

Pukerua Bay Climate Change Action Rōpu – report to Residents Association AGM October 2023.

A group of residents decided to start a local conversation about climate change to try to spark community action.

Initial group members included Kate Dreaver, Conor Twyford, Kelly McLean, Barbara Nebel, soon joined by Jane Comben, Nikky Winchester, Melissa Wharakura and Megan Melidonis.

As an informal group, the Climate Action rōpu linked in to the Residents Association, the Community Hub and the Primary School as local partners. Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and Porirua City Council offered advice and support. We developed a constellation model of governance, looking to connect all of the useful environmental action currently underway in Pukerua Bay.

In October we held our first community workshop. Forty-five people came together to share their ideas for mitigating climate change and dealing with its effects. The energy was hugely encouraging.

In February, a smaller workshop was held to strengthen our foundations and get more clarity on our direction. At this workshop, we began by constructing a deeper understanding of the role of Ngāti Toa Rangatira as mana whenua of Pukerua Bay.

We ran a stall at the school gala, sharing our work so far and encouraging people to join us. We also volunteered at the Matariki festival to earn a bit of putea to help with costs.

In August we ran a series of four workshops on topics identified by community members:

- Your Household's carbon footprint
- The circular economy
- Recycling and Homemade cleaning products
- Emergency management and resilience

The Rōpu continues to evolve and we are currently considering our plan for summer and autumn. Information about the work can be found on the Pukerua Bay website.