

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR KERRY PRENDERGAST

This plan is about building on the city's strengths – it has been adopted following consultation with the public.

In this plan, we're taking some small but potentially significant steps towards our goal of being carbon neutral.

We're investigating some options for turning the Southern Landfill into a producer of sustainable energy. One option is the development of a wind farm within the landfill. Another is through the possible conversion of sewage sludge into electricity or LPG by installing a bioreactor.

We're also investigating how Wellingtonians use transport and make transport choices, so we can determine how to encourage more sustainable options such as walking and taking the train or bus.

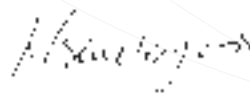
And we're taking steps to encourage more sustainable building practices such as installation of solar water heating and micro electricity generation systems, both by offsetting resource consent fees and by providing free eco-design advice to builders, architects and homeowners.

We've also committed to some other new initiatives such as making Courtenay Place safer and more vibrant, boosting online promotion of Wellington tourism, installing artificial turf on one of the city's well-used sports fields, funding the National Children's Arts Festival and an annual Pasifika Festival, and we've committed funding to make progress on bringing high-speed broadband to the city by 2012.

This year's new projects add to our ongoing work programme, which includes key infrastructure such as the city's water supply and transport and drainage networks, provision of parks and green spaces, plus funding of a wide range of events, recreational and social services, and work to guide the city's building and development. As always, by far our biggest areas of spending are on infrastructure such as the water, drainage and transport networks.

We received more than 400 submissions on our draft annual plan. Your views have informed our decision-making and helped us to alter or confirm our plans accordingly. Thank you to those of you who took the time to have your say about the future of our city.

We can all look forward to another fantastic year of progress towards making Wellington even better.



KERRY PRENDERGAST