
REPORT 3
(1215/52/IM)

PROGRESS ON THE CLIMATE CHANGE WORK PROGRAMME

1. Purpose of Report

To outline progress with the development of the climate change work programmes for emissions reduction targets and achieving the Council's vision of carbon neutrality.

To seek the Committee's approval to apply for Government funding for a public place recycling pilot programme.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Note that Council agreed on 27 June 2007 to a vision of carbon neutrality for Wellington City Council operations and the city as a whole.*
- 3. Note that Council agreed the terms of reference for a Working Party on Climate Change to provide input and guidance to officers on the development of the draft climate change targets and proposed work programme.*
- 4. Note that officers will further develop the draft Climate Change Action Plan and will present recommendations by December 2007 to be incorporated in the 2008/09 Draft Annual Plan.*
- 5. Recommend to the 2007/10 Council that a new elected members' climate change working party be formed to contribute to the continuing development of the draft Climate Change Action Plan.*
- 6. Agree that Council officers apply for Government funding to develop public place recycling infrastructure in Wellington's central city area.*

3. Background

On 27 June 2007 the Council agreed to an aspirational vision of carbon neutrality for the operations of Wellington City Council and for the city as a whole. Councillors

agreed that officers would present options for carbon reduction targets and measures to achieve the carbon neutral¹ vision.

The Council also agreed the Terms of Reference for an elected members' climate change working party. The purpose of the working party is to inform the officer work on developing targets and actions to achieve the Council's vision of carbon neutrality. This report reviews progress to date.

4. Discussion

The recommendations from the 4th assessment report by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) advise that a reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions between 50% and 85% (of 2000 levels) is necessary in order to avoid the most dangerous impacts from climate change. The table in appendix 1 shows Wellington City's current corporate and community targets along with information on the emissions reduction targets of other cities.

4.1 Overview of officer activity

Council officers are currently developing a Climate Change Action Plan. Work to date has focused on the following key areas:

- **corporate emissions analysis** – the Council calculated its 2003 emissions inventory² for its own activities³ and recently updated this for 2006 operations. Officers have engaged Price Waterhouse Cooper to verify the methodology used for this analysis (in line with International Standards Organisations [ISO] standards) and are now in the process of identifying sources of emissions not included in the original profiles (for example emissions associated with Council contractors such as sewage treatment, infrastructure construction, cleansing operations).
- **community emissions analysis**⁴ – the Council estimated the 2001 emissions inventory of the community using a “top-down” model. The initial community inventory exercise provided useful context for officers but it left out important sources of emissions such as air, rail and sea transport. In addition, the original model used national averages and did not take into account Wellington specific (“bottom-up”) information. Officers have commissioned a separate, more detailed community emissions profile through NIWA. Understanding of community emissions will continue to evolve as more detailed, Wellington specific information is added to the community model.
- **emission reduction targets** – the Council agreed to the following emissions reduction targets in recent Annual Plans as part of its commitments to the Communities for Climate Protection Programme (CCP-NZ):

¹ Carbon neutrality refers to a situation where emissions are reduced as much as practical and any remaining emissions are offset.

² There are several terms used in reference to emissions measurement including carbon footprint, greenhouse gas emissions inventory, emissions analysis and emissions profile.

³ Analysis conducted for milestone 1 of the CCP-NZ programme.

⁴ Analysis conducted for milestone 1 of the CCP-NZ programme.

- **corporate:** stabilising WCC emissions to 2003 levels by 2010 and reducing WCC emissions 20% below 2003 levels by 2020
- **community:** stabilising Wellington community emissions to 2001 levels by 2010 and reducing Wellington community emissions 10% below 2001 levels by 2020.

The Council agreed in June 2007 that officers would review its emissions reduction targets after setting the aspirational goal for carbon neutrality. Officers are drafting reduction targets for the short (2010), medium (2020) and long-term (2050) based on the scientific analysis relating to emissions reduction and in-line with other governing bodies.

- **actions to reduce emissions** – officers have developed draft actions that would makeup the Council’s first steps towards achieving emissions reductions and carbon neutrality. The actions are divided into two areas: corporate and community.

Corporate actions are focused on Council buildings, vehicle fleet, staff travel, renewable energy opportunities and carbon credit opportunities (both from energy and forest sinks).

Community actions are focused on transport and urban development, waste, adaptation to climate change, facilitating behaviour change and developing partnerships to make Wellington a centre of excellence for climate change research and sustainable technology.

4.2 Working party meetings

The working party has met on three occasions and each meeting had specific objectives. A summary of the objectives and outcomes of the meetings is outlined below.

