



## **Zest String Quartet - Voluntary Climate Change Mitigation Report for the year ending Mar 2025**

### **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 Fair Food, an award-winning food rescue organisation in Tāmaki Makaurau who are on a mission to feed people, not landfill. In the past year, they rescued and redistributed 608,693kg of surplus food, feeding Auckland communities with about 33,445 meals a week, and thus [reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1613 tonnes](#).

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 Fair Food.

The primary part of our carbon footprint comes from travel to events. Our emissions in Apr 2024-Mar2025 were calculated as 2.75 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 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**

Fair Food has a real and measurable impact on reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions. In the year ending 2024 Fair Food diverted 19,100 kilos of kai from compost and transformed into nourishing meals or treats, a greenhouse gas emissions savings of more than 50.6 tonnes.

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 Fair Food 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 – the food is rescued and redistributed, saving it from landfill or compost, and addresses other sustainable goals of #ZeroHunger #ResponsibleConsumption

26 June 2025

<https://zeststringquartet.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/zest-climate-report-mar-2024.pdf>