

Christchurch City Council - Riccarton Ward

Anthony Rimmel - Council - Riccarton ward

Carbon Targets

1. Do you support the organisational target for the Christchurch City Council to be net carbon neutral by 2030?
 - a. If elected, how would you support the Council reaching this target?

Yes; I would like there to be an intermediate target of a 25% reduction by 2025, so that we have a middle step on the way. We need to act now.

I want the Christchurch City Council to require ECAN to insist that all public transport buses be electric by 2023. I also want the Council to require that the CCC vehicle fleet begin replacing its fleet by purchasing only EV/ hybrid vehicles from 2021.

2. Do you support the community target set by the Council of halving the greenhouse gas emissions generated by Christchurch by 2030? (from its 2017 baseline year) Why or why not?
 - a. How would you support the community-wide target be achieved?

Yes. Councillors and Council staff need to make halving greenhouse gas emissions the primary criterion in decision-making on projects where greenhouse gases are a part of the outcome.

3. Do you support the creation of a plan to combat climate change with short term targets and actions that the Council can be held to account for?

Yes: it is essential that the Council and its staff be held accountable for the decisions we make, in this and in other areas. I would add that Councillors must meet with advocacy groups at least quarterly to report back, and hear ideas and concerns about progress.

Transport

1. Transport makes up more than 50% of Christchurch's carbon footprint. How would you like to see our transport system evolve in Christchurch?
 - a. What will you advocate for to help Christchurch achieve this?

We must reduce our reliance on single occupancy vehicle movement around our city. This means more multi-nodal transport options. Price is a key criterion for many people, so I for one favour all public transport within the Four Avenues being free. I want free shuttle services around the city centre, and I want the tram network to be free service for all Cantabrians.

2. How will you ensure transport and land use become better integrated in Christchurch and Canterbury?

I am committed to concepts such as MaRTi: developing 'passive housing' urban development projects that are consciously integrated into public transport schemes from the beginning. (Note: MaRTi is a concept identified in parallel by the CHAT group and coincidentally by me)

Energy

1. Electricity use makes up 23% of Christchurch's carbon footprint. According to the Electricity Authority, Canterbury's electricity consumption is 20% higher than the national average. How would you reduce electricity consumption in Christchurch?

A vital issue is requiring homes and other buildings to meet much higher standards than currently as regards climate change impact. Passive Housing, such as in the Heidelberg development in Germany, must become the required standard. CCC Social Housing must be the standard-bearer, and not rely on its status to obtain exemptions.

Urban Form

1. New residential development is occurring on the fringes of the city and in outlying towns (e.g. Rolleston and Rangiora) rapidly growing transport demand. If elected, what will you do to manage:
 - a. Urban sprawl (growth on the fringes of Christchurch)
 - b. Dormitory towns (where people commute each day to Christchurch)
 - c. A lack of residential development in the central city or around existing community centers

I and the Labour/TPC team will:

- Support intensification of land use for housing and commercial development around core, permanent transport corridors. Facilitate mixed-use developments that create walkable, healthy communities.
- Prioritise the alignment and integration of land use and transport planning and investment to ensure there is mutual support for urban growth and the transport network, including a Rapid Mass Transit System.
- Support the Urban Development Strategies and a Future Development Strategy where:
 - Built up areas are consolidated by redeveloping and appropriately intensifying existing urban areas while retaining neighbourhood amenities and ensuring key public transport corridors are identified and protected.
 - New urban development is well integrated with existing urban development.
- Promote a network of diverse key activity and neighbourhood centres with transport links to Christchurch Central City to encourage urban development and redevelopment.
- Investigate funding arrangements other than general rates to ensure growth pays for growth, and undertake a full review of the Development Contributions policy.
- Investigate planning mechanisms that would enable amalgamation of land parcels to improve development, housing and design outcomes.
- Ensure urban intensification is controlled through retention of privacy and neighbourly amenities among existing and planned residences.
- Create a Christchurch Urban Development Authority to enable appropriate planning and maintain local government control over decision-making.

Adaptation

1. If elected, what actions will you advocate for or lead, which will grow the resilience of Christchurch to natural hazards (such as floods, drought and sea-level rise)?

Adaptation is iterative and learning by doing. Encouraging and championing local, national, and international success for wider regional benefit and uptake. It is essential we work with communities in, eg, New Brighton and elsewhere to educate and prepare for the changes necessary to protect communities against sea level rise. We must also work to ensure that the Red Zone land does not become a Government owned land bank, but an area that will lead the way on alternative land uses in Ōtatauhi/ Christchurch.

With my Labour/TPC team, we will work with communities on responses to coastal erosion, inundation and flooding, including mitigation measures and adaptive management.

We will develop a robust regional soil strategy to protect, sustain and regenerate Canterbury's soils so that they continue to support productivity and healthy ecosystems both now and for future generations.

2. If elected, what actions will you advocate for or lead to support a just and equitable transition to a low carbon economy?

I am a Trade Union Organiser, so the concerns of working people are top of mind for me.

I and the TPC/Labour team will lead the CCC to becoming an accredited Living Wage employer – where all staff and all contractors are paid at least the living wage. This MUST extend to the companies owned by CCL Holdings.

We will promote economic activities which build on Christchurch's strengths in innovation, manufacturing, engineering, and education.

Consultation

1. Do you support the proposal to establish an independent panel to advise and hold the Council to account for its climate change actions (like a local climate commission or citizen's assembly)?

Yes. A citizens' assembly comprising people from all communities, all ages, (including and especially school students) is a vital part of holding the City Councillors accountable for their actions. Councillors must also get out of the Hereford Street building and talk to people in the community.

2. In terms of climate change, how would you balance expert advice, strongly opinionated submissions, and the needs of current and future populations who you haven't heard from?

As noted above, the key is active listening. Councillors must connect with all parts of our society. This includes our elders, our youth, our migrant communities – and yes, our business community. However the latter must not have any greater say than our other communities. They are a part of our city, but must not be the most influential part.

It is also essential that we seek evidence-based responses from people. This does mean providing education about the long-term implications of current activities and ways of living, and not merely a short-term focus on immediate economic outcomes.

3. Are you committed to actively honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi in all Council decisions?

Yes. My wahine is Ngai Tahu, and tangata whenua must be a full partner in decision-making as we move forward.

Walking the Talk

1. As a sitting councillor (or a community leader in Christchurch), what have you personally done to advocate for and lead Christchurch to reduce its emissions?

The recent CHAT Club proposal called MaRTi is based on a concept of combined housing and public transport development that I have been partnering in for some time.

As Chair of the Tenants Protection Association, I have advocated for far better environmental standards for our social housing.

2. What is one specific project or policy you would like to introduce to reduce carbon emissions if (re)elected?

As noted above, I want to see the CCC vehicle fleet become hybrid/ EV only during the course of the next Council term. I do want to see the introduction of an E-bike sharing scheme in the city centre.