
REPORT 5
(1215/52/IM)

EECA BIOFUELS CONFERENCE 2006, WELLINGTON, 21 APRIL 2006

1. Purpose of Report

To provide information on and to seek approval for up to two elected members to attend the EECA Biofuels Conference to be held at the Duxton Hotel Ballroom in Wellington, 21 April 2006.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Approve the attendance of up to two elected members at the EECA Bio Fuels Conference 2006 to be held at the Duxton Hotel Ballroom Wellington on 21 April 2006, and that the costs associated with attending the conference be met from the Elected Members Budget (GVEM01).*
- 3. Note that there is a Positively Wellington Tourism Board Meeting and a Wellington Zoo Trust Board Meeting scheduled on Friday 21 April 2006.*
- 4. Note that a report back on the conference will be presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee in accordance with Council policy.*

3. Discussion

This one day conference concentrates on biodiesel and bioethanol and their place in New Zealand's transport energy future. The conference will give attendees the chance to hear international and local experts share their opinions on the role that bio fuels play in the New Zealand industry, and their experiences of bringing biofuels to market. In addition, the conference aims to update attendees on the development of the biofuels sales obligation and to update industry and other stakeholders on the progress of biofuels in New Zealand.

Speakers include:

- **Martin Mittlebach** – A biodiesel expert and head of Renewable Resources Group of the Institute for Chemistry at the Karl-Franzens Unieristy Graz.
- **A Representative from Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association** – A Tokyo-based trade association representing 14 Japanese car, truck, bus and motorcycle manufacturers.
- **Jeanette Fitzsimons** – Government Spokesperson Energy Efficiency and Conservation

The attached information is copied from the registration brochure and provides the itinerary of the day.

3.1 Considerations

When deciding whether up to two elected members should attend this conference, consideration should be given to:

- the cost; and
- the impact of attendance on the budget; and
- the other conferences elected members may wish to attend later in the financial year.

The total cost if two elected members are appointed is expected to be \$150.00 and will be met from the conference budget.

The cost of attendance per person is broken down as follows:

Item	Cost (\$NZD)
Registration	\$75.00
Total	\$75.00

The impact on the budget of two elected members attending this conference is outlined in Table One.

Table One:

	2005/2006 Budget	Year to Date Expenditure	Unexpended Funds
Total budget for conference fees, accommodation and travel	\$34,000	¹ \$28,042.98	\$5957.02
Impact of sending two elected members to the conference	\$150.00	\$28,192.98	\$5807.02

4. Conclusion

A decision is required as to whether Strategy and Policy should approve the attendance of up to two elected members at the 'EECA Bio Fuels Conference 2006' to be held at the Duxton ballroom in Wellington from, 21 April 2006.

Contact Officer: Michelle Starns, Committee Advisor (Administration)

1. The attendance of 1 Councillor at the National Housing Conference at a cost of \$2823.00
The attendance of two Councillors at the New Zealand Cycling Conference at a cost of \$500
The attendance of 8 Councillors at the Urbanism Down Under conference at a cost of \$3500.00
The attendance of 2 Councillors at the TRAFINZ conference at a cost of \$1380.00
The attendance of 1 Councillor at the Lord of the Regions Conference at a cost of \$1325.00
The attendance of 4 Councillors at the Local Government New Zealand conference at a cost of \$7980.00
The attendance of 2 Councillors at the NZ Recreation Conference at a cost of \$1687.50
The attendance of 1 Councillor at the UNESCO Combating Racism Conference in Bangkok, Thailand at a cost of \$3891.94
The attendance of 1 Councillor at the NZ Planning Institute Conference, in Australia at a cost of \$2424.29
The attendance of 2 Councillors at the Climate Change and Governance Conference in Wellington at no cost.
The attendance of 3 Councillors at the Sister Cities New Zealand Conference in Wellington at a cost of \$2531.25

Appendix One