
REPORT 1
(1215/44/IM)

JOINING THE CITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION - NEW ZEALAND PROGRAMME

1. Purpose of Report

To recommend that Council joins the recently established Cities for Climate Protection - New Zealand programme.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Note the report on Central Government's climate change policy package, attached as Appendix 1, that was presented to this Committee in 2003 and that this Committee has agreed in principle to join the Cities for Climate Protection - New Zealand Programme.*
- 3. Note the background document to the Cities for Climate Protection-New Zealand Programme attached as Appendix 2.*
- 4. Recommend that Council resolves to join the Cities for Climate Protection - New Zealand Programme.*

3. Background

In February 2003, a report (attached as Appendix 1) was presented to this Committee briefing Councillors on the implications of climate change in New Zealand, discussing New Zealand's involvement in the Kyoto Protocol and outlining Central Government's climate change policy package. The report also discussed the pending development of the Cities for Climate Protection - New Zealand (CCP-NZ) programme. This Committee agreed in principle to join the Programme, pending further information on the implications for Council.

Today's briefing by ICLEI officers and the information contained in this paper provides additional information sought by the Committee.

4. Discussion

4.1 *Overview of Cities for Climate Protection - New Zealand Programme*

The International Council for Local Environment Initiatives (ICLEI) developed the innovative Cities for Climate Protection campaign in 1993 to motivate and empower local governments worldwide to take action on climate change. Cities for Climate Protection is a performance-oriented campaign that offers a framework for local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve liveability within their municipalities.

ICLEI is delivering the CCP-NZ Campaign in partnership with the New Zealand Climate Change Office and other Government agencies. The campaign will build on the existing work that New Zealand local governments have already achieved in delivering local greenhouse action, especially in the areas of energy efficiency and transport.

The Council has been formerly presented with the opportunity to join the CCP-NZ Programme. The Programme will offer assistance to Council in calculating, managing and reducing community greenhouse gas emissions. The programme will also allow Council to act as a conduit for climate change information and assist in the integration and implementation of key climate change foundation policies.

ICLEI has prepared a report, attached as Appendix 2, which provides background information to the CCP-NZ programme. The document outlines what is required from Council if it chooses to join the programme in terms of costs, staff time and workload, and programme operations. It also discusses the benefits of participating in CCP-NZ and describes the resources that will be made available to Council to assist with the programme.

4.2 *Implications for Council*

In order to join the CCP-NZ Programme, Council must pass a resolution stating it will participate in the Programme. A resolution affirms that Council aims to undertake and achieve the five milestone framework goals identified in the Programme within three years of becoming participants in CCP-NZ. The milestones are:

1. Establish an inventory and forecast for key sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the council and community
2. Set an emissions reduction goal
3. Develop and adopt a local greenhouse action plan to achieve those reductions.
4. Implement the local greenhouse action plan
5. Monitor and report on greenhouse gas emissions and implementation of actions and measures

If Council participates in the Programme it will be requested to nominate an officer to oversee their participation in the CCP-NZ Programme and assist Council to work through the milestone framework seen above. Councils typically use existing staff and incorporate the CCP requirements as part of their ongoing environmental-related strategies.

The first milestone is anticipated to be completed within 3-6 months of joining and requires a minimum staff time of 0.5/day/week. Time commitments can increase depending on the actions implemented and the stage of progress through the implementation milestones.

The Programme provides an Intern Programme, which matches students from local universities with participating councils to support them to progress through the Milestone Framework. ICLEI officers have assured Council officers that a university intern would be available to assist with some of the workload from the Programme.

There is a one-off \$1500 fee to join the Programme. This fee, along with staff time, constitutes the Programme costs. More detail is provided in the document attached as Appendix 2.

