



Schools leading the way! Hauraki Plains College (New Zealand)

Hauraki Plains College is a secondary school at an early but promising stage of integrating climate change into education, operations and community engagement. Rather than relying on a single initiative, the school is developing a whole-of-school approach, combining curriculum, student leadership, staff engagement and place-based environmental action.

Key Actions:

- Student Environmental Council (Years 9–13)
- Environmental Coordinator (staff leadership role)
- Junior Environmental Studies (100+ students)
- Senior Sustainable Food Production (community-focused)
- Waste audits and recycling programme (with council, Enviroschools)
- Wetland restoration and native tree nursery
- E-waste drive and climate adaptation workshops with local government

Hauraki Plains College shows that meaningful climate education does not require a fully mature programme from the outset. Early-stage, well-coordinated initiatives, especially those that connect learning, action and community, can build strong foundations for long-term climate leadership.