

WHAKAMĀNAWA Ā TAIAO

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS 2025

The Northland Regional Council Whakamānawa ā Taiao – Environmental Awards recognise the people and organisations making a difference for Northland’s environment. Their commitment and incredible contributions are helping our environment thrive and their mahi is highly valued.

Entry criteria

Summary

This should be a brief summary of the project or contribution. While the judges won’t score this section, it is important because it provides a quick background for the judges and can be used for promotional and marketing activities should your entry be successful.

In your summary, consider the following:

- When did it start and who is involved?
- What is the purpose and objectives?
- What are the key environmental outcomes or achievements?
- How does it consider te ao Māori (Māori worldview)?

Your application will be judged on the following criteria:

General:

- Describe how the project or contribution benefits Northland’s environment.
- Explain how the project or contribution involves whānau, hapū, iwi and/or the wider community.

Category:

- Please clearly describe how your project meets the criteria, providing tangible evidence, examples and supplementary information, so the judges can assess your project/contribution.

See the criteria on the following page for the category you are applying for.

Rules of entry

- Entrants can be individuals, community groups, schools, early childhood centres, whānau, hapū, iwi, businesses, or leaders that are based in Northland.
- Previous winners may not enter the next awards, but may re-enter in subsequent years.
- ‘Northland’ region is defined by the Northland Regional Council boundaries, which you can view on our website.
- You can nominate yourself, or someone else with their approval.
- Your entry must relate to a project/activity that was started, carried out, or for which a significant piece of work was completed, since January 1, 2023.
- Individuals and organisations must not be under investigation by any NZ statutory body and must have a good track record of compliance with Northland Regional Council.
- Nominations will not be considered where Northland Regional Council deems a conflict of interest exists.
- Judges reserve the right to consider a nominee in a different category if they deem that to be more appropriate.
- Judges reserve the right not to award a category winner where they believe there were no suitable entrants.
- By entering you agree to participate in any marketing and promotional activities associated with the awards.
- There is no cost to submit an entry to the awards. If selected as a finalist, you will receive a limited number of tickets to the awards ceremony. All travel costs to the awards are at the expense of the finalist.

Category criteria

You will need to clearly describe how your project meets the category criteria, and provide tangible evidence, examples, and supplementary information so the judges can assess your project/contribution.

Environmental action in the community

This category recognises individuals or groups who are working collaboratively within their community to protect and improve Northland's environment.

The winner of this award will demonstrate:

- A commitment to working collaboratively within your community to deliver a successful environmental project.
- Measurable outcomes that show how the project/contribution supports and advances ecological values in Northland.

Examples of measurable outcomes include:

- Number of native trees planted
- Number of rubbish bags collected
- Number of five-minute bird counts recorded
- Number of workshops held and attendees
- Number of people involved in the project/ stakeholders involved
- Total amount of volunteer hours

Environmental action to protect native life

This category recognises individuals or groups who are working to control pest animals, pest plants, and/or diseases to help our native life flourish.

The winner of this award will demonstrate:

- A commitment to a project or activity that is working to protect, restore or improve biodiversity on land and/or in the water.
- Measurable outcomes that show how the project/activity supports and advances ecological values in Northland.

Examples of measurable outcomes include:

- Number of traps installed
- Rodent tracking rates
- Kiwi call counts
- Number of pest animals trapped
- Hectares of pest plants controlled
- Number of kiwi/native birds reintroduced into the area

Kiwi Coast Outstanding group or project award

This award recognises high achieving Northland groups or projects who have proven their commitment to restoring the health of their local native forests and wildlife, including kiwi.

The winner of this award will demonstrate:

- Working together – a strong community-wide collaborative approach.
- Results focused – effective action on-the-ground, achieving measurable environmental goals for native forests and wildlife.
- Forward thinking – innovation, ideas and thinking outside the box to take a project to the next level.

You will need to provide evidence of your relationship with this organisation.



Environmental action in water quality improvement

This category recognises individuals or groups who are taking action to protect and enhance water quality through innovative actions or initiatives.

The winner of this award will demonstrate:

- A commitment to helping improve water quality and/or working to protect, conserve, or restore biodiversity of water bodies in Northland.
- Measurable outcomes that show how the project or activity supports and advances ecological values in Northland.

Examples of measurable outcomes include:

- Metres of fencing installed that removes livestock from waterways or other critical areas (must go well beyond regulation requirements)
- Number of native trees planted in erodible areas
- Project related quantitative data – e.g. improvement in macroinvertebrate scores, improved water quality test results

Category criteria continued

You will need to clearly describe how your project meets the category criteria, and provide tangible evidence, examples, and supplementary information so the judges can assess your project/contribution.

