



Tiakina te Taiao | Climate Action Pānui October 2022

Kia ora koutou

Welcome to our network's newsletter. Spring is on the way!

Tiakina te Taiao | Climate Action Meeting – Tuesday 4th October 4 pm

Agenda:

- Whakawhanaungatanga
- Mana Taiao | sustainable planet – how do we ensure this within TEU structures and rules?
- Supporting action
- Across our sector
- Other

Vote Climate Candidates

Voting in local body elections is closing soon but if you are still yet to vote, remember to consider where your local candidates stand on climate issues. The campaign team emailed over 2,400 candidates across Aotearoa to find out what they will do to reduce emissions in ways that will have the biggest impact. Check out the responses from candidates at [the Vote Climate candidate page](#)

Meeting with TEC

On Friday 26th August Tina, Rachel and some members of the Tiakina te Taiao network, Chris Eames, Jonathan Muhl, Linda Fotherby, Jennifer Frost and Ehsan Yaeghoobi, met with Tim Fowler, CE of TEC and representatives of MOE to discuss TEC taking a leadership role by developing a tertiary sector strategy for addressing climate change and sustainability. Prior to the meeting, TEC provided a

background memo that demonstrated action is occurring across our sector. However, our argument was that these efforts would be enhanced if lead by a clear strategy that would also identify the potential of our sector and enable the achievements to be quantified. Network members made clear arguments and we will keep you informed as to further follow up or developments.

Divesting from fossil fuels in Unisaver

In our last meeting, 23rd August, Katia De Lu from UoC kindly shared her experience of contacting and challenging UniSaver (the retirement savings scheme for university employees) to divest from fossil fuels. Her call was for others to demonstrate to UniSaver that their members care about climate change and how their funds are being invested. This week UniSaver posted an update on [their website](#) addressing reducing their carbon footprint and explaining changes to the scheme including reducing exposure to carbon emissions and fossil fuel reserves.

Well done Katia, you clearly have created a response. We encourage all network members to write to any kiwisaver or investment fund managers they may be involved with and ask if any of the investments are in fossil fuels. Katia provided some excellent information and key points for anyone interested in doing this, e-mail tina.smith@teu.ac.nz if you would like a copy.

School Strikes 4 Climate

Students across Aotearoa protested again on Friday 23 September against Government inaction around climate change. In particular they are demanding:

- Free public transport for all
- Halve the herd of cows in NZ
- Invest in safe cycleways and pathways
- Ban synthetic nitrogen fertiliser
- End all oil and gas exploration and extraction in NZ
- Invest in a Just Transition.

Should these demands be supported by Tiakina Te Taiao? Are there any demands we wouldn't support? What, if any, support should we give this movement?

Across our Sector - Action and information of note.

- The NZ Association of Environmental Education [is holding its Annual Conference](#) 11-12 October with day 1 being a series of local connection days in 15 locations, and day 2 being a national day held on zoom.
- The 4th [Aotearoa Sustainable Summit](#) 2022-2023 has three online webinars commencing 30th August, with the summit conference 9-10 Feb 2023.
- The Western Institute of Technology's (WITT) monthly e-publication, **Energy Education**, is out for September. This edition focuses on Grid-connected Photovoltaic (GCPV) systems and Grid-connected Battery storage systems and education available in these areas. All issues can be [accessed here](#).
- Otago Poly engineering students [developed a milk bottle top shredder](#) for a local community group. The lids aren't usually recyclable, but the material is saleable once shredded.

Plastics Innovation Fund

The Government has [announced funding](#) for projects that will cut plastic waste and reduce its impact on the environment.

One of these involves UNITEC and an initiative to recycle old plumbing pipes, along with other businesses producing biodegradable plant pots and [milk kegs](#)

Share the links

When talking to colleagues on climate related matters, do remember to ask if they are a member of our network and if not, please encourage them to join by completing this link – that will ensure they get meeting invites and newsletters.

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/NZTEU/TiakinaTeTaiaoClimateActionNetwork>

Future meetings

Our last meeting for the year will be:

- December 6th - Tuesday 4pm