

28. ADOPTION OF THE CLIMATE SMART STRATEGY 2010-2025

General Manager responsible:	General Manager, Strategy and Planning, DDI 941-8281
Author:	Climate Smart Strategy Hearings Panel

PURPOSE OF REPORT



1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council adoption of the Christchurch City Council Climate Smart Strategy 2010–2025 (**Attachment B**). (Note: this item was deferred from the 23 July Council meeting with all attachments separately circulated.)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Climate Smart Strategy is a non statutory document which establishes a vision, goals, objectives and targets for the community and sets out the Council responses to the issues and opportunities presented by Climate Change.
3. This Strategy is a response to the legal obligations placed on the Council to consider the effects of climate change in our activities and functions. The Strategy is also a response to advice received from the Ministry for the Environment about future changes to our climate, sea-level and flood risks.
4. The Strategy vision is that: “People enjoy and actively work toward a climate smart Christchurch that is powered by renewable energy and resilient to the social, cultural, economic and environmental effects of climate change”.
5. The Strategy goals are:
 - (1) Understand to the local impacts of climate change;
 - (2) Provide leadership in addressing climate change; and
 - (3) Respond to the opportunities and challenges presented by climate change in ways that promote social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing.
6. The proposed high-level Strategy targets, from a 2008 baseline, are:
 - (a) 20 per cent reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions from Christchurch by 2020; and
 - (b) 50 per cent reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions from Christchurch by 2050.
(Generally consistent with the New Zealand Government’s “20 by 20 and 50 by 50” targets).
7. The Strategy contains an indicative action plan to advance on the Strategy objectives. The actions proposed aim to build community and the Council understanding of and resilience to the effects of climate change, then as a key response, encourage a transition away from greenhouse gas emitting fossil fuels. After the Council approval of the Strategy, a detailed implementation plan will be developed with proposals passing through future LTCCP planning processes.
8. On 25 February 2010, the Council approved the Draft Strategy for public consultation and appointed Councillors Williams, Reid and Johanson to hear the submissions. A six week public consultation period commenced on 22 March 2010. During this time strategies were sent to over 500 stakeholders, 120 people attended information sessions and over 300 people attended the Hot Topic consultation launch event. The Council’s climate smart website received 1,030 visits and awareness of the Strategy and climate change issues in general were raised through community support of the global Earth Hour event. The Council received 54 written submissions and 31 submitters wished to be heard. The Hearings Panel heard submissions on 24 and 26 May and deliberated on 1 and 29 June 2010.
9. Overall, submitters were generally supportive of the Strategy intent and direction. The Council leadership, monitoring and investigation of changes, community education, improving the performance of buildings, reducing transport emissions and enhancing local food production were aspects widely supported.

12. 8. 2010

28. Cont'd

10. The most widely suggested improvements to the Strategy were: for much stronger targets to be set for the actions promoted in the Strategy and for it to cover a greater range of greenhouse gas emissions; connections were wanted to other national, regional and local strategies, policies and plans dealing with climate change issues; the inclusion of a wider range of stakeholders to help implement the strategy; more detail was wanted to provide better understanding of the proposed actions; and a greater level of precaution and flexibility to respond to future risks for Christchurch.
11. In response to submissions and Hearings Panel deliberations a number of changes have been made to the Draft Strategy (**Attachment A**) separately circulated. Substantive changes include:
- Stronger targets have been set that include total greenhouse gas emissions targets for Christchurch and for each of the major sources of emissions. Where possible these targets are consistent with existing local and national policy.
 - Greater recognition has been made of the wide range of stakeholders involved in climate change understanding and responses.
 - Greater connections have been made to other local, regional and national strategies, policies and plans that relate to climate change.
 - Better connections have been made within the Strategy for example, with the introduction of Figure 5 now showing the relationships between the various parts of the Strategy and with the implementation process.
 - The Strategy now reflects a greater level of precaution and risk management through changes made to the background and action plan sections. Changes include more explanation about the potential consequences of continuing on a high greenhouse gas emission trajectory, greater explanation of the effects of climate change on Christchurch and by identifying which actions are adaptation or mitigation responses.
 - More explanation has been provided for each action so readers can better understand what is being proposed and for each action the priorities, budgets and timing have been reconsidered.
12. Taking into consideration all of the submissions received, the Hearings Panel now recommends the attached Strategy for adoption by the Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