Environmental action in education

This category recognises those in the education sector who are driving learning and action to bring about change on environmental issues. The award includes but is not limited to schools, kura kaupapa Māori, early childhood centres or tertiary institutions, and can include groups or individuals.

The winner of this award will demonstrate:

- A commitment to a project or activity that engages and empowers students to protect the environment.
- Measurable outcomes that show how the project/activity supports and advances ecological values in Northland.

Examples of measurable outcomes include:

- Number of people involved in the project
- Environmental learning outcomes
- Feedback from participants
- Project related quantitative data- e.g. number of trees planted/weeds controlled/water audit results

Environmental leadership

This category recognises an individual or group whose leadership, support of others and willingness to share ideas and resources is making a significant contribution to Northland's environment.

The winner of this award will demonstrate:

- A commitment to a project or contribution that supports the protection and improvement of Northland's environment.
- Leadership and support of others, contributing to the achievement of an environmental goal.

Examples of measurable outcomes include:

- Number of environmental initiatives led
- Volunteer hours contributed
- Workshops or training sessions conducted
- Stakeholder testimonials of the support/leadership provided
- Examples of how they have mentored or supported others in their environmental efforts

Youth environmental leader

This category recognises a young individual or group, aged 12-24, whose leadership, support of others and willingness to share ideas and resources is making a significant contribution to Northland's environment.

The winner of this award will demonstrate:

- A commitment to a project or contribution that supports the protection and improvement of Northland's environment.
- Leadership and support of others, contributing to the achievement of an environmental goal.

Examples of measurable outcomes include:

- Examples of how they have mentored or supported others in their environmental efforts
- Workshops or training sessions conducted
- Volunteer hours logged
- Number of environmental initiatives led/involved in
- Feedback from peers and/or the community

Kaitiakitanga

This category recognises the unique relationship tangata whenua have with natural and physical resources in accordance with tikanga Māori, and is open to whānau, hapū, iwi, and Māori organisations.

The winner of this award will demonstrate:

- Outstanding kaitiaki leadership and a commitment to whānau, hapū, iwi, restoring or sustaining the mauri of the taiao.
- Measurable outcomes that show inter-generational and mokopuna focused environmental kaitiakitanga that includes growing the current and future capacity of tangata whenua to protect and improve the environment of Te Taitokerau.

Examples of measurable outcomes include:

- Wānanga with the involvement of topic experts who uphold localised knowledge and/or taonga tuku iho
- Number of environmental projects led
- Number of people engaged with/involved in the project/s
- Examples of amplifying Te Ao Māori in shaping the vision of kaitiakitanga across whānau, hapū, iwi, and Māori organisations

Category criteria continued

You will need to clearly describe how your project meets the category criteria, and provide tangible evidence, examples, and supplementary information so the judges can assess your project/contribution.

Environmental action in business

This category recognises businesses (self-employed, company, or a collective) that demonstrate a sustainable use of natural resources and/or protection of native ecosystems.

The winner of this award will demonstrate:

- A commitment to a project or activity that uses innovative systems, technologies, processes, or practices to protect and/or improve Northland's environment.
- Measurable outcomes that show how the project/activity brings about positive outcomes for the environment that go beyond standard techniques or regulatory requirements.

Examples of measurable outcomes include:

- Actions taken to measure and/or reduce carbon footprint
- Waste reduction initiatives, including measures of their impact
- Number of products developed using eco-friendly materials
- Number of innovative environmental practices implemented, including how you may be considering and shifting towards a circular economy
- Evidence of wider, non-environmental benefits, e.g. efficiency gains, lower operating costs, etc.

Environmental action to address climate change

This category recognises individuals or groups who are taking action to adapt to a changing climate and transition to a low-carbon future for Northland.

The winner of this award will demonstrate:

- A commitment to a project/activity that addresses the potential impacts of climate change on communities and natural systems and takes action to adapt to these changes.
- Measurable outcomes that show how the project/contribution seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or improve resilience to climate change in Northland.

Examples of measurable outcomes include:

- Amount of greenhouse gas emissions reduced e.g. actions to reduce use of fossil fuels and shift to renewable energy
- Number of people engaged/involved in climate related initiatives
- Scientific data related to implemented sustainable practices
- New climate knowledge gained
- How a change in behaviour or activity has led to improved climate resilience and/or adaptation
- Evidence of community engagement and education to encourage wider climate action