

#### 4. EBEX21 PROGRAMME FOR REDUCTION IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION & BIODIVERSITY GAIN

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The purpose of this report is to outline a strategy for Christchurch in association with Landcare Research to work in partnership with businesses and corporate sponsors to implement greenhouse governance and investment in carbon credits through natural regeneration of native bush/forest.

##### EBEX21

Essentially EBEX21 is the trading of greenhouse gas emission in exchange for carbon certificates which can be generated by developing carbon sinks, especially through the development of native forest in perpetuity.

EBEX21 is led by Landcare Research and targeting nationally three major issues facing New Zealand today:

- \* Climate change fuelled by greenhouse gas emissions.
- \* Biodiversity decline
- \* Resource use efficiency and waste minimisation.

In addressing all three issues businesses and corporations can support their local communities by contributing to the biodiversity and local environment along with greater local employment, training and new technologies. The rapidly evolving change in corporate management internationally has been the recognition and response to environmental concerns.

In addition to the need to cut greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate climate change, there has also been a thrust to compensate for carbon dioxide emissions by corporations through sponsoring or funding through partnerships, the development carbon sinks.

This development has been fuelled by opportunity in new markets and spurred on by competitors. Finally it has been demand by diverse constituents including the public, shareholders, customers and employees.

Organisations are encouraged to express interest in joining as sponsors or partners. There are commitments needed to make a significant difference to energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, and to fund native tree planting or restoration projects.

<b>Sponsors</b>	<b>Partners</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Can be private sector and government agencies.</li> <li>* Are helped by EBEX21 to assess and reduce energy use and emissions.</li> <li>* Fund EBEX21 to support native plantings and restoration.</li> <li>* Aim for “emission-zero” business or products on a reasonable timescale.</li> <li>* Engage staff/clients with projects, if desired.</li> <li>* Receive audited reports of carbon and biodiversity gains.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Supply land under legal protection in perpetuity.</li> <li>* Manage planted/restored sites.</li> </ul> <p><b>Or</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Supply seedlings, fencing etc</li> <li>* Employ and train new staff.</li> <li>* Develop new methods to reduce costs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Or</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Assist with energy audits and reduction projects.</li> <li>* Assist with monitoring carbon and biodiversity gains.</li> </ul>

Local sponsors and partners are working with EBEX21 which is a non-profit enterprise by Landcare Research supporting good science and technology outcomes.

##### THE BENEFITS

The benefits for Christchurch are significant. The off-setting of greenhouse gas emission is an important contribution to our future health and well being. EXBEX21 will work with organisations to reduce their emissions setting significant goals. The double benefit is the biodiversity value of the project and the linkage of emissions reduction, which is at the cutting edge internationally.

Although the establishment of native forest tree plantings is the ultimate goal there is no reason why mixed plantings of exotic trees should not be included. The bottom line however, is that the restored native bush/forest are not intended for felling.

There will be revenue in the form of in-kind labour, supply of plants, fencing, and weed control through the EBEX21 project.

This will enable our current planting programme to go further and achieve more in a shorter time.

Most of the planting will be carried out on our larger regional type parks where average maintenance costs are \$1,000 per hectare. With help from organisations to release plants from grass and other weeds, maintenance costs will be kept to a minimum.

## **ROLE OF SPONSORS AND PARTNERS**

### **Sponsors**

As facilitated by Landcare Research the sponsors or corporate sector and business will be involved in planting native trees and restoring existing sites to help carbon sequestration and help biodiversity gain. Putting back native forest in perpetuity is the best way of locking up greenhouse gases in the long term. It also helps to:

- \* Restore bird and insect life and other organisms
- \* Provide ecosystem services such as enhancing riverbanks, reduction in water pollution and cooling/cleaning air in cities
- \* Enhance our landscape

What distinguishes EBEX21 is that:

- \* Results will be audited, scientifically verified and quotable with confidence.
- \* Organisation emissions are offset in the present
- \* Environment, social and economic issues are addressed together.
- \* Opportunities exist for organisations staff and customers to be involved.
- \* Opportunities for cost-saving through resource use efficiency and waste minimisation.
- \* Government will be asked to include EBEX21 approach in Kyoto responses.

Landcare Research will be responsible for leverage of funds from organisations contributing to the programme.

### **Partners**

As a partner the Christchurch City Council through the Parks & Waterways Unit will provide land under open space protection in perpetuity.

The unit will manage the planted and restored sites with help from the sponsors.

Two sites have been surveyed for this project as work has already started in a small way in two valleys on the Port Hills at Dry Bush and Bush Head, Bowenvale Reserve.

On these sites some planting has commenced and fences installed to stop stock grazing the new plants. These sites will slowly regenerate with new plantings and weed control measures to ensure the success of the trees and shrubs.

Other sites such as other Port Hills Parks Valleys, The Green Edge, Travis Wetland, and Heathcote Valley Waterway can be considered.

## **NAMING RIGHTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Business and corporations may wish to install signage to indicate their sponsorship and interest in the site.

Currently we have an Adopt-A-Park scheme, which can adequately encourage ownership of the particular **sites** by assisting the City Council to manage and maintain a particular park or part of a park.

The sponsors will be acknowledged on a standard Adopt-A-Park sign at the site and will be issued with a certificate indicating their adoption and the area involved in EBEX21.

Organisations will be able to use the name of the site in any advertising material, as being part of the programme.

#### **SUMMARY**

The success of the project will depend on business and organisations backing the philosophy of EBEX21 and sponsoring the programme.

We envisage small beginnings but this will allow a good relationship to develop between the sponsor and us as partners with Landcare Research facilitating the process. The benefits have been well explained and this programme is a win win for the environment, social and economic sustainability of the city.

**Recommendation:** That the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity gain programme, EBEX21 be endorsed for the city with open space land being provided for the restoration of native trees in perpetuity as part of the Parks & Waterways works programme in association with sponsors facilitated by Landcare Research.

**Deputy Chairman's Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.