13. This Strategy is part of the Healthy Environment work programme and its development is covered by the Strategy and Planning Group budget. The cost and timing for implementation of the Strategy will be addressed through future LTCCP planning processes. An indicative cost of \$3.5 million will be spread over the 15 years of the Strategy. It is possible that some of these costs can be met by the sale of carbon credits earned by the Council beyond 2012. However, this would depend on future international agreements on carbon trading, securing a buyer and on other Council demands for this potential revenue.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

14. Development of the Strategy is covered by existing budgets, implementation will need to be approved through future LTCCP processes.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

15. This Strategy will assist the Council in meeting its legal obligations to address the effects of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions. These obligations are contained within the:
- (a) Local Government Act 2002 - current and future social, cultural, economic and environmental well being;
 - (b) Resource Management Act 1991, Section 7 - Council shall have particular regard to the effects of climate change and renewable energy;
 - (c) Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 - manage risks to people and property and enhance community preparedness and resilience; and
 - (d) Climate Change Response Act 2002 - measure and report greenhouse gas emissions from Council operations.

12. 8. 2010

28. Cont'd

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

16. As above.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

17. The development of this Strategy is part of "City and Community Long-term Policy and Planning" within the 2009-2019 LTCCP (pages 188-190).

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

18. The implementation of this Strategy will have an effect on many Council activities and functions, such as community education, city planning, the management of coastal areas, surface water, water supply, transport, energy, biodiversity, and civil defence and emergency management.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

19. Key Council strategies and how they relate to the Climate Smart Strategy:
- **Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy** – the location and management of development, transport infrastructure and travel demand;
 - **Strengthening Communities Strategy 2007** – community cohesion and supports systems;
 - **Sustainable Energy Strategy 2008** – energy conservation and promotion of renewable energy;
 - **Water Supply Strategy 2009** – water conservation, security of supply, management of droughts and salt-water intrusion;
 - **Surface Water Strategy 2009** – management of floods, protection structures and water quality;
 - **Biodiversity Strategy 2008** – management of at risk species, pests, fire risk and the promotion of carbon sequestration;
 - **Public Open Space Strategy 2010** – accessibility, productive use of parks and gardens;
 - **Waste Management Plan 2006** – waste reduction and landfill gas management; and
 - **Christchurch Transport Plan** (in development) – promotion of walking, cycling and public transport.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

20. Yes, see above.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

21. Public and staff engagement took place throughout the strategy development process and a six week formal consultation process commenced on 22 March 2010 (see Table 1 in the Background Section). The Council established a Sustainability and Climate Change Working Party comprising of representatives from the City Council, Environment Canterbury, Canterbury Employers Chamber of Commerce, Canterbury University and Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch who met each month to develop the draft strategy. Consultation included four public information sessions in key locations, presentations and discussions with key stakeholders and interest groups including the Mahaanui Kurataiao Limited Board, Canterbury University, Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology, Canterbury Public Health and at a joint Transition Towns meeting. A Hot Topic public forum was held on 24 March 2010 to launch the consultation period.

12. 8. 2010

28. Cont'd

HEARINGS PANEL RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Approve for adoption the Christchurch City Council Climate Smart Strategy 2010-2025 as in Attachment B.
- (b) That \$130,000 of the unexpended portion carried over from the sale of carbon credits in previous years be allocated to the funding of actions identified in the Strategy to enable implementation to commence in 2011-12.
- (c) Thank the members of the Sustainability and Climate Change Working Party.

STAFF COMMENT

Following public consultation on the Sustainable Energy Strategy for Christchurch 2008-18, which included both a detailed action plan and its implementation budget, the Council resolved on 27 September 2007: "To confirm the use of the Burwood Landfill gas project Carbon Credits (estimated value of \$3.53 million) as the funding source for the 2008-13 Sustainable Energy Strategy Implementation Plan." Subsequently, the Energy Strategy implementation budget was consulted on again as part of the LTCCP. The carbon credit revenue is fully allocated to funding the Implementation Plan over five years.

