

POWER-POSITIVE WAIHEKE

Our 10-Year Community Energy Plan

WE Share Community Power | August 2026

A fairer, more resilient energy future, with more local power, stronger backup, and a fair share of the value we help create coming back to the community.

This is our direction for the next 10 years. It is not a promise that every idea will happen exactly as written.

Technology will change. The rules and opportunities will change. We will learn what works by doing it. What stays the same is the community-first purpose.

1. Where We Are Going

Power-Positive Waiheke is our long-term ambition for Waiheke to produce enough clean power to meet more and more of our own needs - and ultimately to produce more than we use, so we can contribute clean surplus power back into the wider electricity system and beyond our own community.

Waiheke will still be connected to the grid. This is not about going it alone. It is about making much better use of the solar, batteries, hot water, EVs and other energy resources growing across the island, building greater resilience, and making sure the community has a real place in how that future develops.

Power-Positive is also about doing our part environmentally - producing more clean renewable energy, reducing our reliance on higher-emission energy, and helping Waiheke move toward a lower-carbon future. If we can eventually produce clean surplus power, that contribution can extend beyond Waiheke as well.

As new value is created, we want the people and community helping create that value to receive a fair share of it. Where community ownership of solar, batteries or other energy assets makes sense, we want that option on the table.

WE Share helps the Waiheke community develop the direction. The community shapes the outcomes.

2. Why This Matters for Waiheke

More Waiheke homes and businesses are installing solar and batteries, using electric vehicles and finding smarter ways to use power. On their own, these things can lower costs or provide backup. When people choose to work together, they may also help us use more local solar, reduce pressure at busy times, strengthen resilience and create additional value for the wider electricity system, while retaining a fairer share locally.

That raises a simple question: if Waiheke households, businesses and community organisations help create that value, how do we make sure a fair share comes back to the people and community helping to create it?

Power-Positive Waiheke gives us a shared long-term direction. Individual projects can contribute in different ways, while households, businesses, community organisations and partners remain independent.

3. What We Stand For

- Community comes first - the basic test is whether the work creates real benefit for Waiheke.
- Participation is a choice - people and organisations decide whether and how they want to take part.
- Work together without giving up independence - everyone remains responsible for their own decisions and responsibilities.
- Share the value fairly - if the community helps create value, that contribution should be recognised and fairly shared.
- Build resilience and reduce costs where we can - projects should make life better, not just add technology.
- Keep ownership local where it makes sense - community ownership should be an option when it creates a better long-term result.
- Care for our environment - the way we produce, store and use energy should support a lower-carbon future and protect the island we live on for the generations that follow.
- Be open and protect people's information - people should understand what they are joining and how their information is used.
- Test it before we grow it - keep what works, change what does not, and do not make claims before we have the proof.

4. The Next 10 Years

This is a guide, not a timetable carved in stone. Some things may happen sooner, some later, and some ideas may turn out not to be worth doing. The point is to keep the different projects heading in the same broad direction.

Years 1-2 - Test What Works and Build from There

Right now, the job is simple: get practical projects running, invite people in, find out what works, and build the relationships and basic support needed to keep going.

What we are working on now:

- invite households, businesses and community organisations to join early mini-pilots testing smart hot water, household batteries, solar, EV charging and other smarter ways of using power
- use what we learn to help develop the planned 50 Solar & Battery Systems pilot
- test whether smart water heating can lower costs, shift power use and create new value - and understand who benefits
- improve backup power and resilience at Waiheke High School and community facilities
- develop the Community Halls & Resilience projects
- make it simple and clear for people to take part, including consent, information use and reporting
- work with electricity companies, researchers, technology providers and community groups
- find out where homes and community energy systems working together can save money, improve resilience or create new value
- explore practical funding and community ownership options for energy assets where they make sense

By the end of this phase, we want real projects under way, simple ways for people to take part, early proof of where the benefits are, and strong relationships that help the work keep moving.

Years 3-5 - Grow What Works

If the early projects show real benefit, we can grow them, repeat what works and change what needs improving.