4.3 Links to other Council strategies

The overarching goals of the CCP-NZ Programme are aligned with two key Council strategies: the Sustainable Development Strategy and the Transport Strategy. Joining the CCP-NZ would tie directly into the focus, principles and outcomes of the Sustainable Development Strategy, specifically the focuses of the Strategy:

- **Future focus:** to ensure we adopt a pattern of development that will not damage the reasonably foreseeable interests and needs of future generations
- **Broader focus:** holding that what society is trying to maximise embodies not just economic goals, but also goals for social and environmental well-being.

Council's participation in the CCP-NZ Programme would also help to develop certain aspects of the priority work areas identified in the Sustainable Development Strategy, namely sustainable transport solutions, sustainable energy solutions, sustainable living practices and key support elements designed to strengthen the Council's implementation of sustainable development.

Council's participation in the Programme is also consistent with the recently passed Transport Strategy in that both will be promoting improvements to and increased use of public transport and non-priced travel demand methods (e.g. car pooling, ride sharing, biking to work). CCP-NZ will be encouraging these alternative transport options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while the Transport Strategy is encouraging these transport methods to establish a transport system "that enhances the city's vision and long-term sustainability".

5. Conclusion

Council can play a major role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions within the community, and influence better greenhouse practices within households and businesses. The CCP-NZ is an innovative programme that allows Council to set its own goals for greenhouse gas reduction and the programme offers a range of resources to assist Council to meet its programme goals. This Committee has previously acknowledged the impacts of climate change on a global and local scale and has expressed its interest in joining the CCP-NZ programme. It is therefore proposed that

the Committee recommend that Council resolves to participate in the CCP-NZ Programme.

Report written by: Zach Rissel, Graduate Advisor

Supporting Information

1) Fit with Strategic Objectives/Strategic Outcomes

Example. *This project supports a broad range of outcomes under the Built Environment, Natural Environment and Resources and Waste Key Achievement Areas:*

- *1.1 Liveable City*
- *5.1 Biodiversity*
- *5.2 Ecosystems*
- *5.3 Open Space Recreation*
- *5.4 Landscape and Natural Heritage*
- *6.1 Water and Energy*
- *6.2 Sustainability*
- *6.3 Reducing Waste*
- *6.4 Sustainable Disposal*
- *8.1 Transport Effectiveness*
- *8.2 Transport Accessibility*
- *8.3 Transport Efficiency*
- *8.4 Transport Sustainability*

2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

There are no immediate annual plan implications in this paper. The costs of joining and participating in the Programme will be met from existing budgets.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

There are no Treaty of Waitangi implications to consider in this submission.

4) Decision-Making

This is not a significant decision.

5) Consultation

a) General Consultation

Discussions with relevant Council officers, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, LGNZ staff, and Ministry for the Environment (Climate Change Office) officials informed the drafting of this paper.

b) Consultation with Maori

Not applicable.

6) Legal Implications

There are no immediate legal implications in this paper.

7) Consistency with existing policy

This is consistent with existing policy.

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GOVERNMENT'S CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY AND ITS IMPACT ON COUNCIL

1. Purpose of Report

To advise of the Government's climate change policies and the implications for Council.

2. Executive Summary

The Government ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2002. The Protocol is expected to come into force with the ratification by the Russian Federation some time in 2003.

Under the Protocol, New Zealand has undertaken, during the period 2008 to 2012 (the 'first commitment period'), to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions back to what they were in 1990, or else take responsibility for emissions over this level. In order to meet these obligations, Government has introduced a broad ranging policy package.

Several of these policies are of direct relevance to Council. A tax on carbon dioxide (CO₂) from 2007 is expected to increase the cost of CO₂ emitting energy, of which Council is a reasonably significant consumer. Anticipated amendments to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) will have an effect on both regional and local council planning and resource consent processes. The Act will be amended to remove the ability of regional councils to manage CO₂ as a contaminant to be considered in respect of climate change issues. However, the RMA may also be changed to ensure that local authorities consider the impacts of climate change itself, and to increase support for renewable energy.

