



## Hapuku Lodge Sustainability Report

April 2024 – March 2025

Let's start with the big question - Why are we here...?

And while no one can confidently say they have the answer, what we do know is this: we are here. And while we are, it is our responsibility to do good by the land, the sea, and the life that surrounds us.

At Hapuku Lodge, sustainability is not a feature — it is the foundation. We exist in a uniquely beautiful and delicate environment, between the mountains and the Pacific Ocean. This place deserves to be honoured, protected, and restored.

For us, sustainability means more than reducing harm — it means actively regenerating the ecosystems that support us. Every choice we make — in architecture, landscaping, cuisine, and hospitality — is guided by this principle.

### Restoring the Land:

- Much of the land surrounding the Lodge was once cleared for farming. We're on a mission to reverse that, replanting native species that once thrived here. Thousands of native trees, including manuka, kanuka, totara, and kahikatea, have been planted to restore biodiversity and habitat
- Our grounds are designed to invite native birds back to the area, and with each year, the birdsong grows louder
- We actively manage invasive species and work with local conservation groups to support long-term ecological restoration

Our dream is to return the landscape to how it once was — alive with sound, movement, and connection.

### Respecting the Ocean:

Just beyond our doorstep lies the marine world of Kaikōura, home to sperm whales, dusky dolphins, and an intricate underwater ecosystem. Our sustainability practices are designed to keep that ocean clean and protected:

- We strictly limit single-use plastics and aim for zero waste across our operations
- Most cleaning and guest products are eco-certified and biodegradable, to ensure no harm reaches the waterways
- We support and partner with local marine conservation initiatives, including those that protect whales and promote sustainable fishing practices.

### Thoughtful Design & Energy Use:

Our buildings are crafted not only to sit lightly on the land, but to honour it:

- Passive solar design, thick insulation, and double, some tripple glazing reduce the need for artificial heating and cooling
- The Lodge is powered in part by solar energy, with future plans to increase renewable sourcing
- We use locally sourced, natural, recycled materials wherever possible, reducing transport emissions and supporting regional craftspeople

### Food with Integrity:

Our kitchen is committed to sustainable sourcing that reflects the seasons and the region.

- Much of our produce is grown on-site in our organic garden or sourced from nearby regenerative farms
- All meat, seafood, and dairy are sourced with animal welfare, environmental impact, and local economy in mind
- We aim to minimise food waste, compost kitchen scraps, and avoid imported ingredients when local alternatives exist

Dining at Hapuku isn't just a luxury — it's a way to connect with the land and its rhythms.

### People & Partnerships:

We believe in sustainability as a community effort. We work closely with:

- Local iwi to honour the Māori values of kaitiakitanga (guardianship) and whakapapa (connection to place)
- Local schools and conservation groups on planting days, educational tours, and restoration initiatives
- Our guests, who are invited to learn, contribute, and leave with a deeper understanding of this place

### Looking Forward:

Regeneration is a journey. We're not perfect — but we're committed. Every year, we revisit our goals, measure our progress, and ask ourselves how we can do better.

Because in the end, our answer to why we're here is simple:

To live gently.

To leave things better than we found them.

To make space for nature to thrive — and to welcome others into that vision.

## Introduction

At Hapuku Lodge, our connection to the land, sea, and sky is the heartbeat of everything we do. Nestled between the Kaikōura ranges and the Pacific Ocean, we're proud to offer a luxury experience that deeply respects the environment and the local community.

This report outlines our ongoing sustainability journey — a transparent, data-backed reflection of the steps we're taking to operate more lightly and give back more meaningfully.

## Our Commitment: The Tiaki Promise

At Hapuku Lodge, we proudly uphold the Tiaki Promise, a commitment inspired by Tourism New Zealand that encourages all visitors and hosts to care for New Zealand's land, sea, and people.

The Tiaki Promise calls on us to act as guardians — respecting the environment, protecting cultural heritage, and ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come.

This promise aligns deeply with our values and practices, reflected in every part of our operation — from minimizing emissions and waste, to restoring native flora, supporting marine conservation, and fostering authentic connections between guests, nature, and tangata whenua (people of the land).

By embracing the Tiaki Promise, we invite our guests to join us on this journey of kaitiakitanga — guardianship and stewardship — honoring the whenua (land), moana (sea), and our shared responsibility to protect Aotearoa's unique environment and rich cultural heritage.

## Energy & Emissions

### Electricity Use

Between April 2024 and March 2025, Hapuku Lodge used a total of 236,211 kWh of electricity to power guest accommodation, kitchens, and back-of-house operations.

- Peak usage: January (24,953 kWh)
- Lowest usage: July (15,045 kWh)
- Estimated emissions: 22.11 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e (NZ grid average)

### Solar Power

In August 2024, we installed an 8 kWp solar system, generating 4,865.7 kWh of clean electricity between August and March — offsetting around 20–25% of our monthly energy demand during that period. Future expansion and battery storage are in planning.

## LPG Use

Total LPG consumed: 30,445.5 litres

Estimated emissions: 46.09 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e

Used primarily for hot water heating and kitchen needs, LPG is one of our key focus areas for future reduction.

## Sustainable Transport

### Fuel Consumption

- Petrol used: 911.49 litres → 2.11 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e

- Diesel used: 1,251.68 litres → 3.35 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e

### Plug-in Hybrid Fleet

In late 2024, we added a plug-in hybrid VW Multivan to our fleet, now used for guest transfers and staff errands. It covers most local trips in electric-only mode, reducing both emissions and noise pollution.

