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Committee Regional Sustainability Committee  
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## **Sustainable Energy Strategy for the Wellington Region: Update**

### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on progress in developing the Sustainable Energy Strategy for the Wellington Region.

### **2. Background**

On 7 April 2008, the Council approved the preparation of a regional renewable energy strategy.

### **3. Comment**

#### **3.1 A Sustainable Energy Strategy**

When the concept of an energy strategy was introduced to the Committee, it was entitled the '*Regional Renewable Energy Strategy*'. Renewable energy was, and still is, the focus of the strategy. However, in order to be consistent with the NZ Energy Strategy, and the NZ Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy, the name of the strategy has been amended to the '*Sustainable Energy Strategy for the Wellington Region*'. This does not change the intended focus of the strategy.

The adjustment to the strategy's title correctly reflects central government's position that fossil fuels will continue to play a part in the supply of energy, and that demand management is an equally important component of any such strategy. Demand management would be reflected in conservation measures such as behavioural changes. It would also include efficiency changes such as the use of more efficient/less polluting fuel types, insulation or different heating modes.

#### **3.2 Scope of the strategy**

Since the last committee meeting on this issue, a suite of energy strategy scenarios has been considered reflecting the possible depth and the scope of the

strategy. After consultation with EECA, it is proposed that the strategy will encompass those aspects listed in **Appendix 1**.

**Appendix 2** outlines how the issues to be addressed in the strategy could be structured as chapter headings

#### **4. Key outcomes to date**

A large amount of dialogue and interaction has occurred to date in formulating what the content of the strategy might be. Much of this has been done in partnership with key agencies. Highlights of work to date include:

- Discussions with EECA and MED will ensure that the strategy proposed for the Wellington region's energy future is consistent with the national approach.
- Central government's concurrence with our region's approach has led to EECA providing, free of charge, the equivalent of one person's time per week to assist Greater Wellington formulate its strategy. This assistance is being utilised and is proving highly beneficial.
- In addition, as a reflection of the Greater Wellington's sustainable energy initiatives, the region has been selected for in-depth modelling of the nature and scale of the marine energy resource (waves and tidal) - this information will be available in early July. The project is being conducted at no cost to Greater Wellington.
- Dialogue has commenced with the district and city councils to make them aware of the strategy and to determine what work they are doing in this area and to ascertain how the respective parties can best combine their resources and priorities.
- Ongoing discussions are also being held with Grow Wellington, the aim of which is to drive growth in exports, to help create a strong and vibrant Wellington regional economy.
- As the scope and focus of the strategy further develops, dialogue will occur with other parties such as other regional councils, other central government agencies, key energy generation groupings (e.g. NZ Wind Energy Association and the Aotearoa Wave and Tidal Energy Association), energy conservation scheme providers, and power generation and distribution companies.
- Councillor Laidlaw has sent a letter to all Mayors in the region advising them of the pending strategy and seeking their involvement.

#### **5. Communications**

Dialogue with key players will continue to determine the scope and nature of the strategy. A formal communications strategy will be developed as the strategy is further progressed.

## 6. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

1. ***Receives the report; and***
2. ***Notes the title of the strategy has been amended from the 'Regional Renewable Energy Strategy' to the 'Sustainable Energy Strategy for the Wellington Region'.***

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**Attachment 1:** Appendix 1

**Attachment 2:** Appendix 2

