kai workshop facilitator, showing some of their crops

Sustainability

Our hubs lead the way in the circular economy. They are advancing the right to repair movement, running timebanks and upcycling workshops, fostering kai security, and promoting low-emission and waste-free lifestyles.

Kai Security Workshops

Whāingaroa Environment Centre's regular food security workshops help build kai resilience. With sold-out workshops on food growing, cooking, seasonal crops, and promoting technical and cultural exchanges, they attract a wide demographic.

"All of us learn at these events, including the hosts and the experts. Learning as a community is so much fun! We share stories from our generation, our cultures, and our gardens and kitchens!", celebrates Katie Lowes, WEC's Funding & Programme Lead.

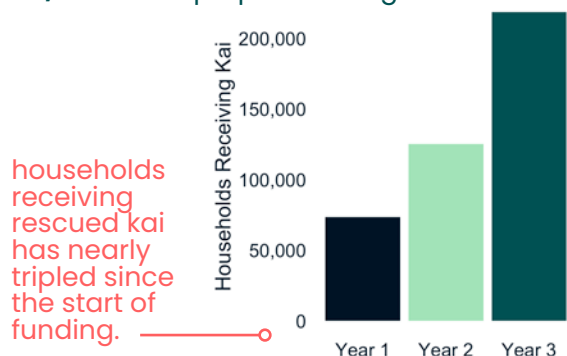
Recently they've received funding from the Ministry of Ethnic Communities to host international Food EXPOs celebrating cultural diversity in Whāingaroa. "We have connected this work directly to our Food Security programme with our local international cooks being challenged to incorporate seasonal local food into the celebration of the recipes", comments Katie.

Across The Network:

77 community gardens supported by over 700 community members

8,346 edible seeds & root stocks distributed

24,155 meals prepared using rescued food





Waste

This year, hubs diverted:

100 tonnes of e-waste
(nearly 39,000 items sold)



582 tonnes of kai



2,857 tonnes of other waste

plus another **300,000 items** saved from landfill & five hubs running regular repair cafés



Toast Electric

Energy & Transport



11,423 healthy homes

through energy efficiency advice & curtain banks - more than triple last year's total



7,118 bikes repaired, repurposed, sold at low cost or donated through 10 bike hubs across the motu

Keeping Single-Use Out Of Landfill

This year, 42 m³ single-use packaging, plus a whole lot of organic waste, made into



163 m³ compost

plus **2,633** compost systems sold



4,710 litres of refills sold

plus nearly 24,000 items of servingware kept out of landfill, by initiatives such as Marlborough's Zero Waste Trailer.

Tackling Energy Hardship

Toast Electric, powered by Sustainability Trust, is an integrated not-for-profit electricity retailer supporting those facing energy hardship. Vulnerable households are identified and referred by partner organisations to receive lower electricity prices, home energy assessments, upgrades, and winter heating plans, with no fear of disconnection. Profits provide support for low-income households that are making the tough choice between heating and eating. For every three customers that join Toast Electric, they can help one more household in energy hardship.

"Our wrap-around approach provides a community response to a really sticky issue, replacing the existing commercial, profit-driven model that doesn't prioritise supply of this essential resource", comments Phil Squire, Sustainability Trust Fair Energy Manager.

Restoration

Our hubs lead regeneration, conservation, and education programmes that result in significant environmental outcomes and promote strong community engagement and environmental awareness.



Kaipātiki Project weeding and planting day

Regenerating A Lost Environmental Taonga

Since 2019, Kaipātiki Project has been a delivery partner of a whole-systems approach for the community regeneration of the Jesse Tonar Scout Reserve in Northcote, as part of the Te Ara Awataha Greenway – Northcote’s new greenway. Parts of the Awataha Stream, which was piped for more than 70 years, have been unearthed or ‘daylighted’, restoring the stream’s natural ecosystem and reconnecting the community to this lost environmental taonga.

With funding from Eke Panuku, who are working in partnership with mana whenua, Auckland Council’s Healthy Waters, Kāinga Ora and Kaipātiki Local Board, Kaipātiki Project is working

to deliver on the aspirations of the Take Mauri Take Hono mauri indicator framework developed by mana whenua. This measures Mauri (life essence) indicators in the environment around the greenway.

“One of the highlights has been working regularly with volunteer Street Guardians working in conjunction with the City Mission and the Tomorrow Inc charity. Another significant highlight was finding our first tuna (eel) after a year of monitoring. Seeing this confirms there are tuna returning to the stream, and continuing a 30 to 80-year reproduction life-cycle”, celebrates Neil Henderson, Restoration Activator at Kaipātiki Project.

