

11. DRAFT CLIMATE SMART STRATEGY 2010 - 2025



General Manager responsible:	General Manager, Strategy and Planning, DDI 941 8281
Officer responsible:	Healthy Environment Programme Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval, for public consultation during March and April, of the draft Climate Smart Strategy 2010 - 2025 and to ask that the Council appoint a Hearings Panel to consider submissions during May 2010.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. In 2007 the Council established the Sustainability and Climate Change Working Party, consisting of Councillors and external advisors, to assist in the preparation of a draft Council strategy on climate change. Officers now seek Council approval of the draft Climate Smart Strategy 2010 – 2025 (**Attachment 1**) to allow public consultation to take place between 22 March – 30 April 2010. Officers also request a Council Hearings Panel be established to consider submissions during May 2010.
3. The draft Climate Smart Strategy 2010 - 2025 was developed to set the direction for community and Council responses to the issues and opportunities presented by climate change. The Strategy follows Government advice about future changes to our climate and sea-level and will help meet legal obligations placed on the Council to consider the effects of climate change.
4. The Strategy vision is that: “People enjoy and actively enhance for current and future generations a climate smart Christchurch, powered by renewable energy and resilient to the social, economic and environmental effects of climate change.”
5. The Strategy goals and objectives are:
 - Goal 1. Understand the local impacts of climate change.
 - Objective: 1 Understand the social, environmental and economic impacts of climate change on Christchurch.
 - 2 Monitor and report changes and progress.
 - Goal 2. Provide leadership in addressing climate change.
 - Objective: 3 Grow Council capacity to respond to climate change.
 - 4 Foster partnerships that respond to climate change.
 - Goal 3: Understand and respond to the opportunities and challenges presented by climate change in ways that promote social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing and resilience.
 - Objective: 5 Encourage resilient households and communities.
 - 6 Support a resilient, low-carbon and competitive economy.
 - 7 Encourage green and healthy places and spaces.
 - 8 Enable low-carbon transport.
 - 9 Enhance local productive landscapes and the resilience of habitats and ecosystems.
 - 10 Promote renewable energy and carbon sequestration.
6. Given that this is the first time climate change has been addressed by a Council strategy, many of the actions proposed focus on understanding the local effects of climate change (eg Goal), building community understanding and resilience to these effects and moving away from a reliance on carbon emitting fossil fuels (e.g. Goal 3). An important part of achieving this will be Council leadership in addressing climate change and adopting renewable energy solutions (eg Goal 2). The Council’s achievement of a 57 per cent reduction in energy related carbon emissions since 1994 and development of the new environmentally friendly Civic Office are examples of such leadership.

7. A final draft of the Strategy, including changes made based on the feedback received from the public consultation process, will be brought before the Council in July 2010.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. The timing and cost of actions proposed in the draft strategy are indicative only and will need to be considered alongside other initiatives in future Council LTCCP processes. An estimated \$3.4 million in Council funding is proposed over 15 years to implement the actions within the strategy. Implementation cost, beyond those currently budgeted, will need to be addressed as part of the 2012 and future LTCCPs.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

9. The Council is legally required to consider the effects of climate change in its activities and functions under the Local Government Act 2002, Resource Management Act 1991, Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 and Climate Change Response Act 2002 (and subsequent versions) as explained on Page 7 of the draft strategy. The strategy has been developed to meet these legal obligations.
10. Legal advice was received on the handling of new information that could arise from investigations proposed in this strategy relating to future potential risks to property from the effects of climate change. This advice concluded that any new information must clearly state the underlying assumptions and limitations in accordance with current risk management approaches.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

11. The development of this strategy is an output of the Activity Management Plan for "City and Community Long-term Policy and Planning" to provide advice on key issues that affect the current and future social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing of the city.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

12. This draft strategy has been prepared to align with and support other Council strategies in addressing climate change, in particular:
 - Urban Development Strategy (adopted) - climate change will need to be considered in the location of new development, the management and use of existing development and through integrated land use and transport planning.
 - Sustainable Energy Strategy (adopted) – increasing the use of renewable energy is central to our climate change response.
 - Christchurch Transport Plan (in development) – road transport makes up 55 per cent of the city's greenhouse gas emissions. Moving to low-carbon transport options such as walking, cycling and public transport will be vital to meeting the targets of the Climate Smart Strategy
 - Healthy Environment Strategies – covering water supply (adopted), surface water (adopted), biodiversity (adopted) and open space (draft adopted). Climate change will need to be considered in the management of these natural resources.
13. A review process is proposed within the Climate Smart Strategy to assess how Council documents and actions can best incorporate climate change considerations. This could involve changes to the City and District Plans and with the support of Environment Canterbury, potential changes to hazard zones and risk management.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

14. The process used in the development of this strategy included:
 - Monthly Sustainability and Climate Change Working Party meetings.
 - A review of literature, policy and international best practice responses to climate change.
 - An update of the Council report *Climate Change Impacts for Christchurch 2007* (report available on request).

