



**WE WANT A TRULY  
CLEAN GREEN AOTEAROA, NEW ZEALAND**  
*...and to get there we must stop poisoning our environment.*

# Mitigation and Adaptation in a Changing World

*To get out of the hole we are in,  
we must first stop digging the hole.  
Be brave, be strong and sing a new song!*

Climate change and the destruction of our natural environment is something that affects us all. We want Councils to take action and show leadership addressing these issues. This includes changing Council's own entrenched harmful practices.

These are the recommendations of Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa, Transition Towns Bay of Islands, Non-Toxic Neighbourhoods Northland and the Northland Toxin Awareness Group. We are putting these forward to our Councils in hopes that our local bodies and representatives will take action on these critical issues now by integrating them into their Long Term Plans and Climate Change Strategies.

## Recommendations to our Councils for Health and Environment

1. Protect all Bodies of Water and Waterways
2. Stop the use of Toxic Chemicals in our Environment
3. Protect Mature Trees, Exotic and Native
4. Support Organic Agricultural and Horticultural Zones
5. Support Sustainable Non-toxic Biodiversity Care
6. Support Native and Mixed Species Forestry and Agroforestry





## **1. Protect all Bodies of Water and Waterways**

Waterways and soils are being deliberately polluted through poor practices and ignorance. We can no longer swim with confidence in our waterways, nor drink from them. Councils are responsible for much of this pollution through poor practices, non-existent regulatory action and the normalisation of the use of toxic chemicals throughout our environment.

### **Solutions:**

- Honour the Water Quality Standards / [Te Mana O Wai 6 Principles](#)
- Honour the Clean Air Standards
- Honour the Resource Management Act, Health Act 1956, RMA S 44A(7 & 8)

### **Links:**

[NZ streams teeming with pesticides](#)

[Awe-inspiring waterfalls and vital rivers reduced to open sewers](#)

[Dr. Mike Joy - PART ONE: National Water Standards: Why Change is Crucial](#)

## **2. Stop the use of Toxic Chemicals in our Environment**

Toxic chemicals and pesticides are based on fossil fuels, they are destroying arable soils, polluting waterways, drinking water and causing serious chronic and acute illness in our communities. They are part of a toxic legacy that must be changed. e.g. Glyphosate a chemical widely used by Councils and others has been found in 20% of NZ honey tested last year.

### **Solutions:**

- Immediately remove toxic chemicals from Council management methods and embrace the many non-toxic, sustainable and ecologically sound solutions.
- Develop a long term pesticide reduction plan for the region.
- Create Organic Horticulture and Agriculture Zones.
- Support and encourage Community based non-toxic roadside management.

### **Links:**

[Chemical Contamination of Waterways](#)

[Pesticides and Climate Change](#)

[Impacts of Pesticides on Wildlife](#)

[Pesticide Fact Sheets](#)

[Meet pesticides, the silent bird killers that protect our crops](#)

[Weed-killer glyphosate found in New Zealand's manuka honey](#)

### **3. Protect Mature Trees in Northland, Exotic and Native**

Mature trees draw down more Co2 from the atmosphere, they keep cities, towns and roads cool, thus providing a net cooling effect. They provide food, habitat, clean air, slow water run off and much more. They are too valuable to loose! Planting new trees is not a sufficient reason to allow the destruction of mature trees. They deserve special protections to ensure their safety and longevity.

#### **Solutions:**

- Publically identify trees of significance and create a bylaw protecting those mature native and exotic trees.
- Have a public education campaign highlighting the importance of mature trees.

#### **Links:**

[Keeping trees in the ground where they are already growing is an effective low-tech way to slow climate change](#)

[Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020](#)

[9 Reasons Our Cities Need Mature Urban Trees](#)

### **4. Support Organic Agricultural and Horticultural Zones**

We need dedicated areas zoned for non-toxic, organic, sustainable horticulture and agriculture. This way food can safely be grown close to communities, health, water, air and biodiversity aren't compromised. Organic/Regenerative agriculture increases carbon sequestration and does not use the harmful chemical inputs which sterilise soils and create chemical compaction and soil and biodiversity loss.

#### **Solutions:**

- Zoned Organic Horticulture and Agriculture, especially in urban areas.
- Support urban Organic agriculture, communities gardens, school gardens.
- Support Organic Compost Stations around urban and rural areas.

#### **Links:**

[Kiss the Ground Film, Resources and Soil Science](#)

[Organic farms can take climate change fighting power to new level: The Organic Center pinpoints practices that boost carbon sequestration by double digits](#)

[Dr. Elaine Ingham on Soil Carbon Sequestration](#)

## **5. Support Sustainable Non-toxic Biodiversity Care**

Current biodiversity strategies are based on the widespread use of cruel, toxic poisons. These poisons are entering the food-chain and causing secondary poisoning and disease in wildlife and people. Conservation and biodiversity approaches must be ecologically sound, however, the current approach is polluting our environment, soils, waterways and the fabric of life itself.

### **Solutions:**

- Support private sanctuaries and reserves *of all kinds*.
- Support hunting and trapping based on the principles of ethical, nont-toxic methods.
- Support our communities efforts to set up resource recovery and social enterprise around hunting and trapping of resources.

## **6. Support Native and Mixed Species Forestry and Agroforestry**

Pines are low value, high input and require toxic fossil fuel based chemical treatment. Mixed Species Forestry, including Natives is the way to go!

### **Solutions:**

- Support small, medium and large scale agroforestry.
- Encourage investment in mixed species trials throughout Northland.
- Emphasise the stacking on natural system functions - timber, grazing, polyculture.

### **Links:**

[Tane's Tree Trust: Native Forests for Our Future](#)

[Developing a sustainable hardwood industry in the Wairarapa](#)

[The Environmental Effects of Plantation Forestry: The Ngunguru Catchment, Northland, Discussion Document.](#)

[O Tātou Ngāhere \(Our Forest\) trailer](#)

### **Other Recommendations:**

[Follow the Sea Change Check List Developed by Northland Residents](#)

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Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa