

**PRESENTATION NOTES FOR
THE MAYOR OF WELLINGTON KERRY PRENDERGAST
ON SUSTAINABILITY OF CITIES – THE WAY FORWARD
AT THE WORLD CITIES SUMMIT/EAST ASIA SUMMIT ON LIVEABLE
CITIES, SINGAPORE
3.30PM WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE 2008**

GOOD AFTERNOON

**I'VE BEEN ASKED TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING THREE QUESTIONS
IN THIS SESSION:**

- **HOW WELLINGTON HAS RESPONDED TO CLIMATE CHANGE?**
- **WHAT IN MY VIEW IS THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN A CITY? AND**
- **HOW IMPORTANT ARE FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO PROMOTE GREENER CITIES?**

LIKE MANY CITIES, WELLINGTON IS TAKING A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO THE CHALLENGES POSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE. WE ARE ENSURING THAT WE ARE WELL-INFORMED, BY PARTNERING WITH UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES TO COMPLETE RESEARCH ON:

- **THE IMPACTS THAT CLIMATE CHANGE WILL HAVE ON OUR INFRASTRUCTURE, ECOSYSTEMS AND COMMUNITIES.**
- **HOW WE CAN BEST ADAPT TO THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE**
- **UNDERSTANDING WHAT MEASURES WE NEED TO TAKE TO MAKE OUR CITY MORE RESILIENT.**

WE ARE PROGRESSIVELY UPGRADING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE TO ACCOMMODATE THE IMPACTS OF MORE FREQUENT AND MORE EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS – SUCH AS HEAVY RAIN AND WINDS – AND THE FLOODING AND LAND SUBSIDENCE THAT MAY RESULT FROM THESE EVENTS.

WE ARE ALSO UNDERTAKING LONG-TERM PLANNING TO BUILD A CITY WITH A MORE RESILIENT URBAN FORM... AND CONSIDERING THE IMPACT OF SEA LEVEL RISES IN OUR COASTAL ZONE.

MY COUNCIL IS ALSO WORKING HARD TO MITIGATE OUR IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICE TO DRIVE ACTION IN OUR CITY. WE ARE MEASURING OUR EMISSIONS AND WE HAVE AN ACTION PLAN TO REDUCE THEM. WE ARE FOCUSED ON BECOMING CARBON NEUTRAL FOR OUR CORPORATE EMISSIONS BY 2012 AND BECOMING ONE OF THE FIRST GREEN CAPITALS IN THE WORLD.

SPECIFIC PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- **DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT STANDARDS FOR OUR BUILDINGS AND VEHICLES**
- **CREATING CARBON SINKS ON COUNCIL LAND AND WORKING WITH OTHER LAND OWNERS**
- **UNDERTAKING AN ONGOING PROGRAMME OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECTS**
- **IMPLEMENTING GREEN BUILDING CONSENT INCENTIVES**
- **ROLLING OUT A SUSTAINABILITY ACCREDITATION PROGRAMME FOR BUSINESSES**
- **COMPLETING FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR:**
 - **A HYDRO TURBINE IN THE OUTFALL PIPE OF OUR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

- DEVELOPING A WIND FARM ON CAREY'S GULLY - THE LAND SURROUNDING OUR LANDFILL
- BUILDING A BIOREACTOR FOR BIOSOLIDS DISPOSAL AND ELECTRICITY GENERATION.

BUT MY COUNCIL CAN'T DO IT ALONE. IT IS ONLY THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND THE MANY COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS IN OUR CITY THAT WE WILL CUT OUR EMISSIONS AND ACHIEVE OUR AMBITIOUS GOAL OF CARBON NEUTRALITY.