- more households and businesses able to take part with solar, batteries, smart hot water, EVs and other useful energy technology
- more resilience projects at important community places where they make sense
- connect participating solar, batteries and flexible power use where working together creates a clear benefit
- start accessing new value from shifting when power is used, where the rules allow it and the numbers stack up
- clear and fair ways of recognising and sharing the benefits created through community participation
- develop community or cooperative ownership where it gives a better long-term result
- build more local skills, training and work around community energy

By then, we want more people taking part, stronger resilience, and proven ways of creating and sharing value fairly.

Years 5-7 - Join the Pieces Up

As the projects grow, the next step is to make them work better together and strengthen resilience across the island.

- help participating homes, businesses and community facilities make better use of their energy together
- develop larger shared solar and battery projects where the case stacks up
- expand smart EV charging and other ways of shifting power use when there is a clear benefit
- identify where backup power matters most and plan practical resilience improvements
- use more locally generated solar power on Waiheke when that creates a better outcome
- put practical arrangements in place for community ownership, benefit and reinvestment where appropriate
- keep working with network companies, retailers, technology providers, researchers and public agencies

By this stage, we want the different pieces working better together, stronger local resilience, and community benefit built into the way value is created and shared.

Years 7-10 - A Strong Community Energy Future

By this stage, success is not one big piece of infrastructure. It is that Waiheke has a lasting way for people and organisations to take part, keep improving what we are doing and protect community benefit as the energy system changes.

- a clear and trusted community role in Waiheke's energy future
- a stable way of keeping the work connected that does not depend on one project or one person
- community ownership of selected solar, batteries or other energy equipment where it has proved worthwhile
- working ways for savings or other new energy value to support community benefit when that value is actually created
- stronger local resilience and better emergency backup power
- ongoing ways for households, renters, businesses and community organisations to take part in different ways
- the ability to share what we learn with other New Zealand communities without pretending one model will fit everyone
- Waiheke moving towards producing more clean electricity than it uses, with surplus power contributing to the wider electricity system as well as meeting more of our own needs.

By year 10, Waiheke should have a strong, practical way of working together on energy that can keep changing with the times while keeping community benefit at the centre.

5. What Success Looks Like

Over the next 10 years, we will know we are heading in the right direction if Waiheke has:

- more people and organisations able to take part in Waiheke's energy future
- stronger backup and resilience for households and the community
- better opportunities to reduce or manage energy costs where we can
- a fair share of the value created by community participation coming back to the people and community helping create it
- more local or community ownership of solar, batteries and other energy equipment where that is the right solution
- strong relationships with electricity companies, public agencies and other partners without giving up community independence
- local knowledge, skills and ways of working that remain even as people, projects and technology change
- a clear long-term direction that can keep changing as we learn what works
- Waiheke moving towards producing more clean energy than we use, with surplus energy able to contribute beyond the island
- lower carbon emissions from energy use and a positive contribution to Waiheke's wider environmental and climate goals

6. Who Does What

People, households, businesses and community organisations choose where they want to take part and what they want to contribute.

Project Circles are small groups that take responsibility for particular practical projects.

WE Share Community Power is working toward the **10-year Power-Positive Waiheke plan**, bringing practical energy projects together to help create greater value for participating households, the community and the wider electricity system.

Platform One Foundation provides long-term stewardship and carries the legal and financial responsibilities that belong to the Foundation. It helps protect the community-first purpose and, where funding or assets are held through the Foundation, helps make sure they remain protected for the agreed community purpose.

Partners bring their own knowledge, technology, resources and responsibilities. They remain independent, as does the community.

7. How You Can Take Part

You do not need to own solar or a battery to be part of this. You might take part through your home, business, school or community organisation, join a Project Circle, offer practical knowledge, support a resilience project, or simply stay informed and help shape what comes next.

You can also take part directly in WE Share mini-pilots. These are small, practical trials where households, businesses and community organisations can help test things such as smart hot water, batteries, solar, EV charging and smarter energy use - and help us find out what actually works and where the real value is.

Different people will take part in different ways. The aim is to make sure the benefits of a stronger local energy future are not limited to people who already own energy technology.

Power-Positive Waiheke will not be built in one jump. We build it by trying practical things, keeping what works, changing what does not, and making sure the community benefits as we go.

Document status: Public working plan — September 2026. This updates the August 2026 working plan and earlier WE Share 10-year planning and Power-Positive Waiheke material. We will keep it current as the projects, technology, rules and community priorities change.