

Corporate Environmental Impact

We have a responsibility to act sustainably.

This responsibility applies both to us as an organisation, and in our role as a local authority in guiding the city's development. We aim to be a leader in both regards.

This corporate sustainability report complements our reporting on the work we carry out as a local authority. For information on that, see the seven strategic areas in the 'Our work in detail' section of this report. Sustainability is a key focus for all Council work. As an organisation, we are working to improve our reporting to stakeholders to enable a more accurate assessment of how sustainable we are as an organisation.

Sustainable development means 'meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. – UN World Commission on Environment and Development.

GLOBAL REPORTING INITIATIVE

This report was developed with guidance from the world's most widely used sustainability reporting framework.

This Council sustainability report tracks our performance against a key set of sustainability indicators developed using Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Reporting Guidelines.

GRI provides guidance for organisations to use as the basis for disclosure about their sustainability performance, and provides readers with a universally-applicable, comparable framework in which to understand disclosed information. GRI facilitates transparency and accountability by organisations – companies, public agencies, non-profits - of all sizes and sectors, across the world.

GRI is supported by a large multi-stakeholder network of thousands of experts, in dozens of countries worldwide, who participate in GRI's working groups and governance bodies, and contribute to develop the Reporting Framework. You can read more about these guidelines at www.globalreporting.org.

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS

Our key Council sustainability indicators are:

- energy use and emissions
- water use
- recycling
- paper use.

Assessment of environmental sustainability is a rapidly developing area. Our sustainability indicators set is not exhaustive. We will be progressively including more sustainability indicators in subsequent reports (see 'Looking ahead').

WHAT WE DID

We agreed to a plan to achieve our goal of being a carbon neutral organisation by 2012.

We want to make Wellington one of the most sustainable cities in the world. To achieve this, the city – including the Council and the community – must reduce greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible. In December 2007 the Council agreed to a goal of achieving carbon neutrality for its own activities by 2012.

To support this goal we developed the Climate Change Action Plan. The plan targets the areas where we will be focusing in a staged approach to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Importantly, it demonstrates that the Council wants to lead by example rather than rely on the actions of others.

CORPORATE EMISSION REDUCTION TARGETS					
	Base Year	2010	2012	2020	2050
Target	2003	Stabilise	Carbon neutral	40%	80%

The corporate component of the plan will focus on six key areas in order to reduce the Council's emissions and make the Council more sustainable. The six key areas are:

- council buildings and facilities
- council vehicle fleet
- carbon credit opportunities: renewable energy and forest sinks
- procurement
- street lighting and infrastructure
- organisational sustainability.

For more information on carbon neutrality and the Climate Change Action Plan, visit: www.Wellington.govt.nz.

We established a Climate Change Office to focus the Council's work on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The office, established in early 2008, is working on ways to reduce the organisation's emissions and those of the wider community, as our first steps towards achieving the Council's climate change goals.

A key project for the office has been the development of a robust methodology for measuring corporate emissions. As part of this work, we have implemented a data management protocol for all the energy consumed by the Council. We've also started work on a database to provide a real-time record of the Council's energy use. This will help us to isolate problem areas and highlight improvements.

We implemented a number of projects focused on reducing our energy-use, including:

- We upgraded the Wellington Town Hall non-event lighting, which is expected to reduce our energy bill by around 75,000 kWh/year
- We upgraded the Central Library boiler system piping to improve efficiency – a change estimated to reduce gas consumption by 15-20% (somewhere between 230,000 and 300,000kWh/yr)
- We installed boiler combustion control technology at one of our administration buildings, the Municipal Office Building – we expect energy savings of 5-10% (31,000-62,000kWh/yr)
- We installed timers on the tea boilers within Council buildings.

We also rolled out a focused four-week programme of additional energy saving initiatives in response to the national energy saving programme, including:

- We operated fewer elevators in our administration buildings
- We promoted walking between floors rather than taking elevators
- We turned off escalators at the Central Library at non-peak times
- We turned off the Carter Fountain at Oriental Bay and the Kelburn Fountain at Kelburn Park
- We turned off non-essential amenity lighting throughout the city (e.g. decorative lighting for trees and art works).

We continue to operate a staff car pool initiative, and to provide a bicycle pool to staff, as an option for travel around the inner city. Bicycles have become a popular option, particularly in the warmer months.

LOOKING AHEAD

In coming years:

- We will further develop our sustainability indicator set including: measurement of emissions of ozone depleting substances; measurement of other significant air emissions (e.g. NOX and SOX); measurement of waste streams; and measurement of corporate travel – including air travel
- We will further develop targets for our sustainability indicators
- We will develop sustainability reporting for services and goods provided by our contractors
- We will report and measure progress against the six key areas of focus for reducing corporate emissions in our Climate Change Action Plan.

