



Report 07.72
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Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy
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Communities for Climate Protection – NZ Programme

1. Purpose

To seek approval for the Council to join the Communities for Climate Protection – NZ Programme (CCP-NZ) that is led by the International Council for Local Environment Initiatives.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

In June 2005, the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee considered a report providing an Energy Management Update for Council (Report 05.218). The report discussed the possibility of Greater Wellington joining the CCP-NZ programme. It was decided at the time that we would not join the programme, but that we would review our position in a year's time. The reasons for this stance were:

- It was felt then that Greater Wellington had a “tangible framework” to measure its own energy performance through its membership of the Energy Wise Councils programme and by measuring our energy use as part of assessing our carbon footprint – a target in our LTCCP.
- Most of Greater Wellington's energy use is from our water supply operations and the ability to make improvements in energy use in this area of operations is very limited. This is due to the numerous efficiency measures that have already been introduced into that area (for example, ISO14001 accreditation) and also due to the operations being highly weather-dependant.

- Lack of resources to implement the CCP-NZ milestone framework into Greater Wellington.
- Lack of knowledge on the effectiveness of the CCP-NZ programme in other councils.

4. Current Situation

Since that report was considered the following has happened:

- The Energy-Wise Councils' programme has been disbanded, leaving only the CCP-NZ programme to fill that gap.
- Climate change has become much more of a political issue.
- Councils that are part of the CCP-NZ programme are now working on a range of sustainability projects. These not only include energy management but also waste minimisation, sustainable procurement and sustainable transport, etc.
- An Internal Sustainability group has been formed in Greater Wellington to look at sustainability issues for the council. The CCP-NZ programme would provide this group with a framework within which to work.
- There are now 16 territorial authorities and 3 regional councils involved in the CCP programme. In our region the following councils are members of the programme: Masterton District Council; Carterton District Council; South Wairarapa District Council; Kapiti Coast District Council; and Wellington City Council. Kapiti Coast District Council has produced a CCP report that outlines all the areas they are working on, showing that the CCP programme has been effective for them in working towards sustainability in their organisation and community.
- Some financial support has recently become available.

5. The Communities for Climate Protection – New Zealand Programme

The Communities for Climate Protection – New Zealand Programme is a well-structured and well-supported approach that helps councils and their communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and their impacts. The programme is a New Zealand Government initiative delivered by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives - Australia/New Zealand (ICLEI-A/NZ). As part of ICLEI's International Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, CCP-NZ provides a way for New Zealand local authorities to join over 500 councils from around the world in climate change action, and access international learning, innovation and best practice in transport management, waste minimisation, energy use, land use planning and other areas.

CCP-NZ works with councils to cut greenhouse gas emissions by providing them with a strategic milestone framework, and helping them to identify the emissions from their council and community, set greenhouse gas reduction goals, and develop and implement an action plan to reach those goals.

The programme is based on the achievement of five milestones:

1. *Establish an inventory and forecast for key sources of greenhouse emissions in council and the community.*
2. *Set emissions reduction goals.*
3. *Develop and adopt a local greenhouse gas emissions action plan to achieve those reductions.*
4. *Implement and quantify the benefits of policies and measures in the local greenhouse action plan.*
5. *Monitor and report on progress towards the reduction goal by implementation of actions and measures.*

6. Resources provided through the CCP-NZ

- Promotion and recognition
 - Communications and media materials to help gain local support for council CCP-NZ initiatives.
 - Recognition events where councils gather to celebrate milestones achieved.
 - Assistance with planning local media events.
- Technical support and training
 - CCP on-line software and other tools for calculating emissions and setting a reduction goal.
 - Workshops to guide participants through the milestones and provide assistance with developing a local action plan.
 - Direct one-to-one telephone support to follow up workshops and progress through the programme.
 - Access to expertise and networks of councils to exchange ideas and solutions.
 - Invitations to CCP conferences in Australia and New Zealand.
- Information and Publications
 - Access to a series of participant websites, including CCP-NZ, CCP-Australia and ICLEI international.
 - Workbooks, case studies and fact sheets.
 - Presentations by ICLEI-A/NZ staff to councillors and senior managers.
 - Advice on funding opportunities and programmes.

7. Benefits of joining the CCP-NZ programme

The benefits in joining the programme would be:

- GW would receive some support for its climate change work.
- GW would be showing some leadership in climate change.
- GW would have an established framework in which to work.
- GW would be “walking the talk” in its vision of a sustainable region.
- There would be opportunities for partnerships with industry, residents and government departments at a regional, national and international level.
- GW would possibly have some cost savings, for example, in energy costs.

8. Costs

There is a once-only participation fee for joining the CCP-NZ programme of \$1,200. However, we have just been notified that Civic Assurance has offered \$4000 each for the next eight councils that join the programme to complete Milestone 1. This funding requires that Council makes a commitment to participate in the programme and to complete the 5 milestones.

9. Communication

We can communicate widely that Greater Wellington is a member of the programme.

10. Conclusion

Undoubtedly, climate change has become one of the major issues confronting us today. The government has already signalled its commitment to taking positive action. Consequently, it is appropriate that Greater Wellington does likewise, and the Communities for Climate Protection – NZ Programme provides a suitable vehicle for us to do so.

11. Recommendation

That the Committee recommends to Council that:

1. *Council joins the Communities for Climate Protection - NZ Programme and commits to completing the 5 milestones of the programme.*

Report prepared by:

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