Across The Network:

 **34,000**
plants grown & planted


262 ha
restored, with 31 new sites this year

208 tonnes weeds removed
& **5,457** traps put out




Hubs continuously monitor **69 waterways** (more than double last year's total)

136 river & beach clean-ups run
spanning **52 km** - an increase of 17 km



10 T rubbish removed from waterways

Our Drains Are Streams

WAI Wānaka has been piloting a project with the tamariki of a local ECE to get whānau involved in reducing stormwater pollution in their neighbourhoods, and therefore our waterways. Kids learn about their local stormwater networks and the species that live in the lakes and rivers, and why it is important that 'only rain goes down the drain.' The project is one of the many pieces of the Wānaka Water Project, which

includes a Community Catchment Plan and planting 24,000 riparian plants along more than 7,000m of waterways, among other initiatives.

"There is a drain right by our gates, the kids step on it when they get into the van. They were telling me all about it & saying how if other things go down the drain it hurts the fish. So great to hear them learning & re-telling." – participating ECE educator



Wai Wānaka

Connection

Our hubs are at the frontline of community engagement. We build community resilience, foster connection to te taiao, and boost the shift to a more sustainable & equitable society.

Helping New New Zealanders Connect With Their New Home

For the past 6 years, Envirohub Marlborough has been running the Children's Day Ocean Adventure Cruise, a free event for whānau and tamariki who have either never been out on the water or who may not be able to afford a boat trip out in their own backyard, the Marlborough Sounds.

This year, with the support of the Red Cross, the hub hosted Rohingya families recently resettled in Aotearoa. "These families were able to enjoy and experience a side of their new homes that they would not have been able to otherwise, & they were extremely grateful & came back really excited. It was a safe space for the families to enjoy and experience new things - the kids didn't hold back (and neither did the adults!)" shares the hub's GM, Ailie Suzuki.



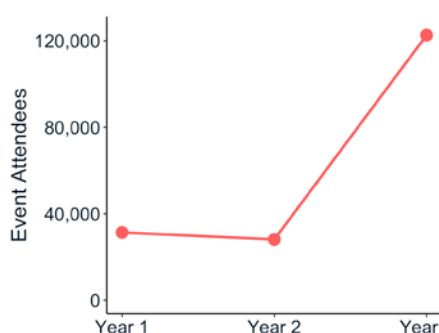
Our community reach is growing!

397,000

visitors this year, **up 51% on average** since last year, plus

123,000

attendees to 3,218 in-person events + 143 online, making our mahi accessible to a further 5,000 attendees



Our profile is growing too:

- ◇ 373 media appearances
- ◇ 15 awards nominated, shortlisted or won
- ◇ 147 submissions & 9 submission workshops
- ◇ 570 awareness & education campaigns
- ◇ 557 educational resources produced

Fresh & Accessible Kai

Hapori Fruit & Veg Box is a non-profit fresh produce initiative offering affordable fresh fruit and vegetable boxes to the Nelson community. Created by Nelson Environment Centre in partnership with Te Whatu Ora Nelson - Marlborough, the project harnesses the local collective buying power to reduce the cost of groceries. These low-waste freshness-packed boxes are helping get more veggies on the community's tables.

"Excellent quality. Using veggies we might not normally choose and still getting what we normally use. Our family has increased veg intake and we base meals around what we get", comments a client. Customers pre-order the boxes that get sorted by local greengrocers to be collected at one of five distribution hubs. Since October 2021, the initiative has distributed over 5,500 boxes and NEC is working hard to make it accessible to even more people.



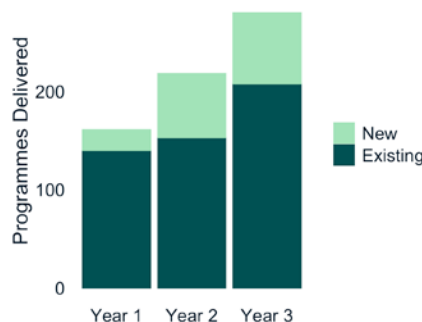
Hapori Fruit & Veg Box

Our online reach has nearly doubled since the start of funding

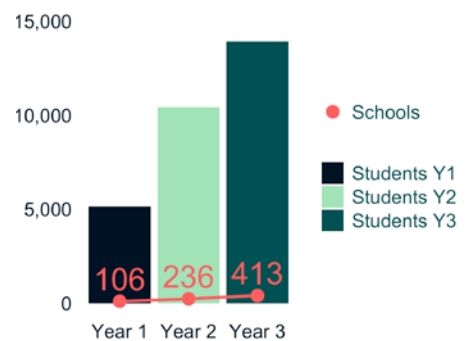
300,000 website visitors

198,000 email & social media subscribers

Every year the scope of our mahi grows, with more programmes delivered.



We're reaching more tamariki & rangatahi each year:



Plus 28 holiday programmes attracting over **2,300 students**

Our Hubs



Our Partners



Our Funders



Report printed by
FUJIFILM Business Innovation