### EV Charging

We've installed 5 dedicated EV charging stations for staff and guest use — free of charge — to incentivise low-emissions travel and support the growing EV movement in Aotearoa.

## Waste Management

### Landfill Waste

Total sent to landfill: 6,740 kg

We are working to reduce this through improved purchasing practices and waste separation training.

### Recycling

Total recycled: 1,670 kg

We recycle cardboard, glass, plastics, and metals, and aim to increase recycling rates further.

### Composting

We compost all food waste generated on-site, diverting organic matter from landfill and returning valuable nutrients back to our soil.

### Kitchen Oil Recycling

All kitchen oils that can be recycled are collected and sent to facilities where they are converted into biofuel, helping reduce reliance on fossil fuels and supporting circular resource use.

## Sustainable Sourcing & Guest-Driven Reforestation

### Kitchen Garden & Olive Oil Production

- A large percentage of our produce is grown in our on-site vegetable garden, ensuring freshness, seasonality, and reduced food miles.
- We proudly produce all our own olive oil used in the kitchen, from our olive trees nurtured on the property.

### Native Planting (April 2024 – March 2025)

Since the conception of Hapuku Lodge in 2002 we have planted one native tree or shrub for every guest reservation. Between April 2024 and March 2025, we exceeded guest reservations totaling 6,000 plants. We mark the trees with a copper tag detailing guest name and reservation number, followed with thank-you email that is sent to guests with a tree planting certificate, including GPS location, and species details.

- Estimated annual carbon drawdown over time: 120 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> (approximate)
- Our tree planting initiative offset approximately 163% of our annual carbon footprint.

## Marine Conservation Partnership

We donate \$10 for every room night sold to Moana Mark, a local marine non-profit supporting research and protection of Kaikōura's sperm whales.

### Our 2024–25 Contribution:

- Total donated: Over \$20,000
- Supports sperm whale population monitoring, marine mammal science, and conservation.

### Whale–Carbon Connection

- One whale can sequester up to 2 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year
- Supported population offsets up to 20 tonnes annually, approximately 27% of Hapuku Lodge's carbon footprint

## Kaikōura Dark Sky Trust Support

Hapuku Lodge is a proud Hutton Shearwater Tiered Supporter of the Kaikōura Dark Sky Trust, supporting efforts to reduce light pollution and protect native wildlife, including the endangered Hutton's shearwater seabird.

## Total Carbon Footprint Summary

Source | CO<sub>2</sub>e (tonnes)

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Electricity | 22.11

LPG | 46.09

Petrol | 2.11

Diesel | 3.35

Total | 73.66

Through our regenerative sustainability efforts — including solar energy generation, composting of food waste, recycling kitchen oil into biofuel, sourcing produce locally and organically, supporting marine and dark sky conservation, and planting 6,000 native trees and shrubs — Hapuku Lodge is actively offsetting or avoiding an estimated 190 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e annually. These actions reflect our commitment not just to reduce harm, but to regenerate the ecosystems we depend on, moving us beyond carbon neutrality.

## Green Team

To drive our sustainability goals and foster collaboration, Hapuku Lodge has established a Green Team composed of staff members from each department. This dedicated group meets monthly to discuss progress, set new goals, and develop innovative sustainability initiatives that engage the whole lodge community.

## Our Goals

Long Term:

- Achieve Paper Free operations by 2030
- Become a Predator Free Lodge by 2050 (aiming for Reserve Status with thriving birds, bees, and nature trails)
- Grow 75+% of produce on-site, with 90% of menu ingredients sourced within 100 km
- Reduce total waste production by 50% by 2027

Short Term:

- Improve the quality and quantity of staff and guest recycling
- Eliminate single-use items on-site, including packaging for picnics and envelope teas

- Implement enhanced guest communication about sustainability initiatives, planting programs, and the garden
- Explore strategies to support carbon-free staff commutes
- Develop greenhouse and garden extensions to increase sustainable food production

### Next Steps

- Launch recycling communication posters to share information with guests and staff (including staff accommodation)
- Introduce a Bird of the Month board in the staff room, with potential rollout to guests
- Install an information board near the tree houses detailing local bird species guests may see
- Rename lodge suites after local rivers and native trees to celebrate place and nature
- Extend predator trapping programs to staff housing for comprehensive property-wide predator control
- Improve communication to staff regarding farm crop spraying schedules
- Conduct a chemical use review, aiming for chemical-free housekeeping or minimal impact alternatives
- Add signage for walkways to the greens and sculptures in the garden to enhance visitor awareness and experience
- Encourage staff to consciously note ideas for improvements, ideally related to their department but also site-wide, to be shared at the next Green Team meeting

### Looking Ahead

In 2025, we plan to:

- Expand solar generation and investigate battery storage
- Continue to increase native planting and explore verified carbon offset credits
- Enhance guest engagement with visible sustainability impact throughout the booking and stay experience

### Conclusion

Sustainability at Hapuku Lodge is a heartfelt commitment — to the land, sea, sky, and community that surrounds us. We thank every guest for helping us plant trees, protect whales, preserve dark skies, recycle responsibly, and grow food in harmony with nature.

Together, we create a luxury experience that honors and sustains this extraordinary place.