Council will shortly have the opportunity to better position itself to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (its own and those of its community), and also to adapt to the likely impacts of climate change on Wellington's environment, by joining the Partnership Programme between central and local government. The Programme will:

- Offer local authorities the opportunity to be part of a New Zealand-based Cities for Climate Protection programme (NZCCP). The programme will offer assistance to Council in calculating, managing and reducing community emissions
- Act as a conduit for climate change information and assist in the integration and implementation of key climate change foundation policies.

Government will also be assisting local authorities to plan for and adapt to the impacts of climate change in their areas. Guidance Notes are to be developed in 2003 to assist local authorities with the additional steps that will need to be taken in the design and planning of urban form and infrastructure, coastal works and land use.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Note the Government's climate change policy package, summarised in Appendix one of this paper.*
3. *Note that joining the NZCCP programme would enable Council to better understand climate change issues at a local level, establish a baseline of current performance, set some targets for emissions and energy efficiency, and monitor progress.*
4. *Agree in principle to joining the NZCCP programme, pending further information on whether there are any implications for Council to joining, beyond those envisaged in this paper.*
5. *Note that officers will continue to work with the climate change adaptation programme developing the Guidance Notes, so we can obtain and use relevant scientific information and risk assessment tools to guide Council's planning and urban design work.*

4. Background

4.1 A Brief Overview of Climate Change

A broad range of observations shows that the world has warmed by about 0.6 degrees Celsius during the 20th century. The International Panel on Climate Change now predicts that global temperatures will continue to rise in the 21st century by between 1.4 and 5.8 degrees Celsius, depending on future greenhouse gas emissions. This predicted rate of change is larger than any natural variations in at least the past 10,000 years.¹

There is increasingly strong evidence that most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities, namely the emission of greenhouse gases. These greenhouse gases build up in the atmosphere, and act like a blanket to trap heat in the atmosphere – hence the global warming effect. This effect has been made worse by the destruction of much of the world's forests, which absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere.

The major greenhouse gases are:

- carbon dioxide, which is released by burning fossil fuels like coal, petrol and gas. These fuels supply around 90% of the world's commercial energy needs

¹ *Climate change: more than global warming*, New Zealand Climate Change Programme, 2002.

- methane, produced by rice cultivation, landfills, and some animals such as sheep and cattle².

Global energy use has increased nearly 70% since 1971 and is likely to continue to rise at more than 2% annually for the next 15 years. This will raise greenhouse gas emissions about 50% above current levels, unless energy efficiency is increased or alternative (non-greenhouse gases emitting) energy sources are utilised. Industrialised countries are the major emitters: developing nations account for more than 75% of the world's population, but consume only around one third of the world's energy and emit less than half of all human-created greenhouse gases.

The global warming will lead to changes in climate patterns (not all necessarily adverse), most notably rainfall distribution, more extreme weather events like droughts and floods, and more intense tropical cyclones. Developing nations are likely to be worst affected.

4.2 How Climate Change Will Affect New Zealand

New Zealand's climate is very likely to change during the 21st century. Impact projections are limited by uncertainties of regional climate changes and frequency of extreme events. Temperature rises in New Zealand are likely to be less than the global average, but will be higher in the North Island than the South. There are likely to be fewer frost days in winter and more hot days in summer.

Aside from the higher temperatures, the greatest effect of climate change is likely to be on water resources, with higher rainfall predicted in the west, and less in the east. Extreme climate events such as droughts could become more frequent in eastern areas, but floods after major downpours could also increase, potentially posing a risk of flooding in the Wellington CBD. The major risks of the projected climate changes for New Zealand include:

- More droughts, high winds and localised flooding
- Increased erosion of vulnerable beaches
- Increasing water shortages in eastern areas
- Growing pest and disease problems
- Costs of changing land-use activities to suit the new climate.

There are some anticipated beneficial effects of climate change, including:

- Improved plant growth because of rising temperatures and CO₂ levels
- The potential to introduce new, higher premium crops and related industries
- Reduced electricity supply problems in during winter arising from higher mountain rainfall around the hydroelectric storage lakes, and reduced heating demand.

