

Submission form

PLEASE READ BEFORE COMPLETING YOUR SUBMISSION

The public consultation period is from Tuesday 10 March 2009 to Thursday 16 April 2009.

It will help us if you clearly:

- state the issue you want the Council to consider;
- state what specific action you think the Council should take, and
- state why that should be done.
- type or use black ink for your submission.

Please note: We are legally required to make all written or electronic submissions available to the public and to Councillors, including the name and address of the submitter. In making submissions available to the public, the submissions will be posted electronically on the Council's website. Information will be available to the public subject to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. If you consider there to be compelling reasons why your contact details and/or submission should be kept confidential, you should contact the Council Support Team, telephone 941 8999.

You may send us your submission:

On the internet:

You may enter your submission using the form provided on the Council's website at www.ccc.govt.nz

By email:

ccc-plan@ccc.govt.nz
Please make sure that your full name and address is included with your submission.

By mail:

(no stamp is required) to:
Freepost 178
Draft LTCCP
Christchurch City Council
PO Box 237
Christchurch 8140

No anonymous submissions will be accepted. Whether you use this form or not, you must provide your full name, address and telephone number. If you are submitting on behalf of an organisation please state this and your role within that organisation.

Submissions must be received (NOT postmarked) at the Tuam Street Civic Offices no later than 5pm on Thursday 16 April 2009. To ensure receipt, hand deliver last-minute submissions to the Civic Offices, 163-173 Tuam Street.

Your submission

If you wish, you can present your submission at a hearing. If that is the case, please tick the appropriate box below. The hearings will be held from 11 May 2009 to 18 May 2009. Five to ten minutes will be allocated for speaking to your submission, including time for questions from the Councillors. The Council will confirm the date and time of your hearing in writing, by email or by telephone call.

I do NOT wish to discuss my submission at the hearing, and ask that this written submission be considered

OR

I wish to discuss the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held between Monday 11 May 2009 and Monday 18 May 2009.

Are you completing this submission: For yourself On behalf of a group or organisation

If you are representing a group or organisation, how many people do you represent? 7 organisations
Ecan, CCC, DOC, Waimakariri, KaiKoura and Timaru District Councils and the Enviroschools Foundation.

Contact Name Sian Carvell (chair) or Phillipa Gardner

Organisation name (if applicable) Enviroschools Canterbury Governance Group.

Organisation role (if applicable) Management of the Enviroschools programme in Canterbury.

Contact Address Sian Carvell - Environment Canterbury, PO Box 345, Chch.
OR Phillipa Gardner - Dept. of Conservation, Private Bag 4715, Chch.

Phone No. (day) Sian Carvell - 03 353 9736 Sian Carvell - 03 376 5484
Phillippa Gardner - 03 371 3741 Phone No. (evening) Phillippa Gardner - 03 304 7448

Email (if applicable) Sian.carvell@ecan.govt.nz OR pgardner@doc.govt.nz

Signature *Sian Carvell* Date 14 April 2009

Submission form

Please be as specific as possible to help us understand your views.

What do you want the Council to consider? What specific action do you think the Council should take?
Why should this be done?

* See attached pages for details.

Submission from the EnviroSchools
Canterbury Governance Group.

What do you want the Council to consider?

The **Enviroschools programme** – incorporating water, waste, energy, transport, biodiversity activities and community outcomes.

We seek the following decisions from Christchurch City Council

1. Enviroschools is clearly stated as a method and measurement of achieving an informed, active sustainable community and described as such in Christchurch City's Long Term Council Community Plan 2009– 2019 (LTCCP).

Justification and placement

Enviroschools is a sustainability education programme for schools and their communities, and integrates across council functions including, but not exclusive to, waste, water conservation, transport, energy and biodiversity. Because of the 'umbrella' nature of the programme it would be best included in the **Strategic Issues** section of the LTCCP 2009-2019, in **Energy, page 23, Protecting our natural and cultural heritage, page 25, or Educational achievement and socio-economic disadvantage, page 21.**

2. Support for the Enviroschools programme is increased in the LTCCP 2009-2019 as a means of implementing the programme across the city including Banks Peninsula.

Justification

The Enviroschools programme is a growing and well established sustainability education programme in Christchurch, Canterbury and nationally. The Local Government Act, 2002 establishes the legal imperative for the council to adopt a "sustainability approach". The council has done this through the development of the **Sustainability Policy, 2008** and integrating sustainability thinking through council functions. The Enviroschools programme is well aligned with the council's Sustainability Policy, being underpinned by the 'four well-beings' (social, cultural, economic and environment) and is well placed as a tool to implement sustainability in Christchurch.

What specific action you think the Council should take?

Continued and increased financial and staff support for the **Enviroschools programme**.

Why should this be done?