Meeting 1: 19 July 2007

The first meeting focused on the expectations of working party members for both the meetings and the climate change work programme. Some of the key issues raised at the meeting included:

- need for a common level of understanding of the climate change issue in terms of terminology, Wellington specific information (e.g. emissions measurement) and government climate change policy
- the Council should learn from the successful policy and initiatives implemented by other local authorities
- the Council needs to focus on engaging the public to raise awareness of the causes and impacts of climate change and how the public can change their behaviour
- officers should investigate options for more aggressive emissions reduction targets

- officers should focus on identifying two to three initiatives that could be implemented promptly to demonstrate leadership and launch the Council's new climate change and sustainability work programmes.

Meeting 2: 2 August 2007

The second meeting focused on reviewing Council's background information and terminology to provide a platform for proceeding working party discussions.

Representatives from Price Waterhouse Cooper attended the meeting and discussed the following subjects:

- methodology and standards relating to measuring emissions
- climate change terminology
- carbon trading and carbon markets
- carbon offsets
- economic opportunities relating to climate change.

Council officers reported to the working party on:

- the 2003 corporate emissions inventory
- the 2001 community emissions inventory
- key focus areas for corporate and community action
- draft principles to guide the decision making for the climate change action plan.

Some of the key issues raised at the meeting included:

- Council should recognise that the location of facilities can lead to increased travel, which affects community emissions
- Council's focus should be on reducing emissions in preference to simply planting trees
- the Council can facilitate large-scale renewable energy projects (e.g. wind farms) and officers should be looking to identify potential partnership projects
- forecasting and measuring the impact of community projects can be complex but it is vital to determine the cost-effectiveness of the emission reduction measures.

It was agreed to send Councillors Wade-Brown and Ahipene-Mercer to Waitakere City following an invitation from Mayor Bob Harvey.

Meeting 3: 13 September 2007

Councillors Wade-Brown and Ahipene-Mercer gave a presentation on their findings following their trip to Waitakere City.

The preliminary actions developed as part of the draft Climate Change Action Plan were presented to the working party as were some of the key themes of climate change strategies of other local authorities. The Council's draft Climate Change Action Plan focuses on the following key areas:

Corporate

1. Council buildings and facilities
2. Transport
3. Carbon credit opportunities: renewable energy and forest sinks
4. Council procurement
5. Streetlighting and infrastructure
6. Waste and recycling

Community

1. Transport and urban development
2. Sustainable buildings
3. Waste
4. Wellington as centre of excellence for research and development
5. Adapting to Climate Change: environmental, economic and social changes
6. Advocacy and facilitation for renewable energy generation and sustainable technology

The facilitation of sustainable behaviour change is an action that overarches all of the focus areas of the community section. This work will focus on changing people's behaviour, attitudes and perceptions of climate change and other sustainability issues.

Some of the key issues raised at the meeting by the working party included:

- the focus should be on delivering effective projects while methodologies for measuring community emissions are still being developed/refined
- the Action Plan should look to identify points of difference in Wellington such as the potential to have renewable energy generation infrastructure that has the potential capacity to deliver all of Wellington's electricity needs
- there needs to be an organisational communication plan to raise awareness and get buy-in with Council staff
- the cost benefit analysis (cost effectiveness) is a key criteria to the prioritisation of projects.

4.3 Next steps

The working party will meet one last time on 4 October. The key objectives of this meeting will be to:

- review what known information (e.g. emissions profiles and cost benefit analysis)
- identify criteria for prioritising actions
- give direction to officers on key priorities and projects to develop and report back in December with more detail on the costs and benefits of the work programme's components.

It is recommended that a new working party be established following the elections in October.

4.4 Public Place Recycling Pilot Programme

As part of the Government's sustainability programme, the Ministry for the Environment is providing funding to develop and promote recycling collection facilities located in public places throughout New Zealand. The Ministry for the Environment is inviting applications from local authorities that have previously expressed interest in establishing recycling facilities in public places for one of three pilot programmes. The pilot programmes will be funded for three years, in 2007- 2008 as a pilot and 2008-2010 as part of the operational programme. The objectives of the project are:

- to develop recycling collection facilities in public places with consistent branding that is easily recognisable to the public.
- to raise public awareness and encourage recycling.

While public place recycling is not seen as a key initiative to reduce the community's emissions, the benefits of the initiative are primarily on encouraging sustainable behaviour for residents and for tourists. Public place recycling is a highly visible initiative where Council can demonstrate its commitment to facilitate sustainable behaviour change. If the Council did receive Government funding for 2007/08, the project would be launched in January 2008.