I SEE TWO OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ROLES OF GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING MY OWN COUNCIL, AS BEING:

- PROVIDING AMBITIOUS LEADERSHIP, INCLUDING OUR CARBON NEUTRALITY GOAL, OUR EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGETS, OUR ROLE AS AN EXEMPLAR, AND OUR ROLE IN UNDERTAKING.....
- LONG-TERM PLANNING AND INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE TO ENSURE THAT OUR CITY HAS A COMPACT URBAN FORM, PROVIDES OUR RESIDENTS WITH TRANSPORT OPTIONS INCLUDING WALKING, CYCLING AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT, FACILITATES THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE RENEWABLE ENERGY, AND ENSURES THAT THE INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIRED FOR MOVING TO A LOW-CARBON ECONOMY IS IN PLACE

WELLINGTON IS THE CAPITAL CITY OF NEW ZEALAND AND THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS IMPLEMENTED A PROGRAMME TO CREATE A CARBON NEUTRAL PUBLIC SERVICE. ALREADY SIX CORE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ARE WELL ON THE WAY TO BEING FULLY CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2012. THIS IS CREATING A BROADER CULTURE OF SUSTAINABLE PRACTICE IN THE WIDER SUPPLY CHAINS FOR THESE AGENCIES.

BUSINESS CLEARLY ALSO HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY. THIS INCLUDES:

- **SEIZING NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO DELIVER RENEWABLE ENERGY, DEVELOPING LOW-CARBON BUSINESSES, GREENING THE PERFORMANCE OF EXISTING BUSINESSES AND CREATING GREEN COLLAR JOBS.**
- **FOR EXAMPLE, TRIALS WILL BEGIN NEXT YEAR ON MARINE TURBINES OFF THE COAST OF WELLINGTON, AND AN INTERNATIONAL CARBON TRADING MARKET PLACE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE CITY – TZ1**

THE OTHER KEY PLAYER IS CIVIL SOCIETY.

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS HAVE A VITAL ROLE TO PLAY IN BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE. THIS INCLUDES ENCOURAGING SUSTAINABLE BEHAVIOUR CHANGE, AND INITIATING COMMUNITY-BASED ACTION AND INVESTMENT.

MY COUNCIL WORKS CLOSELY WITH A WIDE RANGE OF COMMUNITY GROUPS TO ACHIEVE CLIMATE CHANGE OUTCOMES.

FOR EXAMPLE, OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS WE HAVE BEEN PART-FUNDING A GROUP THAT IS RETROFITTING HUNDREDS OF HOMES OF LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS WITH INSULATION. THIS IS DELIVERING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND HEALTH BENEFITS.

WE ALSO HAVE PROJECTS TO ENCOURAGE CHANGES TO COMMUTERS' TRAVEL CHOICES AND TO ENCOURAGE CONSCIOUS SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION CHOICES.

INCENTIVES HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN ENCOURAGING THE EARLY UPTAKE OF NEW GREEN TECHNOLOGIES. IN

WELLINGTON THESE ARE PROVIDED BY MY COUNCIL AND BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. INCENTIVES INCLUDE:

- **REBATES ON BUILDING CONSENT FEES REQUIRED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF GREEN TECHNOLOGIES IN HOMES – SUCH AS MICRO-HYDRO, MICRO WIND TURBINES, SOLAR WATER HEATING AND WOOD PELLET “WETBACK” BURNERS**
- **GRANTS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SOLAR WATER HEATING – BY NATIONAL GOVERNMENT**
- **SUBSIDISED HOME INSULATION FOR LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR REGIONAL HEALTH BOARD.**

THE CHALLENGE FOR US... AND FOR ALL CITIES... IS HOW TO SCALE UP AND RESOURCE THESE PILOT INITIATIVES SO THAT WE ARE ABLE TO ROLL THEM OUT ACROSS ALL HOUSEHOLDS.

ONCE AGAIN, AS I SAID IN MY PRESENTATION THIS MORNING, IT'S ONLY WHEN ALL OF US COLLECTIVELY AND INDIVIDUALLY TURN OUR MINDS TO THE CHANGES WE NEED TO MAKE TO ENSURE OUR CITIES, OUR COUNTRIES AND OUR PLANET ARE SUSTAINABLE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS THAT REAL AND LASTING PROGRESS IN DEALING WITH THESE ISSUES WILL OCCUR.

THANK YOU