

NEW INITIATIVE (D)

Project title: Incentives for Sustainable Building Features

Background: the initiative aims to reduce a perceived barrier to the uptake of sustainable technologies in residential dwellings. It was discussed as part of the climate change paper in December 2007.

It is recommended that the initiative be included in the draft annual plan.

1. The Proposal

The initiative aims to provide grants/subsidy (to off set the cost of associated building consent fees) for residential homeowners that install sustainable building technology into their new homes or into a retrofitted home. Potentially around 60-100 consents will receive the subsidies annually and the funding amount will be reviewed based on demand.

2. Proposal Costs

Project Component	Operating expenses \$000									
	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
<i>Consent subsidies</i>	30	30	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Net Total</i>	30	30	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

3. Project Outline

The Council recently agreed to the Climate Change Action Plan, which aims to reduce emissions for Council operations and in the community. Most of the solutions for reducing emissions in the community involve reducing energy consumption or using renewable sources of energy.

This initiative will encourage greater uptake of energy efficient design and renewable energy technology by providing grants/subsidy (to off set building consent fees) to homeowners that use sustainable energy solutions in their building design. Greater uptake of energy efficient and renewable energy technology will lead to lower emissions for the Wellington community. The types of technology that will be eligible will include (but is not limited to):

- solar water heating
- solar photo-voltaic (PV) systems

- roof mounted wind turbines
- water heat pump systems
- high performance thermal insulation solutions.

There will also be scope to provide grants/subsidies (to off set the cost of building consent fees) to new builds and retrofits that have energy efficiency heavily incorporated into the design of the structure, such as:

- passive lighting and heating
- natural ventilation
- heat storage materials.

Potentially around 60-100 building consents will be subsidised annually and the funding amount will be reviewed based on demand. The initiative will be piloted for three years to identify:

- the level of demand for the 'subsidy'
- the types of energy efficient design technologies that are most popular and effective
- how to best leverage Council funding with other incentives provided by the government or the private sector.

The criteria for the programme will be developed by the end of April 2008 and applications can be made starting in July 2008. The Council would consider applications on a first-come first-served basis.

This initiative links to the solar hot water heating grants scheme provided by the government as part of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy. Hamilton, Waitakere and Westland District Councils all have similar programmes in place.

4. Conclusion

This initiative will subsidise building consents for homeowners that utilise sustainable energy technology in their building design. The initiative is part of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan, which was recently approved by the Council. The initiative demonstrates commitment to reduce community emissions and also the Council's commitment to engage the public to adopt more sustainable behaviour. It is recommended that this initiative proceed on a pilot basis for three years to identify the level of demand and best way to offer incentives for sustainable building solutions.