² A range of other gases also contribute, including nitrous oxide from animal husbandry, and several hydrofluorocarbons and other synthetic gases.

4.3 The Kyoto Protocol

International action has been underway for some time, and has resulted in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and, more recently, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (the Kyoto Protocol). These agreements set out a framework for agreed action between participating (signatory) countries.

Most of the developed countries, with the exception of the USA and Australia, have now ratified the Protocol. The New Zealand Government signed the instrument of ratification for the Kyoto Protocol on 10 December 2002. The Protocol is expected to come into force some time in 2003, following the anticipated ratification by the Russian Federation.

Under the Kyoto Protocol, New Zealand has committed itself to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels or to taking responsibility for any overrun by buying carbon credits on a world market or by planting carbon sinks.

The first commitment period to carry out this undertaking runs from 2008 to 2012. Commitments and rules beyond 2012, including additional action by developing countries, are yet to be negotiated.

4.4 New Zealand's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

New Zealand's 1990 total annual greenhouse gas emissions were equivalent to just over 73 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂). The most recent data indicates that total greenhouse gas emissions have risen by about 8% since 1990, and by 2010 could be as high as 15% above the target signed up to in the Protocol.

The principal offender in terms of the emissions growth in New Zealand is CO₂, driven primarily by the energy sector (particularly electricity generation and transport), which has grown by 20% relative to its CO₂ emissions in 1990. However agriculture is still the sector generating New Zealand's highest greenhouse gas emissions (comprising mainly methane and nitrous oxide). More than half of New Zealand's greenhouse gases come from this sector. According to latest estimates, emissions from agriculture are currently very close to 1990 levels.

The forestry sector is a net 'sink' of CO₂ – growing forests absorb CO₂ rather than emit it. In total, New Zealand expects to absorb up to 110 million tonnes of CO₂ in the 2008 – 2012 period in forests planted after 1990. This means that, in principle, the excess greenhouse gases emissions could be covered, for the 2008 to 2012 period, by New Zealand's forest sinks.

5. Discussion: Government's Climate Change Policies

In November 2002, Parliament passed the Climate Change Response Act 2002. The purpose of the Act is to enable New Zealand to meet its international obligations under both the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (the Convention) and the Kyoto Protocol. In order to comply with the Kyoto Protocol requirements, New Zealand must provide an accurate estimate of its current emissions and removals of greenhouse gases.

The Act largely provides the means for establishing accounting and management systems. In essence, it provides the framework to achieve these commitments through accounting for and maintaining control over the emission units which are the base currency for controlling greenhouse gases under the Kyoto Protocol. The primary mechanisms for doing this are:

- A government administered Registry through which all types of units will be registered
- A government administered Inventory Agency whose role will be to estimate gas emissions and prepare reports required under the Kyoto Protocol
- The ability to appoint inspectors with powers to enter land or premises to collect information to estimate emissions or removals of greenhouse gases.

5.1 An Overview of the Major Policies

In conjunction with the Act, the Government has provided a set of preferred policies in order to achieve the targets under the Kyoto Protocol. The development and release of these policies followed substantial public consultation, including the release of a discussion document on the Government's preferred policy package. Several local authorities provided feedback on the preferred policy package, including Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ).

The mix of policies to manage the international and domestic challenges of responding to climate change differ in nature and timing depending on whether they are to be implemented prior to, or as part of, the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. Under the Government's preferred policy package, the policy instruments are applied in different combinations to the different groups within the economy.

The Government's key climate change policies include³:

Pre-commitment period (2002 – 2007)

- Negotiated Greenhouse Agreements (NGA's) for firms or industries where the climate change policies could affect international competitiveness (to continue on in the first commitment period)
- Amendment of the Resource Management Act (RMA) to remove regional council ability to directly control greenhouse gas discharges through consents and plans, and hence provide greater planning certainty
- Projects/funding to incentivise efficient emission reductions/renewable energy (to continue on in the first commitment period)
- Agricultural research funded by the industry to reduce methane and nitrous oxide emissions from agriculture (to continue on in the first commitment period)
- Formal policy reviews in 2005 and 2007

³ A summary chart of the key climate change policies is attached as Appendix One to this report.

