



Zest String Quartet - Voluntary Climate Change Mitigation Report for the year ending Mar 2024

Our Sustainability Goal:

Creating meaningful change in our communities through positive climate action

In this report, we measure our efforts on the 6 Principles from the [Interim Guidance 2022](#) from the Ministry for the Environment *Manatū Mō te Taiao*

Transparent

We have taken Voluntary Climate Change Mitigation by directly financially supporting the work of EcoMatters, an organisation that empowers communities in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland to restore nature, grow food, reduce waste, ride and fix bikes and live more sustainably.

They also run workshops and provide opportunities for hands-on environmental action in Auckland, such as tree-planting.

We had the joy of playing for many weddings and events in beautiful outdoor settings this past season so we're thrilled to be giving back and helping preserve our taiao through supporting EcoMatters.

The primary part of our carbon footprint comes from travel to events. Our emissions in Apr 2023-Mar2024 were calculated as 2.004 tonnes of Co2. We based the dollar value of our voluntary climate change mitigation on the emissions price range recommended for bringing New Zealand to net-zero Greenhouse Gas emissions by the [NZ Productivity Commission enquiry](#) (this price is at least double the price at the recent NZ Emissions Trading Scheme Auction in Mar 2022).

This document detailing our Voluntary Climate Change Mitigation is publicly available on our website.

Real, Measurable and Verified

EcoMatters has a real and measurable impact on reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions. In the year ending 2023, EcoMatters diverted 176,000kg of waste, saved 23.79MLT of water, composted 118,610kg of food scraps, and assisted aucklanders to travel more sustainably through 4,790 bike repairs.

Due to the costs of becoming a verified carbon positive business (which adds a cost of almost three times the cost of our carbon offset itself) in certification costs paid to a third-party auditor, we have not engaged an auditor to audit our efforts towards carbon positivity. We believe that at the small scale of our business, our funds (and our clients funds!) are best directed fully towards our core goal of creating meaningful change in our communities through positive climate action.

Additional (not business-as-usual)

The removal of Co2 via our support of EcoMatters is a specific intervention on our part and would not have occurred as part of our business-as-usual.

Not Double-Used

We are not double-using (claiming and surrendering as separate actions) carbon offset claims.

We are not a member of the NZ ETS (Emissions Trading Scheme), nor are we required to be.

Address Leakage

This action does not create additional carbon usage elsewhere in our business operations.

Permanent

The actions we have taken are permanent – food scraps are composted, diverting it from landfill, and many other actions are taken to effect changes and outlook shifts that will last a lifetime, empowering Aucklanders to change our transport habits and make change higher up the life cycle of items, reducing our waste and thus lowering our emissions

12 July 2024