



## CARBON SINK RESEARCH

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# Native Afforestation Site Prioritisation Social, Economic, and Ecological Benefits

## SUMMARY

Native afforestation can have many benefits that increase the value of a site to the community over and above any specific individual, ecological, economic or carbon sink values.

By identifying sites with the greatest benefits, investment in carbon sinks and other community programs can target sites that maximise the value returned in a triple bottom line sense.

There is broad community interest in actually progressing carbon sinks now. There now numerous reports calling for native afforestation to begin. This has raised the challenge of where is it most appropriate to use native or exotic afforestation to attain the best overall return on a sustainable basis.

Significant areas of native forest has been removed in the past. There is the opportunity to restore it on sites where it should never have been removed, where community social values will be enriched, where economic activities can be protected and boosted, and where ecological processes can be restored and enhanced.

Native afforestation site prioritisation provides a smart new method to target investment that is based on ecological sustainability, and maximises overall returns.

## SITE PRIORITISATION

Initial research has focussed on sites in the Kapiti Coast District, bearing in mind that the method can be applied anywhere. Social benefits research is complete for this area, and economic/ecological benefit research is now underway.

Read the research reports as they are completed at: <http://opengeo.co.nz/CarbonSinkResearch1.html>

To identify the opportunities for your area, community, district, or region then contact OpenGeo for a conversation about a native afforestation site prioritisation solution tailored to your local situation and needs, to provide for future generations and sustaining our planet.

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