First commitment period (2008 – 2012)

- A carbon tax from 2007/08, capped at NZ\$25 per tonne of CO₂ equivalent
- Emissions trading retained as an option during the first commitment period, if international conditions permit
- Recycling of revenue, collected from the emissions charge and climate change policies, back into the economy (e.g. through the general taxation system and through funding climate change programmes)
- Government retention of carbon sink credits and the associated liabilities in the first commitment period.

Other Foundation Policies

As well as taking the necessary steps to ratify the Kyoto Protocol, there are a number of other Government policies and strategies aimed at responding to climate change. These include the:

- Adaptation to the effects of Climate Change
- Partnership with Local Government
- National Energy Efficient and Conservation Strategy⁴
- New Zealand Waste Management Strategy
- The New Zealand Transport Strategy
- Growth and Innovation Framework
- Business Opportunities Programme

5.2 The Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Tax

A key policy instrument being introduced by government – the emissions charge of up to NZ\$25 on CO₂ emissions – is designed to change relative prices in New Zealand. Increasing the costs of fuel and energy that emit CO₂ is intended to encourage people to use energy and fuel more efficiently or to encourage them to switch to alternative energy sources. It will also have the effect of making energy sources that emit fewer greenhouse gases more economically viable. The government has stated that the revenue raised by government through the carbon tax will be recycled back into the economy.

The emissions charge is expected to result in increases of between 2% and 6% to the price of petrol, between 5% and 12% for diesel, 4% to 6% (residential) and 9% to 16% (industrial) for electricity and gas, and significantly more for coal.

As a significant user of energy, Council will need to consider the implications of the projected energy cost increases and investigate opportunities to become more energy efficient as an organisation. There will also be implications for Council strategies in areas such as transport and urban design (e.g. incentives for increased usage of public transport, and modes of transport such as rail that are not dependent on carbon-based fuels).

⁴ The EECA Transport Strategy, which sits within the NEECS, sets out initiatives and programmes that can be undertaken at a local level to conserve energy.

5.3 Carbon Sinks

Countries can gain credits towards their Kyoto targets by developing carbon sinks – the planting of forests or undertaking of other activities that remove CO₂ from the atmosphere and store it as carbon. Sink credits for forests can only be ‘earned’ for forests planted since 1990, and there are penalties for deforestation leading to carbon loss over the first commitment period.

The Government will retain both carbon sink credits and the liabilities associated with any deforestation. However it has also agreed to investigate options to encourage the establishment of permanent protection forest sinks, by March 2003.

One option is for land owners to receive a ‘return’ in proportion to the carbon sequestered by a given forest stand, in return for creating a permanent protection forest. If government did adopt such an option, as a significant land owner, Council may wish to consider investing in such permanent forest to either generate revenue (or to off-set carbon tax costs). Incentives may also be available to secure the protection of fragile ecosystems. Officers will keep the committee informed of any relevant developments in this area as they arise.

5.4 The Resource Management Act and Climate Change

Emissions

The purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991 (the RMA) is to promote sustainable management of natural and physical resources. Its current definition of ‘contaminant’ is rather broad and includes greenhouse gases. Under the RMA, regional councils can develop plans that permit discharges of contaminants, or that specify the contaminants that require resource consents.

Local authorities have lobbied government to amend the Act to provide clarity about the role of the RMA in addressing greenhouse gas emissions. In response, Government has stated its intention to amend the RMA. Under the proposed changes, the Government has agreed to remove the ability of regional councils to consider effects on climate change:

- when making a rule in a plan in relation to a discharge-to-air from any industrial or trade premises activities;
- of discharge-to-air activities when making a decision on a resource consent application.

Councils will however retain the ability to have regard to the effects of activities on climate change when carrying out other functions and duties under the RMA.

