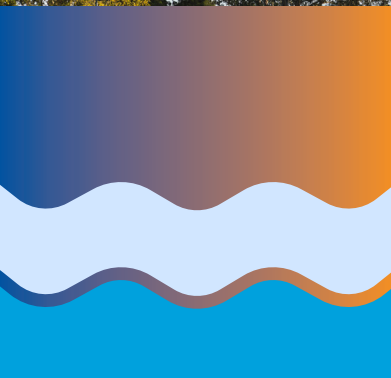
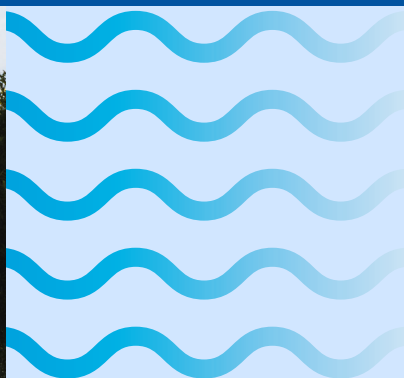


Community Investment Strategy

He Rautaki Haumi mo te Hapori



2025
—
2028

Haere Mai, Welcome!

We invite you to read this Community Investment Strategy document, and to talk with us about how we might work with you and your organisation to 'emPower' Waikato - thriving, connected and equitable.

Our Purpose refers to both the Trust's financial investments (including the Trust's core investment as 100% shareholder of WEL Networks Ltd), as well as investment in the community through grants and other instruments.

We continue to believe that this will be best done by backing those who are leaders in our community, by taking an intentional and research-based approach to impact, and by connecting, collaborating, and supporting collective efforts.

Our Aims | Ngaa Whainga

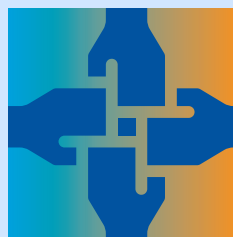


Thriving Community Hapori Taurikura

Opportunities are supported that bring people together to participate in health and wellbeing, sports and recreation, arts and culture, and to celebrate the diversity of our community.

Healthy Environment He Taiao Hauora

Our taiao is healthy through prioritising waste minimisation, environmental education and locally-led initiatives.



Equitable Outcomes Ngaa Hua Matatika

Equitable outcomes are enabled with a focus on tamariki, rangatahi, housing, and education.

Maaori Aspirations Ngaa Wawata o te Maaori

Local Maaori culture and knowledge is understood, respected and valued as part of our kaupapa.



Our Pillars | Ngaa Pou

TE TIRITI O WAITANGI

We embrace the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi through partnering with local iwi, hapuu, whaanau and maaori.

We are committed to honouring the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi to achieve the greatest outcomes for all, through meaningful engagement with tangata whenua.

WORKING COLLABORATIVELY

We work together with people and communities to achieve our Vision for the Waikato.

EQUITY & EQUALITY

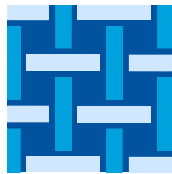
We work with others to enable a just and fair community where everyone can participate and prosper.

Our Values | Ngaa Uara



TE TIRITI O WAITANGI

We aim to continue to strengthen the relationship and trust between iwi, hapuu, whaanau and our organisation.



CONNECTED

We are actively working within the community and are connected to the people and partners to deliver positive outcomes, together.



PURPOSE DRIVEN

Our actions seek to deliver clear and positive outcomes.



INTEGRITY

We act in good faith and are prepared to be accountable.



Our Core Purpose

To ensure that WEL Networks Ltd operates as a successful business for the benefit of the community.



Our Vision

EmPowering Waikato - thriving, connected and equitable.



Our Stakeholders

The persons and communities of the WEL Networks Ltd region.

Community Investment Strategy

He Rautaki Haumi mo te Hapori



Please note that the segments are not proportional

Community Grants

Quick Response Grants He Puutea Urupare (up to \$20,000)

WEL Energy Trust continues to support our community through regular grants to a wide range of organisations in the WEL Networks Ltd region.



These grants for up to \$20,000 are designed to provide a 'quick response' to a range of grassroots organisations, to provide the bit of support needed to get a project or idea moving, or to give a helping hand when needed. We love seeing the difference these grants can make in supporting community connectedness and the variety of wonderful, vibrant community organisations and endeavours we have in our region!

There are five closing dates per year which can be found on our website, along with eligibility requirements. The Trust requires a short accountability statement from grantees outlining how the funds have been used, which can be easily done on the online acquittal form.

Please Note: Only one Community Support or Quick Response grant can be received in a calendar year. Please speak to us if you're not sure which is best for your organisation.