The Government support includes:

- providing funding of up to \$2,500 per bin for manufacture and installation of bins in pilot programme areas (one off payment)
- providing funding of up to \$1,500 per bin per year to cover operational costs
- providing support for the promotion of Recycling in Public Places in pilot programme areas.

It is recommended that the Committee agree to apply to for Government funding to be involved with the public place recycling pilot programme. The specific details of the project are still being worked through by officers but results of preliminary officer discussions include:

- the recycling bins would be located adjacent to existing rubbish bin infrastructure to avoid problems with "rubbish dumping" in recycle bins
- the recycle bins would be a modified design of the existing "eye bins" used for rubbish to maintain consistency with streetscape furniture
- the recycle bins would be located in the key pedestrian areas and streets of the central city such as the Golden Mile, Cuba Mall, Civic Square and the Railway Station.
- there are also possibilities that bins could be located in other key pedestrian and tourist locations such as the Waterfront, the Wellington Airport and Oriental Beach.

5. Conclusion

This report outlines the progress with the development of the climate change work programme in terms of developing emissions reduction targets and a work programme to achieve the Council's vision of carbon neutrality. The report summarises the feedback from the climate change working party.

This report also seeks the Committee's approval to apply for Government funding for a three year public place recycling pilot programme.

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Supporting Information

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

This report relates to several long-term outcomes from the Council's overall strategic direction, as reflected in the LTCCP, including:

More Sustainable

More Compact

Safer

Healthier

More Competitive

More Prosperous.

This report also relates to several three-year priorities from the LTCCP, including:

Energy efficiency and conservation, energy security, renewable energy, and leadership in this area

'Growth spine' planning

Travel demand management

Bus priority measures

Strengthening the city's status as a centre of creativity and innovation.

2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

This report has no financial implications. Future decisions on climate change targets may result in proposed new initiatives in the 2008/09 Draft Annual Plan

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

This report has no Treaty implications.

4) Decision-Making

This report does not require a significant decision to be made.

5) Consultation

a) General Consultation

No general consultation has been conducted at this stage but officers plan to engage residents and businesses prior to the December Committee report. Further consultation on specific work items will occur as part of the 2008/09 Draft Annual Plan.

b) Consultation with Maori

Consultation with Maori will be conducted as part of the consultation identified above .

6) Legal Implications

There are no legal implications from this report.

7) Consistency with existing policy

This report is consistent with the outcomes and priorities of the Environment Strategy and Transport Strategy as reflected in the LTCCP. The advice provided supports existing policy and planning work to implement the Council's strategic direction, such as travel demand management, compact growth, and energy management planning.

APPENDIX 1

Comparison of Emission Reduction Targets

Corporate Emissions Reduction Targets

	Base Year	2010	2020	2025
Wellington	2003	stabilise	20%	
Kapiti Coast District	2001	15%	-	
Waitakere City ⁵	2001	stabilise	50%	
Auckland City			CN*	
Hamilton City Council	2001	(10%)	20%	
Kaikoura District Council	2001		100%	
Carterton District Council	2001	10%		70%
Masterton District Council	2001			70%
South Wairarapa	2001	5%		70%
Taranaki Regional Council	2001	stabilise		

Community Emissions Reduction Targets

	Base Year	2010	2012	2015	2020	2050
Wellington	2001	stabilise	-	-	10%	-
Kapiti Coast District	2001	stabilise	-	20%	-	-
Waitakere City ⁶	2001	15%	-	-	40%	80%
Hamilton	2001			stabilise		
Auckland City			CN*			
NZ Government	1990	-	stabilise	-	-	-
UK Government	1990	-	-	-	-	60%
British Columbia, Canada	2007	-	-	-	33%	-
Toronto, Canada	1990	-	6%	-	30%	80%
Brisbane City Council		-	-	-	-	CN*
Vancouver, Canada	2007	-	-	-	33%	80%
Melbourne City Council		-	-	-	CN	-
Portland, Oregon	1990	10%	-	-	-	-
World Mayors Council on Climate Change ⁷	2007			-	30%	80%

* CN refers to a target of carbon neutrality.

⁵ The emissions reduction targets are per capita targets e.g. reduce the city's greenhouse gas emissions, compared to 2001 levels by 15% per person by 2010

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⁷ Signatories include mayors of Auckland, Kapiti Coast District, Kyoto, Melbourne, Toronto, Paris, Vancouver, Stockholm, Geneva and Bonn, Germany.