The effect of the signaled amendments will be to limit the role that the RMA will play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Government considers that the RMA controls and mechanisms are not cost effective when compared to other policy options such as carbon tax, targeted research, and local-central government partnership programmes. The changes are expected to result in cost savings for councils and resource consent applicants, and avoid a possible “double jeopardy” for emitters.

The timetable for the amendments to the RMA has not been set, but it is likely that government will seek to pass the necessary amendments within the next 12 – 18 months. While the RMA amendments are awaited, government will provide national guidelines to assist local authorities in their consideration of resource consents that involve emissions of greenhouse gases.

Urban Design

While working on the proposed amendments to the RMA, the Government will also investigate:

- the implications for urban design to assess how land-use planning and infrastructure design could contribute to climate change goals. Although Government expects that national climate change policies will satisfactorily address most CO₂ emissions, it is unlikely that they will be effective in changing urban form and therefore the volume of emissions from transport in urban areas
- whether the RMA needs to be changed to ensure that local authorities consider climate change when processing resource consent applications.

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Government has also signalled that prioritising energy efficiency and the use of renewable forms of energy, and managing the effects of climate change (adaptation), are matters that may also require amendments to the RMA.

5.5 A Central-Local Government Partnership Programme

Local government has an important role to play in New Zealand's climate change response, because of its responsibilities for management of the environment, provision of local infrastructure and services, and the opportunities it offers for local participation, education and action. In particular, local government:

- undertakes urban planning
- regulates activities with environmental effects
- manages local roads and fund passenger transport services
- manages waste
- administers building regulations
- facilitates economic development
- manages natural hazards.

The Government has acknowledged the key role of local government in helping to mitigate the causes of climate change, as well as working with their communities to adapt to the likely impacts of climate change.

The government's preferred policy includes a formal partnership between central and local government, which will involve the development of a New Zealand version of the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) model in conjunction with LGNZ and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA). This model is a campaign of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) in 20 countries. It

has achieved a large uptake in Australia where about 160 local authorities have signed up to the programme, and in Canada, where 103 municipalities participate in the programme. The CCP programme assists local authorities to produce local inventories, targets, action plans and monitoring programmes.

Cities that participate in the CCP programme follow a five-milestone approach to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions:

- Prepare base-line greenhouse gas emission inventories and forecasts for key sources such as council and community energy use, transportation, industry, buildings and waste management
- Establish local greenhouse gas emission reduction targets
- Prepare and adopt (at a political level) Local Climate Action Plans, specifying the measures to be taken to achieve targets
- Implement the Local Climate Action Plans
- Periodically monitor and report on all major sources of greenhouse gas emissions and milestone implementation.

The development of a New Zealand-specific CCP programme is intended to establish an active partnership framework, with associated tools and guidance mechanisms, to assist local government to contribute to the delivery of New Zealand's Kyoto Protocol obligations. A further intended benefit of such a partnership programme is that it will integrate the relevant national level foundation policies such as the New Zealand Waste Management Minimisation Strategy, the National Energy Efficiency Conservation Strategy (NEECS), and the recently released draft New Zealand Transport Strategy.

The NZCCP programme is likely to be overseen by a steering committee representing the Ministry for the Environment, LGNZ and EECA. The New Zealand programme would service councils participating in the calculation, management and reduction of community emissions, and act as a conduit for climate change information relevant to councils and communities.

It is recommended that committee makes an in-principle decision for Council to join the NZCCP programme, as it would provide a sound basis from which to progress energy efficiency and climate change planning and initiatives in future. Once the NZCCP programme is formalised, officers will present the committee with further information and the option to join.

Adapting to Climate Change

Government is also offering assistance and guidance to local authorities in adapting to the future impacts of climate change, under the Local Government Climate Change Adaptation Project, being managed by the Climate Change Office.

The project involves the development of a series of Guidance Notes, best practice materials and case studies, which will assist local authorities to plan for and adapt to climate change. Officers have attended initial workshops hosted by the New Zealand Climate Change Office.

