

**Seniors Climate Action Network (SCAN)**  
**Submission to Otago Regional Council (ORC) Strategic Climate Action Plan**  
**14 May 2024**

SCAN highly commends ORC for developing a Strategic Climate Action Plan and extends our thanks for providing the opportunity to make an early input. The following consists of SCAN's collated ideas.

**Q1. Context: understand and communicate our biophysical situation**

Scientists are predicting 3 degrees of global heat increase by end of century, extreme event after extreme event, mass migrations, disrupted food production

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/may/08/world-scientists-climate-failure-survey-global-temperature>

**Q2. Risks: major societal disruptions in next 5 years**

- Supply chains cut due to geo-political events
- Increasing cost of diesel - shipping, air freight costs
- Food and medical supplies become unavailable (along with manufactured products we rely on for essential living)
- Unaffordability of basics (people cannot afford to drive ... to get to work ... to get basic provisions). Populations in outlying areas are particularly vulnerable due to increased fuel costs.

**Q3. Widen the focus** - Proposed Goal: Low emissions region

Suggested goal: A region where all people thrive within planetary boundaries.

**Q4. What does a climate resilient Otago mean to you?**

A group of bioregions where, within planetary limits,

- basic needs are met for all - clean air, healthy food, shelter, community
- local manufacturing provides basic local needs using locally produced energy
- local food resilience is established and maintained - enough local food for all
- there is no growth in activities that pollute the environment that sustains us
- individual transport, including EVs, is successively reduced
- active (walking, cycling) & public transport (electric trains, buses, carts) for all
- goods brought to region are replaced by local goods or transported by train
- international flights are minimised through high fuel costs and levies on pollution
- polluting cruise ships are not welcome
- there is a thriving local economy with use of local currencies
- money is lent from local community banks and circulated within the local region
- use of concrete, steel etc in building is replaced by local materials
- sustainable local production of food is actively facilitated and incentivised
- local energy networks, microgrids, provide energy to local communities
- permanent native forest is planted, rewilded

**Q5. Reflecting on the goals we have set, what do you think ORC should prioritise within our work programmes?**

- Ensure basic needs are met locally - clean air, healthy food, shelter, community
- Plan for and build local food resilience
- Incentivise local production to meet basic local needs with locally produced energy and resources
- Enable and maintain a scalable active and public transport arterial network

**Q6. Do you have any reflections on ORC developing the SCAP?**

We recommend you have a wide and long-term vision for a more sustainable way of living, which is both mitigation and adaptation. It needs to be a comprehensive plan that increases wellbeing of communities without destroying nature. We suggest you follow up with exploring and implementing the tools of Doughnut Economics.

[https://www.theguardian.com/books/article/2024/may/13/what-does-progress-look-like-on-a-planet-at-its-limit?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/books/article/2024/may/13/what-does-progress-look-like-on-a-planet-at-its-limit?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other)

Gina Hu'akau and Alix de Blic from DCC's policy team ([Gina.Huakau@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:Gina.Huakau@dcc.govt.nz), [Alix.deBlic@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:Alix.deBlic@dcc.govt.nz)) have a wealth of information and can point you to local experts, which they have used. It is important that ORC, DCC and other local governments collaborate, complement, and strengthen each other's wellbeing and zero carbon work.

It is vital to now build sustainable food resilience. Start with a study of food grown for local consumption, compare it with basic nutritional needs for the population and fill the gaps with locally grown crops in suitable areas. Collaborate with local networks (see Our Food Network - [ourfoodnetwork.org.nz](http://ourfoodnetwork.org.nz)).

Facilitate cooperative manufacturing of basic goods that fulfil basic needs, clustered around small scale energy production. This provides local resilience and jobs.

Please view our website ([www.seniorsclimateactionnetwork.org](http://www.seniorsclimateactionnetwork.org)) which has a wealth of information and useful links. Do not hesitate to contact us with any queries.

Kā mihi,

Sue Novell, on behalf of SCAN - Seniors Climate Action Network

[www.seniorsclimateactionnetwork.org](http://www.seniorsclimateactionnetwork.org)