BACKGROUND

22. In 2007 the Council established a Sustainability and Climate Change Working Party to assist in the development of the Council's Sustainability Policy and Climate Smart Strategy. Members of the Working Party were:

Chrissie Williams, Claudia Reid and Sally Buck - Christchurch City Councillors
 Jane Demeter - Environment Canterbury Councillor
 Rob Lawrence – Canterbury Employers Chamber of Commerce
 Kate Hewson – Canterbury University
 John Peet – Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch

23. On 25 February 2010 the Council approved for consultation the Draft Climate Smart Strategy 2010-25 and appointed Councillors Williams, Reid and Johanson to hear the submissions. The revised Climate Smart Strategy (**Attachment B**) seeks to respond to the feedback received over the six week consultation period that began on the 22 March 2010 and responds to the feedback received at the information sessions and from verbal submissions made at the hearings held on 24 and 26 May 2010 (Table 1).

12. 8. 2010

28. Cont'd

Table 1. Public engagement and consultation undertaken on the Climate Smart Strategy

Phase	Who	When
Strategy Development	Public focus groups and telephone survey	July 2008
	Sustainability and Climate Change Working Party	Monthly Meetings
	Key stakeholder discussions	Various
	Council Seminar	24 November 2009
	Joint Community Board Seminar	21 September 2009
	CCC seminars - Executive Team	2 November 2009
	CCC seminar – Leadership Group	16 November 2009
	CCC seminar – General staff	9 December 2009
Strategy Approval	Council report seeking approval of the draft	25 February 2010
Consultation Open	Joint Community Board Seminar	22 March 2010
Awareness Raising	Hot Topic Public Forum Launch Event	24 March 2010
	Earth Hour	27 March 2010
	Avon-Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust AGM	2 September 2009
	Engineers and consultants – joint MWH event	15 December 2009
Public information and feedback sessions	Canterbury University - key staff only	2 March 2010
	Christchurch Public Health – key staff	9 March 2010
	Canterbury Workers Educational Association	17 March 2010
	Mahaanui Kurataiao Limited Board Meeting	22 March 2010
	Public Information Session – Central City	30 March 2010
	Public Information Session – Akaroa	31 March 2010
	Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology	31 March 2010
	Joint Christchurch Transition Towns Meeting	13 April 2010
	Environment Canterbury Seminar	16 April 2010
	Public Information Session – Lyttelton	19 April 2010
	Public Information Session – Woolston	20 April 2010
	Canterbury University – wider staff group	26 April 2010
Submissions Closed	54 submissions were received	30 April 2010
Public Hearings	31 submitters appeared before the Panel	24 & 26 May 2010
Deliberations	Hearings Panel	1 and 29 June 2010

24. A summary of aspects widely supported by submitters and aspects where submitters suggested improvements are provided in Tables 2 and 3. Examples of the actual statements made by submitters are also provided. Survey information was collected from the written submissions and the results are given along side the relevant theme.
25. Overall the Strategy was strongly supported with 82 per cent of the submitters agreeing with the strategy vision and the Council's proposed approach to leadership and to enhancing understanding. Thirty eight percent of submitters disagreed with the proposed targets, wanting much stronger targets that tie into Strategy actions while also taking account of a greater range of greenhouse gas emissions.