The Guidance Notes, to be developed by June 2003, will initially focus on the key issues of coastal hazards and the more generic bio-physical and main flow-on effects of climate change. They will concentrate on key local government functions and specific responsibilities, and provide guidance on how to approach risk assessment based on up to date scientific knowledge.

The practice studies will include a comprehensive survey of current local government practice, which will be used to identify systemic gaps in current approaches and to identify specific regional issues, increase networking opportunities and provide a basis from which to define best practice. The case studies will follow the development, and test the early implementation, of the Guidance Notes, and will be used to inform the future development of the Guidance Notes.

6. Conclusion

The Government's climate change policy package is quite substantial, and it will take some time to absorb its full impact. While the broad parameters of the policy have now been established, there is still a significant amount of further work to be done. Most relevant for Council of the further work are the:

- Amendments to the Resource Management Act 1991, notably the removal of the ability for regional councils to control CO₂ as a contaminant in respect of climate change considerations
- Possible introduction of incentives to encourage the establishment of permanent protection forest sinks and to secure the protection of fragile ecosystems
- Establishment of the Local Government Partnership Programme, most notably the development of the NZCCP programme
- Development of Guidance Notes to assist local government to adapt to the effects of climate change.

Officers will keep the committee informed as necessary as further information comes to hand.

Contact Officer: *Allan Prangnell, Senior Policy Advisor*

KEY POLICIES AT A GLANCE

Pre-commitment period	New Policies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiated Greenhouse Agreements (NGAs) for firms/industries who meet “competitiveness at risk” criteria • Projects/funding to incentivise efficient emission reductions/renewable energy • Agricultural research funded by the industry to reduce methane and nitrous oxide emissions from agriculture • Voluntary handling programmes and agreements with users of synthetic gases to limit emissions and leakage • Amend RMA to remove regional council ability to directly control greenhouse gas discharges through consents and plans • Formal policy reviews 2005 & 2007 	<p style="text-align: center;">First commitment period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emissions charge from 2007/8 approximating the international price of emissions, capped at NZ\$25 per tonne of CO₂ equivalent • Recycling of revenue, collected from the emissions charge and climate change policies, back into the economy eg through the tax system and for climate change projects/programmes • Emissions trading retained as an option during the Commitment Period, if international conditions permit • Negotiated Greenhouse Agreements (NGAs) for firms/industries who meet “competitiveness at risk” criteria • Projects/funding to incentivise efficient emission reductions/renewable energy • Agricultural research funded by the industry to reduce methane and nitrous oxide greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture • Government retention of sink credit assets and liabilities • Government retains deforestation liabilities capped at 21 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent • Mechanism to incentivise permanent (non-harvest) forest sinks • Voluntary handling programmes and agreements with users of synthetic gases to limit emissions and leakage • Formal policy review 2010

APPENDIX 1

Foundation Policies

- National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (NEECS) including renewable energy target
- The New Zealand Waste Strategy
- The New Zealand Transport Strategy
- Public Awareness & Education Programme
- Partnership between local and central government
- Research
- Business Opportunities Programme
- Growth and Innovation Framework
- Adaptation to the effects of climate change



COMMUNITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION™ – NEW ZEALAND

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Introduction:

Councils around the world are responding to the threat of climate change by reducing their own greenhouse gas emissions and emissions from within their communities. Local government regulatory and planning powers, budget policies, public education activities, and business links can have a significant effect on greenhouse gas emissions within the community, and influence better greenhouse practices within households and businesses.

As a leader in the community, the Wellington City Council, by joining the Communities for Climate Protection – New Zealand programme (CCP™-NZ), has the opportunity to show the way and to be part of a growing number of councils who are finding out that greenhouse action makes good financial, environmental and social sense.

