

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

New Zealand is a unitary monarchy with two tiers of subnational government. The country has 11 regional councils and 67 territorial authorities at the municipal level. There are two types of territorial authorities: city councils and district councils.¹



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).²

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

A **Living Standards Framework** was developed by the New Zealand Treasury: it covers current wellbeing, future wellbeing and risk and resilience across a range of economic, social and environmental indicators. Through the **Urban Growth Agenda (UGA)**, the New Zealand national government is seeking to implement the New Urban Agenda.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

As for 2019, New Zealand had not yet defined coordination mechanisms. SDG national summits ensure the involvement of all sectors, including LRGs, in building a multi-sector action plan for SDG implementation, which is currently underway.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

No reference.

1.3 MONITORING

The Living Standards Framework includes a 'dashboard' (database of indicators) that will support progress towards the SDGs. Statistics New Zealand developed a set of metrics – **Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand (IANZ)**.³ Like the Living Standards Framework, IANZ goes beyond traditional economic measures such as income and GDP, and includes wellbeing and sustainable development. IANZ supports the development of the Living Standards Framework as well as monitoring and reporting against the SDGs. In addition to supporting government strategic policy-making, the indicators will also enable local governments, businesses, civil society, communities and individuals to make informed choices on wellbeing and sustainability. In addition, the **Society of Local Government Managers** has developed a national set of indicators that aligns closely to the SDGs and has distributed these to all councils to enable them to provide annual monitoring reports.⁴

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Local Governments New Zealand (LGNZ) was part of the national reporting unit to the United Nations' HLPF in 2019 and was asked to present its own contribution to the VNR. Local and regional governments have been active in developing sustainable policies for some time. They were involved in the summits organized prior to the elaboration of a multi-sector action plan for SDG implementation.

In 2017, New Zealand local leaders launched a **Local Government Leaders' Climate Change Declaration** to support initiatives to reduce greenhouse gases undertaken by the central government and to make local commitments to respond to climate change.

1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23333New_Zealand_Voluntary_National_Review_2019_Final.pdf (2019)

3. Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand is a comprehensive suite of approximately 100 social, cultural, environmental and economic indicators to measure and track New Zealand's progress over time. There will be approximately 20 population and production indicators, providing context for considering and interpreting the wellbeing indicators. More information on Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand can be found at <https://statisticsnz.shinyapps.io/wellbeingindicators/>.

4. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



2019

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2019

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNRs and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There are a few references to LRGs throughout the 2019 VNR, with very limited examples to locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► **Local Governments New Zealand (LGNZ)** developed a toolbox to assist local authorities to meet the challenges of sea level rises and extreme weather events, with advice on adaptation and mitigation, and is leading a project designed to improve the quality and safety of water supplies, in addition to a project to improve access to quality affordable housing.⁵

► In 2014, the **Auckland Council** adopted the Living Lightly and FutureFit programme, encouraging Aucklanders to shift to a low-carbon path by proposing six climate action themes (Move, Shop, Eat, Energy, Grow and Talk) to change lifestyles. In addition, its Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018 has a vision for the city to be zero waste by 2040.

► The **Greater Wellington Regional Council** has adopted an electric-first policy for its own vehicle fleet and has invested in electric buses to replace diesel buses. Its biodiversity strategy Our Natural Capital aims to reduce predators and protect threatened species through mobilizing community action.

► **Rotorua Lakes Council** has established an innovative partnership with the indigenous people of its district, the Te Arawa Iwi, which provides Iwi with a voice in the policy and decision-making processes of the council.

► Based on Mauri tradition, the city of **Rotorua** has developed an ecosystem re-entry mechanism, including restoration of the *mauri* (life-force) of the *wai* (water), as well as *Kaitiakitanga* (care of the environment), to support the principle that water is intrinsic to life and therefore also needs to sustain life and be life-sustaining.

► Many local authorities have their own plans and strategies relating to public open space and how to make those spaces safe, inclusive and accessible. Aiming at universal access to green and public spaces, there is a national programme supporting cities and communities to become age-friendly and a number have already achieved Age Friendly Communities' accreditation.⁶

► **Wellington City Council**'s biodiversity strategy "Our Natural Capital" is designed to reduce predators and protect threatened species through mobilizing community action. Since 2015 the city has experienced a material increase in native bird life including a 600 percent increase in the native *kākāriki* parrot population and an average of 45,000 native trees planted annually.

2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

Not applicable.

5. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>. See a report of LGNZ on the quantum of local government infrastructure exposed to sea level rise here: <https://www.lgnz.co.nz/assets/Uploads/d566cc5291/47716-LGNZ-Sea-Level-Rise-Report-3-Proof-FINAL-compressed.pdf>

6. The practices mentioned above, including this one, are mentioned in UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In 2019, New Zealand's national government adopted its first 'well-being' budget based on its commitment to protect human, natural, physical and social capital. The **Local Government Funding Agency** was created in 2011 through the joint initiative of local and central governments as a debt vehicle to raise bonds on financial markets and lend to member LRGs.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Local authorities have completed an assessment of the amount of under and above ground infrastructure that will be affected by sea level rises, based on three different scenarios. Discussions between local authorities and the central government are underway to identify options for meeting the costs involved and providing councils with the powers to halt development in areas likely to be affected by sea level rise in the future.

New Zealand has comprehensive alignment between national and local disaster resilience planning which is based on a reduction, readiness, response and recovery framework. We aim for cities to adopt and implement policies that support mitigating and adapting to climate change, and resilience to disasters. New Zealand's monitoring of adoption and implementation of climate change and resource efficiency policies and plans is a relatively recent development. Current baseline reporting shows some local authorities are well advanced in comprehensive planning, with many others continuing to develop their plans.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Not applicable.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁷

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		39.4 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		-
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		98.1 (2015, Wellington)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		6.6 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2019)

7. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/UNSDG/IndDatabasePage>. More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/nzl>