12. 8. 2010

28. Cont'd

Table 2. Overview of Aspects Supported by Submitters

Theme	Examples
1 Climate change was seen as an important issue for Christchurch that requires urgent community and Council responses.	<i>It is pleasing to see that the Council is being proactive in its response to climate change. We strongly urge the Council to continue improving policies in relation to climate change issues in a manner that demonstrates partnerships and synergies both within and beyond the Council.</i> Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch
2 The general intent and direction of the strategy (e.g. vision, goals and objectives) were strongly supported.	82% of submitters agreed or strongly agreed with the strategy vision. <i>The Board is enthusiastic about the draft document and believes it will be an excellent resource in helping to address climate change and its effects. The Board believes that almost all of the important climate change issues in the Lyttelton-Mt. Herbert area are encompassed in the overall objectives of this Strategy. The Board strongly agrees with the approach outlined in the Strategy and congratulates the Council on producing such a forward thinking document.</i> Lyttelton-Mt. Herbert Community Board
3 Council leadership was seen as vital to build community support and to encourage positive actions.	82% agreed or strongly agreed with the Council's proposed leadership approach. <i>Leading by example sends a very strong message to the Community.</i> Avon Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust
4 Monitoring environmental, social and economic changes related to climate change, was seen as critical for informed policy making and helping to drive public understanding and responses.	83% agreed or strongly agreed with the Strategy's proposed approach for understanding climate change. <i>It is important that the Council and community is fully informed about the possible impacts of climate change with respect to the societal and environmental consequences so it can mitigate and adapt to the anticipated changes in a timely manner.</i> Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch
5 Community education on climate change was seen as a crucial role for Council with household education and Enviro-schools strongly supported.	<i>One of the best aspects about the strategy is encouraging resilient households and communities through a sustainable school programme. Schools and their communities are a great place to start. They are often the heart of a community.</i> Enviro-schools Canterbury
6 Improving the quality of buildings (e.g. energy efficiency and solar panels) by education, incentives and regulation was strongly supported.	<i>City's building code needs to contemplate transition requirements for solar heating and energy provision in new buildings to eventually become mandatory.</i> Burwood Pegasus Community Board
7 Encouraging local food production was seen as key for developing community resilience.	<i>The biggest sustainable changes are likely to come from the changes individuals make within their homes and neighbourhoods, therefore the protection of local productive land and support for community initiatives such as community gardens should be afforded high priority status.</i> Mt Pleasant Memorial Community Centre & Residents Association

12. 8. 2010

28. Cont'd

Table 3 Overview of Improvements Suggested by Submitters

Theme		Examples
1	Targets do not go far enough to address the level of change necessary to avoid significant harm and should cover the range of greenhouse gas emissions and reflect the actions contained within the strategy.	38% disagree or strongly disagree with the targets proposed. <i>The targets are grossly inadequate.</i> Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology
2	Greater recognition is needed of the role that other stakeholders (eg community organisations, NGOs, Ngai Tahu, industry and the rural sector) can play in helping deliver the outcomes of the strategy.	<i>The Council could also involve local community organisations, social services sector, environmental consultants, social scientists and engineers... many of these groups are already working at a community level on climate change issues and building community resilience.</i> Aoraki Province of the Green Party of Aotearoa NZ
3	The Strategy should adopt a more precautionary approach in consideration of future changes, it should plan for the worst case scenario.	<i>The speed of change and the severity of risks have not been fully appreciated... planning for the worst case scenario is required.</i> Rik Tindall
4	Greater connections need to be made with rural areas, Banks Peninsula and the wider Canterbury region.	<i>The Council seems to ignore agriculture and the links between the city and our broader environment. We live in a system which is directly linked to what goes on in the countryside.</i> James Le Couteur
5	The Strategy was seen as too vague needing more detailed and specific actions to give people a better idea of what the Council proposes to do.	<i>You tell me how you are going to build a resilient city, and I will comment.</i> Bob Noonan
6	A greater focus is needed on walking, cycling and public transport and the land-use planning that would facilitate these solutions.	<i>Council must increase the priority given to cycling and walking because this:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ addresses the main source of greenhouse gas emissions ▪ is rapidly getting worse ▪ will become more difficult over time ▪ can be readily implemented ▪ result in multiple benefits and strengthens communities. Spokes Canterbury Cycling Association
7	More context is required showing connections within the strategy and with other policies and future projections.	<i>The actions appear to be general and connections between the actions and how they relate to the objectives and overall strategy targets is not clear. The absence of these connections makes it difficult to determine how the draft will be implemented.</i> Environment Canterbury
8	Greater mention of risk management, civil defence and emergency responses to the risks posed by climate change is needed.	<i>The Strategy needs to recognise natural hazard management including response and adaptation more explicitly.</i> Environment Canterbury
9	Provisions should be made to influence Council controlled organisations and include their performance and impacts within Council reporting.	<i>It is embarrassing that the Council has not counted Council Controlled Organisations. If the Council finds a way to manipulate the numbers this leads the way for others to do the same.</i> James Le Couteur
10	Adopt a strong sustainability approach to considering future challenges – address fundamental problems not symptoms.	<i>This strategy is looking at how to make what we do in this area more efficient/effective, tinkering with the symptoms but not addressing the underlying causes.</i> Margaret Jefferies