

MAHERE MAHI TAIAO

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (2025–2028)



Digital
Natives
Academy

NATIVE
tech.

NATIVE
INDUSTRIES



Kupu Whakataki | Introduction

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. It disrupts ecosystems, economies, and communities, requiring urgent and collective action. Digital Natives Academy (DNA) believes education is one of the most powerful levers for transformation. By combining Mātauranga Māori with cutting-edge technology, DNA builds climate literacy, resilience, and leadership among rangatahi Māori and underrepresented youth. Our aim is to embed environmental awareness and sustainability into every level of learning, from engaging hands-on community workshops to NZQA-accredited programmes.

This document sets out DNA's Climate Action Plan for 2025-2028, outlining our vision, principles, and key actions to integrate indigenous values, environmental education, and digital innovation into a unified strategy for climate leadership.



Ngā Pānga o te Huringa Āhuarangi | Impact of Climate Change

The effects of climate change in Aotearoa are already visible, floods, droughts, biodiversity loss, and declining soil and water quality. For indigenous communities, for Māori, these impacts strike at the heart of whenua, mahinga kai, and whakapapa. DNA connects these global issues to local realities by raising awareness through:

**E-waste and digital
overconsumption**

**Resource scarcity and
circular economy design**

**Climate justice, indigenous
resilience & storytelling**



He Aha te Mātauranga Taiao | What is Environmental Education?

Environmental education at DNA is a process of awakening, reconnecting learners with te taiao while equipping them with future-focused digital skills.

Our approach integrates:

- Scientific and indigenous knowledge - exploring ecosystems and technology's role in sustainability.
- Systems thinking - understanding how digital choices and indigenous values impact climate outcomes.
- Action-based learning - applying new knowledge through hands-on, creative tech projects.



Wāhanga Tuatahi | Mātauranga & Whakamana | Education & Accreditation

Goal: Embed climate education into all DNA and Native Tech learning pathways.



Climate Resilience in Curriculum



Seek funding to embed principles of climate resilience, circular economy thinking, and sustainable design into all NZQA Levels 1–3 programmes to prepare rangatahi for a rapidly changing world.

New Level 4 Micro-Credential



Co-design a Digital Sustainability and Indigenous Climate Action micro-credential that blends Mātauranga Māori with digital innovation and applied environmental leadership.

Community Climate Workshops



Deliver free, bilingual workshops on e-waste, green computing, and renewable technology to empower whānau and communities with practical sustainability skills.

Wāhanga Tuarua | Toitūtanga ā-Roto | Operational Sustainability

Goal: Reduce DNA's carbon footprint and model low-impact digital operations.



Carbon Benchmarking (Toitū Assessment)



Complete a Toitū-aligned carbon inventory in 2025 to measure DNA's emissions baseline and guide evidence-based sustainability actions.

Energy-Efficient Operations



Transition all hubs and learning spaces to energy-efficient devices and renewable energy sources to model sustainable digital practice.

Sustainable Procurement Policy



Adopt procurement guidelines that prioritise local suppliers, ethical production, and environmentally responsible materials across all operations.

Wāhanga Tuarua | Toitūtanga ā-Roto | Operational Sustainability

Goal: Reduce DNA's carbon footprint and model low-impact digital operations.



Minecraft Climate Expo Expansion



Enhance the Minecraft Climate Expo as an interactive platform where rangatahi explore the impact of climate change through indigenous knowledge systems and virtual world-building and expand partnerships.

Youth-Led Climate Tech Projects



Encourage youth to prototype technology solutions, from mobile apps to creative campaigns, that apply kaitiakitanga principles while building pathways into the digital industry.

Indigenous Data & Digital Sovereignty



Embed Māori data sovereignty principles in all climate data projects to ensure iwi and community ownership of collected information. Develop protocols for ethical use of indigenous environmental data within AI and GIS tools.

Wāhanga Tuawhā | Whanaungatanga Hapori | Community Engagement & Partnerships

Goal: Strengthen collective capacity for climate action across iwi, kura, and communities.



Climate Collaboration with Schools



Develop partnerships with kura, intermediates, and secondary schools to co-deliver short climate modules using DNA's digital resources and Mātauranga Māori.

Open-Source Climate Resources



Build a bilingual online resource hub featuring climate toolkits, lesson plans, and videos co-created by rangatahi and Māori educators.

Global Indigenous Partnerships



Form alliances with indigenous climate education and tech programmes worldwide (e.g., Pacific Islands, Canada, and the U.S.). Share best practices, exchange youth delegations, and co-develop a digital exhibition on Indigenous Innovation for Climate Justice.

Wāhanga Tuarima | Ine me te Haepapa | Measurement & Accountability

Goal: To ensure transparent evaluation, continuous improvement, and evidence-based impact reporting.



Impact Frameworks



Apply Standard of Proof and Theory of Change frameworks to track how climate education improves digital literacy, sustainability skills, and community wellbeing.

Environmental Benchmarks



Monitor key performance indicators such as carbon emissions, energy use, and waste reduction, aligned with Toitū and Ministry for the Environment standards.

Youth Voice in Evaluation



Involve rangatahi in evaluation design and data collection to ensure lived experiences shape how success is measured and reported.

Expected Outcomes by 2028

To demonstrate measurable, long-term impact through Māori-led, digitally empowered climate action that strengthens both people and planet.

Empowered Youth Pathways

Over 4,000 rangatahi engaged in climate learning programmes, building confidence, leadership, and work-ready sustainability skills.

Sustainable Operations

Achieve a 25% reduction in organisational emissions and 50% diversion of e-waste from landfill, modelling sustainable digital practice.

Accredited Climate Learning

Seek funding to embed climate learning across Levels 1–3 and develop a Level 3–4 micro-credential in Digital Sustainability and Indigenous Climate Action.

Connected Communities

Develop and deliver bilingual workshops and community events that empower whānau and kura to adopt sustainable, tech-enabled climate practices.

Climate Leadership

Strengthen Māori-led climate education and networks across Aotearoa, positioning DNA as a national leader in digital sustainability and indigenous climate action.



Whakakapi | Conclusion

Climate change calls for courage, collaboration, and creativity. Through this Mahere Mahi Taiao (Climate Action Plan), Digital Natives Academy commits to empowering a generation of Māori and indigenous youth to lead through innovation, kaitiakitanga, and collective action.

By uniting Mātauranga Māori and digital technology, we are not only responding to the climate crisis, we are designing a new future for Aotearoa where people, place, and planet thrive together.