COUNCIL SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS¹

Energy use and greenhouse gas emissions

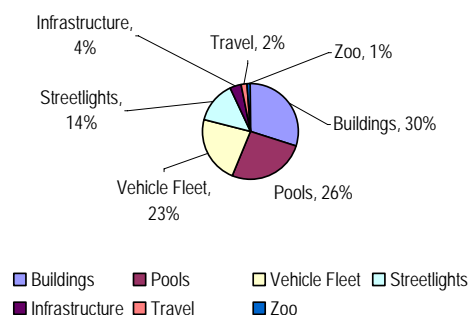
	ENERGY USE							
	ACTUAL				PER STAFF MEMBER			
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Electricity (kWh)	27,893,732	28,456,848	28,674,738	29,050,771	19,330	19,137	18,681	18,646
Gas (kWh)	18,323,461	16,046,400	16,465,449	17,819,438	12,698	10,791	10,727	11,437
Petrol (litres)	211,004	196,952	213,910	218,405	146	132	139	140
Diesel (litres)	909,733	908,901	841,163	790,301	630	611	548	507

Source: WCC Climate Change Office

	TOTAL CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS (T-CO ₂)							
	ACTUAL				PER STAFF MEMBER			
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2004/05
Electricity	4,714	6,317	6,366	6,362	4.25	4.15	4.08	3.27
Gas	3,450	3,021	3,100	3,386	2.03	2.02	2.17	2.39
Petrol	481	458	505	508	0.31	0.33	0.33	0.33
Diesel	2,418	2,420	2,204	2,094	1.63	1.44	1.34	1.68
TOTAL	11,063	12,216	12,175	12,350	8.22	7.93	7.93	7.67

Source: WCC Climate Change Office

EMISSIONS BY SECTOR (T-CO₂) - 2006



Source: WCC Climate Change Office

Despite our efforts to reduce energy use, overall electricity and gas use is still rising.

This is due to increased pressure on our services and facilities, which is influenced by Wellington's population. Though overall electricity use increased, electricity use per permanent staff member has been declining slightly over the last three years.

There was a decrease in gas usage between 2005/06 and 2006/07 due to closures of our pools for maintenance and upgrades. Our current usage is lower than that from before the pool shutdowns and we expect that efficiency improvements in the boiler systems for several of our buildings will show a greater impact in coming years.

Petrol use has increased but diesel use declined significantly.

¹ Note – Where data has been analysed 'per staff member' we have used the permanent staff count. The permanent staff count does not include contractors and casual staff. Analysis by staff member only provides an indication, as water and energy use required for Council services and facilities are principally influenced by resident demand.

Petrol use is relatively constant and reflects the needs of our day to day business. Use of diesel has dropped in the past two years as we closed the Northern Landfill and outsourced our rubbish collection to an outside contractor.

We expect that our vehicle procurement policy will reduce petrol and diesel use in the future.

Our carbon dioxide emissions have increased slightly.

The sectors which generate the most emissions in our operations are buildings and pools, followed by the operation of our vehicle fleet and street lighting. We are focusing our emissions reduction efforts on the larger sources.

Our energy figures do not account for Capacity (which runs Wellington’s water supply and wastewater disposal facilities) or other council controlled operations. We plan to report on council controlled organisations emissions from next year.

There was an apparent increase in carbon dioxide emissions between 2004/05 and 2005/06 due to improvements in our reporting processes. There is also some annual variation in calculated carbon dioxide emissions from electricity generation, as this is estimated from the mix of fossil fuel and renewable generation used nationally each year. Our emissions data was calculated using the ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability organisation’s Communities for Climate Protection – New Zealand (CCP-NZ) emissions protocol.

We are developing a revised inventory of our greenhouse gas emissions using a new ICLEI International Local Government Greenhouse Gas Protocol. This will provide us with a more robust and complete picture of our emissions, including things like landfill gas emissions, and those from our water and sewerage pumping and treatment.

We will be making a separate report on our emissions based on the new protocol early in the 2008/09 year, and incorporating the new protocol into our annual report in following years.

Water use

	WATER USE (m ³)							
	ACTUAL				PER STAFF MEMBER			
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Water-use	483,716	520,184	542,209	520,767	335.22	349.82	353.23	334.3

Source: Wellington City Council

Water use has declined.

Water use includes water and wastewater services to our buildings, and water supply for swimming pools and public toilets, irrigating our sports fields, cemeteries, parks and botanical gardens. Overall, the total amount of water use per staff member has declined since 2006/07 and is broadly inline with usage in 2004/05.

Recycling

	RECYCLING (kg)							
	ACTUAL				PER STAFF MEMBER			
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2004/05
Bottles and cans	164,100	221,535	190,709	224,364	113.72	148.98	124.24	144.01
Paper and cardboard	180,846	262,227	179,927	264,647	125.33	176.35	117.22	169.86
Cardboard cages	60,800	62,000	62,240	59,560	42.13	41.69	40.55	38.23
TOTAL	405,746	545,762	432,876	548,571	281.18	367.02	282.00	352.10

Source: Wellington City Council

Recycling has increased significantly.

We have an active recycling programme throughout all our buildings. We provide recycling bins for paper, cardboard, plastic, cans and bottles, and we encourage staff to use them. Paper recycling bins are allocated to each staff member to encourage the diversion of paper waste from rubbish bins.

The volume of recycling has increased since 2006/07, particularly in paper and cardboard recycling. Overall, the total amount of recycling per staff member has increased by 25.2% since 2004/05.

Paper use

	PAPER USE					
	ACTUAL			PER STAFF MEMBER (SHEETS)		
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2005/06	2006/07	2004/05
A4 Reams	19,682	19,485	18,659	13.64	13.10	12.16
(A4 sheets)	(9,841,000)	(9,742,500)	(9,329,500)	(6,618)	(6,347)	(5,988)

Source: Wellington City Council

Paper use has dropped significantly.

Staff members have reduced their paper usage from 13.64 reams (6,618 A4 sheets) in 2005/06 to 12.16 reams (5,988 A4 sheets) per staff member in 2007/08. This is a 10.9 percent reduction since 2005/06.

We anticipate further reductions in coming years. Note: corporate paper use also includes external publications such as council and committee papers and other information documents to residents and businesses.