The Enviroschools programme is a national programme and has been established for approximately 13 years. The programme has been implemented in Canterbury for nearly six years. Christchurch City Council is a founding partner and significant and valued contributor to the Canterbury partnership that jointly runs the programme in the region. Other regional partners include Environment Canterbury, Department of Conservation, The Enviroschools Foundation and Waimakariri, Timaru and Kaikoura District Councils.

The Enviroschools programme takes a whole school and community approach to Education for Sustainability. Students, teachers and the school community develop skills, understanding, knowledge and confidence through planning, designing and creating a sustainable school around the themes of **Biodiversity and Landscapes, Energy** (including transport/travel to school), **Waste, Water and Ecological Buildings**. These inter-related individual components of sustainability create the whole, ensuring connectivity in understanding and thinking. This enhances the potential for engagement, participation and effective decision-making. The programme's elements reflect many of the sustainability goals identified within the Christchurch City Council LTCCP 2009-2019. The programme aims to work towards a healthy, peaceful and sustainable environment which has a range of benefits for schools, communities and meeting council outcomes.

Some benefits associated with the programme are listed below.

Environmental benefits

Significant **reductions in waste to landfill, energy and water use** are being achieved by Enviroschools.

- **Community outcome** — *A city of people who value and protect the natural environment; measurement: **waste levels and energy use***
- **City planning and energy conservation**, Vol. 1, pages 14 and 196 — **Provide programmes that reduce energy demand** and increase the uptake of renewable energy to meet the needs of future and present generations; energy conservation contributes to the following community outcomes: *a city of people who value and protect the natural environment; a prosperous city; a healthy city*, Vol. 2, page 56. **Benefits: Households, business, schools, and the community** as a whole benefit indirectly from this activity.
- **Streets and transport — Active travel** Vol.1 page 84 — *encourage the public to change travel behaviour, including education re sustainability and public health.*

Action projects undertaken by schools are resulting in **enhanced biodiversity and protected healthy waterways**.

- **Parks, open spaces and waterways**, Vol.1, page 130 — *Provide and manage regional parks to: work with iwi, landowners and others to protect and enhance biodiversity. Encourage involvement in restoring the natural environment. Council service to achieve this — educate the community to reduce water use, and to use water more efficiently.*

Most Enviroschools undertake projects to **improve their school's physical surroundings**, e.g. gardens, murals and sculptures. Schools have found as a result that students, teachers and the school communities have a greater sense of place and an appreciation of their school and local areas.

- **Community outcomes** — *A healthy city; a city of people who value and protect the natural environment. 'Our lifestyles reflect our commitment to guardianship of the natural environment in and around Christchurch. We actively work to protect, enhance and restore our environment for future generations'.*

Enviroschools have found that **environmentally sustainable practices "go home"** with students and change parents' behaviour.

Social and community benefits

The Enviroschools approach builds **improved relationships between staff, students, organisations and businesses**.

The programme provides a focal point for **greater community involvement** with their local schools. Schools report **positive learning environments** as a result less bullying and anti-social behaviour.

- **Community outcome** — *A safe city; A healthy city; A city of lifelong learning*

Educational benefits

An **integrated programme means the curriculum is richer and more interesting** for students. The action-oriented approach and real life projects engage and motivate a diverse range of students and

community members. Projects and learning are **supported regionally by council education programmes**.

Students learn essential life skills. The projects undertaken by Enviroschools provide students with the opportunities to engage in real problem-solving, decision-making, participate, how to take action and make change happen. These skills are vital for public engagement in democratic processes.

- *Public participation in democratic processes, Vol. 1, page 160 – Christchurch residents are encouraged to participate in the democratic processes and decision-making of council...*

Economic benefits

Financial savings for school from better understanding and more efficient practices such as reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill.

- *Waste minimisation and disposal, Vol. 1 page 102 – Environment: By encouraging waste minimisation – reduce the amount of waste going to landfill; education is listed as a method to achieve this.*

Joint management approach to the Enviroschools programme ensures cost efficiency for funding partners.

- *Democracy and governance, Vol. 1, page 159 – Governance: by forming partnerships with other city/regional agencies.*

Students are setting up **entrepreneurial enterprises** to sell environmental products such as seedlings they have grown or liquid fertilizer from the school worm bins.

Enviroschools provides the opportunity for **links between schools, businesses and government agencies**, e.g. working together on joint projects.

Summary

The Enviroschools programme is an example of a highly successful method which addresses the learning and engagement required within the formal education sector and its communities, to achieve the **council vision** "Our future Christchurch..., where people enjoy a sustainable lifestyle, a healthy environment, a strong economic base..."

The programme also actively supports a number of the **Community Outcomes**, in particular "A city of inclusive and diverse communities; A city of people who value and protect the natural environment; A healthy city; A city of lifelong learning.