

Platform One Foundation

Statement of Purpose

Version 2.3

Supersedes: Platform One Statement of Purpose v2.2. Updated to reflect the Foundation's current community-first direction, including collective value, community independence, fair value and practical community action.

Authority

This Statement of Purpose explains Platform One Foundation's purpose and direction in plain language.

The Trust Deed remains the legal document that sets out the Foundation's charitable purposes and powers. This Statement must be read alongside the Trust Deed and the Platform One Foundation Charter & Guiding Principles. It does not change the Trust Deed or give Platform One authority to speak or make decisions on behalf of communities.

Purpose

Platform One exists to help communities become stronger, more resilient and more able to shape what happens next. It starts with what matters locally and with people who want to act, helping them bring their knowledge, resources and contributions together to create greater value collectively — for themselves, their communities and the wider systems they are part of.

The aim is to strengthen the community side of that relationship, so communities can work alongside existing organisations on fair terms, contribute useful value and retain a fairer share of what they help create. This includes building lasting community capability, caring for the environment and helping local action create wider public benefit.

Strong communities and strong institutions should be able to work alongside each other. When communities can build on their own strengths and share fairly in the value they help create, they are better able to build resilient futures for themselves and contribute to a stronger, more sustainable society.

What We Mean

Platform One begins with what matters locally and with people who want to act. It builds on the people, relationships, knowledge and practical skills already present in a community.

The aim is not for communities to go it alone. It is to help them act on what matters, work with others on fair terms and stay independent.

Value can be social, cultural, environmental or economic — from resilience, skills, knowledge and stronger relationships to community ownership, better services and infrastructure, healthier environments and financial value. Platform One seeks to help communities keep, share and build on more of the value their participation helps create, while also contributing to wider public benefit.

Why This Matters

Many of the systems that shape community life are large and complex. They bring important expertise and resources, but communities can still be asked to take part after important directions have already been set.

Communities bring their own knowledge, relationships, ideas, resources and ability to act. When those strengths have a real place alongside institutional expertise, people are better able to respond to change, pursue local priorities and build practical solutions.

By bringing their resources together around shared outcomes, communities can also create value that separate efforts may not achieve alone. This can benefit existing systems while strengthening community resilience, capability and independence.

Strong communities do not require weaker institutions. Both are stronger when communities can take part with confidence, remain independent and bring their own strengths to the table.

What Makes Platform One Different

Platform One is being built from the community side upwards, with the aim of anchoring value in the community. Its practical framework is designed to help communities develop an enduring capability of their own, rather than organising their participation around the priorities of an outside institution.

That independent starting point matters. It allows communities to identify their own opportunities, bring local resources together and work with mana whenua and iwi organisations, councils, government, businesses, researchers, community organisations and others on fair terms. By coordinating those contributions, they can create greater value collectively — not only for themselves, but for the wider systems they are part of.

The opportunity is a relationship that benefits both sides. Communities can contribute useful value to existing systems while retaining a fairer share of what they help create. Platform One Foundation provides long-term stewardship for the purpose, principles and learning, while the people and organisations involved remain responsible for their own choices and activities.

The ambition is to explore new ways for society to work — ways that strengthen communities, build resilience and give people a greater role in shaping their own futures.

What We Commit To

Platform One Foundation is committed to:

- Community first.
- Starting with what matters locally.
- People choosing whether and how they take part, with the information they need.
- Protecting community independence and purpose without taking control.
- Being open, accountable, ethical and responsible.
- Working constructively with others and respecting existing rights, roles and responsibilities.
- Making sure community participation is not used simply to take value out of the community, and that communities receive fair recognition and a fair share of the value they help create.
- Caring for the environment and future generations.
- Creating lasting public benefit.

How This Is Put Into Practice

Platform One Foundation provides long-term stewardship for the wider purpose and legal and financial accountability where required.

WE Share Community Power is the first practical expression of this approach, beginning with community energy on Waiheke Island. Its current work is directed toward the **10-year Power-Positive Waiheke plan**, bringing practical energy projects together to explore how their combined resources can create greater value for participating households, the community and the wider electricity system — while retaining a fairer share locally.

Project Circles give people and organisations who choose to take part a practical way to work on specific things that matter locally. They remain independent and responsible for their own decisions and activities.

The work is practical and evidence-led. What is learned can strengthen future projects and, where useful, help other communities develop their own approaches.

Interpretation

If this Statement can reasonably be read in more than one way, the Trust Deed comes first. Within that boundary, choose the reading that best protects clear community benefit; people choosing freely and understanding what they are taking part in; community independence; existing rights, roles and responsibilities; fair recognition and sharing of value; constructive relationships; care for the environment; openness and accountability; and long-term resilience.