- A random telephone survey undertaken in 2007 of 400 residents investigating public understanding about local climate change issues and the Council's role (report available on request).
- Eight focus groups held in 2007 including householder, business and youth sessions (report available on request).
- Expert presentations to the working party or to key Council staff given by NIWA, MAF, ECan, MWH, University of Victoria and Landcare Research's Carbon Zero and EBEX21.
- Numerous interviews and meetings with internal and external stakeholders (many external stakeholders are listed in the strategy as potential partners to help implement specific actions).
- Targeted feedback on the draft strategy was gathered from key internal and external stakeholders as well as more wide-spread feedback sought from Council staff via a request placed on the Council's Daily Planit internal website in December 2009.
- Staff presentations to Executive Team (2 November 2009), Leadership Group (16 November 2009), and general staff (9 December 2009).
- Seminars with joint Community Board (21 September 2009) and the Council (24 November 2009).

15. Subject to Council approval of the draft strategy, community consultation on the draft Climate Smart Strategy is planned from 22 March to 30 April 2010 with hearings to be held in May 2010.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Approve for public consultation the attached Draft Climate Smart Strategy 2010-2025.
- (b) Appoint members to hear submissions on the Draft Climate Smart Strategy 2010-2025.

BACKGROUND

16. In 2007 the Council established the Sustainability and Climate Change Working Party to assist in the preparation of a draft Council strategy on climate change. Members of the Working Party are Christchurch City Councillors Williams, Buck and Reid along with Jane Demeter (ECan Councillor), Rob Lawrence (Employers Chamber of Commerce), John Peet (Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch) and Kate Hewson (Canterbury University).
17. This strategy has been prepared to:
- Respond to New Zealand Government advice received about future changes to our climate and sea level.
 - Meet legal obligations placed on the Council to consider the effects of climate change on the current and future social, economic and environmental well being of Christchurch.
 - Clarify the Council's role in responding to climate change through establishing a vision, goals, objectives and targets.
 - Replace the Climate Change Policy adopted by the Council in 1995.
 - Develop a high level action plan that will form the basis of a future detailed implementation plan to achieve the strategy outcomes.
18. This is the first time the Council has developed a strategy addressing climate change. For this reason many of the 29 actions proposed over a 15 year period, are about understanding and then building capacity and resilience to the local effects of climate change. Hence the term "climate smart" reflects the need to understand and then to be smart in our response to the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change. A key response contained within the strategy is to help transition our community toward a low-carbon future that is less reliant on non-renewable fossil fuels such as oil and coal.
19. Consultation on the draft strategy is planned for 22 March–30 April 2010. Because the Strategy has been written for public readability (ie succinct and engaging), a summary document will not be produced. Instead, copies of the full Strategy including a submission form will be circulated to stakeholders and made available to the public.
20. The consultation and public awareness raising proposed for this Strategy includes:

Audience	Consultation Opportunities
General Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Newspaper advertising across Christchurch and Banks Peninsula, including paid and complementary articles and perspectives in the Press and community papers. ▪ Consultation launch event – "Hot Topic" public forum on the local effects and potential responses to climate change (24 March). ▪ Displays and Strategies available at Council service centres/ libraries and at Universities and Polytechnic. ▪ Climate Smart Council website providing further information and supported by the Have Your Say website and on-line submission form. ▪ Awareness-raising of the consultation through complementary activities and media coverage associated with Earth Hour (27 March) and Energy Awareness Week (in late April) and the start and end of the consultation period. ▪ Two public presentation and discussion sessions.
Organisations identified within the strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Letter from the Mayor with draft strategy enclosed seeking feedback and inviting further discussion on implementation of the specific actions proposed. ▪ Draft sent to Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd and presentation and discussion with the board.
Other Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Letter from the Mayor with draft strategy enclosed seeking feedback and an invitation to attend public presentations and take part in the related events.
Elected members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation to joint Community Board meeting and at Community Board meetings in key areas.
Council Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft document promoted through e-mail, website and online submission forms.