Grants up to \$20,000 - approximately 6-week turnaround from the closing date.

Application
received and
assessed

Grants
Committee
reviews and
recommends

Decision
at Trust
meeting

Response
to the
Applicant

Community Grants

Community Support Grants He Waahanga Puutea Tautoko a Hapori (above \$20,000)

Community Support Grants are usually larger grants designed to provide operational and other support to organisations who are working with others to make a measurable impact in our region.

Priority will be given to organisations whose outcomes align with the Pillars/Pou.

There are three closing dates per year which can be found on our website, along with eligibility requirements. The Trust requires a more detailed, evidential accountability statement from grantees outlining how the funds have been used.

Please Note: Only one Community Support or Quick Response grant can be received in a calendar year. Please speak to us if you're not sure which is best for your organisation.



Grants usually above \$20,000 - approximately 12-week turnaround.

Application
received and
assessed

Staff
review and
guidance

Trustee
review

Decision at
Trust funding
meeting

Response
to the
Applicant



Community Grants

Other Grants | Ngaa Puutea

These targeted grants are usually by invitation only and can be received by applicant organisations who may already have received a grant from the Trust in the same calendar year.

VITAL IMPACT GRANTS

These are occasional targeted funds available to selected organisations through one-off grant rounds. These rounds target a specific focus area, supporting key organisations that have potential to make a significant impact towards identified outcomes.

WHARE ORA (FORMERLY AFFORDABLE ENERGY FOR ALL) PROGRAMME

A Trust-initiated programme developed initially in conjunction with the WEL Networks Ltd OurPower electricity retail initiative. Selected organisations working across and in communities receive funding to support the employment and activities of Energy Navigators who work with whaanau.

The Programme's overall goals and impact areas are:

- Reducing Energy Hardship in the Community
- Families have access to affordable energy
- Increased financial, digital and energy literacy in the community
- Increased healthy homes and healthy families across the region

CONVENING AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

This Fund provides support beyond grantmaking to organisations with one-off costs associated with collaboration, evaluation, research and/or capacity building. It is available to applicant organisations (or groups of organisations) for a variety of purposes related to convening, facilitation, organisational and/or professional development. Preference will be given to initiatives that are additional to normal business and those that can add value and make a difference.

MULTI-YEAR GRANTS

The Trust supports the concept of Multi-Year Community Partnership Grants for organisations whose work is aligned with the Trust's aims and values, contributing to social, cultural, economic and community wellbeing.

Any Multi-Year Community Partnership Grant would be for up to a three-year period and by invitation only to Community Support applicants.

Discounts | Whakahekenga utu

WEL Networks Ltd, alongside its shareholder the WEL Energy Trust, will continue to facilitate the WEL Electricity Discount Programme. The WEL Electricity Discount Programme distributes an annual electricity discount to further support the Waikato community.

The electricity discount is a distribution of some of the WEL Networks Ltd earnings back to consumers within the WEL Energy Trust region. It means that all WEL customers in the Waikato network are given a share of the Company's success. The discounts are delivered through a credit to the consumers electricity retailer account.

The discount, which was reintroduced in July 2021, reinforces the Trust's commitment that WEL Networks Ltd accounts for a minimum discount payment to be made annually. The discount is agreed to by the WEL Networks Ltd Board and the WEL Energy Trust as a percentage of the regulated lines revenue up to an agreed set amount to maintain a minimum average discount payable per ICP of approximately \$125 plus GST.

Electricity Discount Distributed:

2023
\$12M

2024
\$12.4M

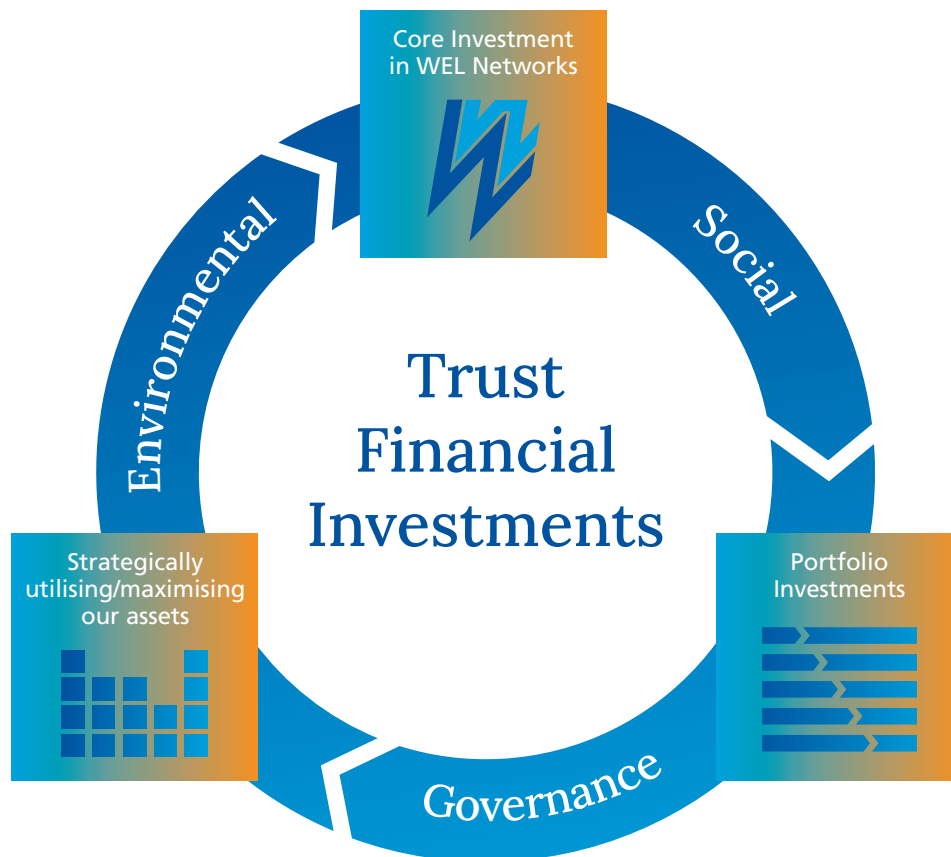
Financial Investments

He Koopaki Puutea

Returns from the Trust's investment portfolio provide reliable grant funding to ensure we can meet the current and future needs of our community. By preserving and growing capital sustainably, the Trust ensures intergenerational equity, benefiting future generations from today's investments.

Committed to being a responsible investment leader, we consider the negative and positive effects on society and the environment resulting from decisions made by the companies and institutions in which we invest. Therefore, we evaluate the impacts of our investments and proactively address the risks and opportunities of transitioning to a low-carbon society, with the goal of generating positive social and/or environmental impacts alongside financial returns.

Our investment strategies have been established to preserve the Trust, generate income, and invest for impact to achieve the Trust's mission of investing wisely. The Trust invests for the long term, and continually refines its investment framework to enable the highest possible returns at an appropriate level of risk. The investment strategies utilise sound advice and ensure effective governance policy and practice are in place to protect intergenerational equity.



Trust's Statement of Investment Policy & Objectives

The Trust's Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives (SIPO) sets guidelines and policies that the Trust follows to ensure its investments are managed responsibly and sustainably. In addition to the Trust's investment in WEL Networks Ltd and its portfolio investments, the Trust will investigate opportunities to:

- Increase investment in energy related activities and partnerships
- Utilise/maximise the balance sheet to increase intergenerational returns
- Invest in commercial or community property
- Invest in 'reducing cost of energy' related projects



Core Investment in WEL Networks Ltd

WEL Energy Trust is proud to be the 100% shareholder of WEL Networks Ltd, and Trustees hold these shares on behalf of the community. The Trust's intention is to be an active and responsible asset owner, adopting investment strategies to sustain and grow assets for people today and for future generations.

WEL Networks Ltd, like WEL Energy Trust, aims to support a connected and resilient community. WEL Energy Trust continues to support WEL Networks Ltd in the diversification of investments into areas that will enhance the region's economic and social growth. As the shareholder the WEL Energy Trust has set clear strategic intentions and expectations of WEL Networks Ltd.



WEL Networks Ltd

WEL Networks Ltd owns and operates electricity distribution assets in the Northern Waikato region. They also own and operate Infratec New Zealand Ltd and New Power Energy Limited; engineering businesses specialising in big solar and batteries.

WEL Networks Ltd plays an important role in the economic and social development of the Waikato region, including identifying and investing in new technologies that benefit the Waikato community, and by modernising its network assets to future-proof the region.

With over 110,000 households and businesses connected to the electricity network in the Waikato, WEL Networks Ltd plays an essential role in the economic and social development of our communities. Key to this growth are strong partnerships and innovation which sees WEL Networks Ltd explore new ways of providing critical infrastructure and services to ensure customers receive affordable, reliable, fairly priced and environmentally sustainable energy while improving the value of the business to the shareholders.

WEL Networks Ltd has also committed to honouring the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi to achieve the greatest outcomes for all, and collaborative engagement with tangata whenua to promote growth and prosperity of the Waikato region and its people. They recognise the importance of growing their understanding of te ao Maaori and they are on a journey of building cultural capacity across the business.

WEL Networks Ltd is 100% owned by the WEL Energy Trust.







WEL
ENERGY
TRUST

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