Background:

The Communities for Climate Protection™ – New Zealand programme is an innovative campaign that helps councils and their communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and their impacts. The programme is a New Zealand Government initiative delivered by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives Australia/New Zealand (ICLEI A/NZ). As part of ICLEI's International Cities for Climate Protection™ Campaign, CCP™-NZ provides a way for New Zealand councils to join over 500 councils from around the world in greenhouse action, and access international learning and best practice in transport management, waste minimisation, energy use, land use planning and other areas.

While the CCP™-NZ programme draws heavily on the learning from international models, it has been developed specifically for the New Zealand local government context. CCP™-NZ will build on EECA's [EnergyWise Councils Partnership](#) and the “4 million careful owners” campaign developed by the New Zealand Climate Change Office of the Ministry for the Environment, as well as existing strategies and partnerships, such as the New Zealand Waste Strategy and New Zealand Transport Strategy.

Across the globe, councils have recognised they have a significant role to play in helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The New Zealand Government's climate change policy recognises that it needs to work in partnership with the local government sector to deliver New Zealand's climate change response. CCP™-NZ provides a mechanism to build council capacity to deliver on this expectation.

CCP™-NZ works with councils to cut greenhouse gas emissions by providing them with a strategic milestone framework, and helping them identify the emissions from their council and community, set a greenhouse gas reduction goal and develop and implement an action plan to reach that goal.

The programme is based on the achievement of five milestones:

- Establish an inventory and forecast for key sources of greenhouse emissions in council and the community.
- Set an emissions reduction goal.
- Develop and adopt a local greenhouse gas emissions action plan to achieve those reductions.
- Implement the local greenhouse action plan.
- Monitor and report on greenhouse gas emissions and implementation of actions and measures.

Benefits:

- Improve air quality (and community health) by reducing reliance on fossil fuels
- Promote local leadership.
- Identify opportunities for partnerships with industry, residents and government departments at a regional, national and international level.
- Minimise waste and better manage landfill emissions.
- Achieve social and environmental benefits including tree planting and bush protection programmes.
- Save money by lowering your council's energy bills.
- Develop new markets and industries and provide local employment and business opportunities.
- Generate additional revenue for Council through the initiatives developed.

Resources provided:

Promotion and recognition

- Communications and media materials to help you gain local support for your initiatives.
- Recognition events where councils gather to celebrate milestones achieved.
- Assistance with planning local media events.

Technical support and training

- CCP™ on line software and other tools for calculating emissions and setting a reduction goal.
- Workshops to guide participants through the milestones and provide assistance with developing a local action plan.
- Direct one to one support over the phone to follow up workshops and progress through the programme.
- Access to expertise and networks of councils to exchange ideas and solutions.
- Invitations to CCP™ conferences in Australia and New Zealand.

Information and Publications

- Access to a series of participant websites including CCP™-NZ, CCP-Australia and ICLEI international.

- Workbooks, case studies and fact sheets.
- Presentations by ICLEI A/NZ staff to councillors and senior managers.
- Advice on funding opportunities and programmes.

Milestone Staff Commitment:

Experience across participating Councils indicates that the achievement of Milestones 1 and 2 requires staff commitment of up to one day a week for a period of 24 weeks. The development of Local Action Plans at Milestone 3 becomes the responsibility of council units managing areas identified through the inventory process as those in which greenhouse reductions and financial savings will be the greatest.

Student Intern Programme:

This Government-sponsored programme will match councils with students from universities or tertiary training institutes to support them to progress through the Milestone Framework. This assistance is of particular use at Milestone 1 as students can assist council to obtain data to complete the greenhouse inventory required under the first milestone. Funding packages of \$4 000 (plus GST) are available to 5 councils who commit to joining CCPTM-NZ. ICLEI has confirmed this funding will be available to our council if this resolution is passed before 30 June 2004.

Cost to council:

There is a once-only participation fee for joining the CCPTM-NZ programme, determined by the population served by council. The WCC will have to pay a \$1500 once-only fee based on the 2001 population of 163,827.

Recommendation:

That Wellington City Council join the Communities for Climate Protection TM– NZ Programme and undertake work to achieve the five milestones.