



Report 08.155

18 March 2008

File: E/06/32/02

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**Report of the Meeting of the Regional Sustainability Committee
held in the Council Chamber, Regional Council Centre, 142
Wakefield Street, Wellington, on Tuesday, 18 March 2008 at 1.32
pm**

Matters for Council decision are shown in bold type and enclosed in a box.

Matters for information of the Council are in italic type

Present

Councillors Laidlaw (Chair), Aitken, Bruce, Buchanan, Donaldson, and Wilde.

Also Present

Councillors Baber, Lamason, and Wilson.

Officers Present

Bradbury, Corry, Davis, Hanna, Kennedy, Porteous, Reay, Shorten, and Skene.

Public Business

RS 17 **Apologies**

There were no apologies

RS 18 **Conflict of Interest declarations**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

RS 19 **Public Participation**

Paula Warren advocated electrification of the remainder of the railway network in the Wellington region.

RS 20 **Confirmation of Minutes**

Resolved (Cr Wilde/Cr Aitken)

That the Committee

Confirms the minutes of 12 February 2008, Report 08.109.

RS 21 **Milestone 2 Setting Emission Reduction Goals**

Report 08.143

File: CP/13/02/01

Resolved (Cr Aitken/Cr Donaldson)

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Approves the corporate emission goals for Greater Wellington, with a review in twelve months.*
4. *Develops a draft overall set of “community” goals for the region and a proposed community action plan to achieve these goals.*
5. *Agrees that the draft community goals and proposed “community” action plan be eventually integrated into the work of the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee.*

Noted

- Councillor Bruce asked that his abstention from the vote be recorded.

RS 22 **Biodiversity six-monthly report**

Report 08.126

File: ENV/12/07/12

Resolved

(Cr Laidlaw/Cr Aitken)

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the contents.*

RS 23 **Regional energy strategy**

Report 08.145

File: ENV03/03/01

Resolved

(Cr Laidlaw/Cr Bruce)

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the contents.*
3. *Approves the Committee and Council Chair to undertake a round of consultations with city and district councils, and other stakeholders in the region, about a regional renewable energy strategy.*

4. Recommends that Council approves the preparation of a regional renewable energy strategy.

RS 24 **General**

- Councillor Bruce observed that significant energy savings can be made by domestic households, as well as by the construction of major new energy-generating plants.
- The committee expressed its thanks to Mary Hanna for her excellent work.

The meeting closed at 2.25 pm.

CR C R LAIDLAW
Chairman

Date:

Wellington Regional Council – 7 April 2008.

To be moved:

That Council

Adopts the report of the meeting of the Regional Sustainability Committee held on 18 March 2008, items RS 17 to RS 24 inclusive.



Report 08.145
Date 12 March 2008
File ENV/03/03/01

Committee Regional Sustainability Committee
Author Chris Laidlaw Committee Chair

Regional energy strategy

1. Purpose

To seek the Committee's formal support for the preparation of a regional energy strategy,

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

At its last meeting on 12 February the Committee received a paper on renewable energy in the Wellington region. The paper, prepared by Bruce Geden, Special Projects Coordinator, outlined the current national policy situation with regard to renewable energy and provided an overview of renewable energy resource potential in the Greater Wellington region.

The Committee agreed that further work should be undertaken in this area with a view to the production of a renewable energy strategy for the region and it was agreed that we should work alongside other relevant agencies toward this end.

It was noted that the potential included wind energy, solar thermal hot water systems, wave energy, small-scale hydro plants and the production of ethanol as an energy source.

4. Comment

Clearly, several of these options will require further research before actual potential is known and the collaborative work noted above will pursue this. In the case of wind energy however, we are now equipped with a comprehensive map which illustrates the zones around the region in which wind energy initiatives will be viable from technical, (wind speed) point of view. This is a

valuable step forward because it effectively serves to demonstrate where wind farming can and cannot take place.

Consideration of specific windfarm projects will however still require detailed investigations as to the suitability of any site against legal, physical, ecological and cultural constraints, including landscape and amenity issues. There are other issues that also need to be carefully considered such as the appropriate size of wind turbines and the number and spacing of turbines in any particular project.

The process of consenting specific projects involves local authorities. City and district councils have the primary role in regulating windfarm development via land use controls while Greater Wellington plays a regulatory role through the resource consent process and permitted activity rules that address environmental impacts, particularly in relation to earthworks, sediment control and impact on water bodies.

Given that our objective is to develop a regional strategy it is important that Greater Wellington works in close collaboration with the city and district councils in the region throughout the process. It is proposed therefore that the committee chair undertake a round of consultations with each territorial local authority with a view to outlining the overall renewable energy objectives and the progress made thus far in identifying wind energy potential in particular.

Following this, a draft regional strategy will be prepared for public consultation with a view to finalising it before the end of this year.

5. Communication

It would be appropriate that, if approved by Council, the community be informed about the proposed energy strategy by way of a press release.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives*** the report.
2. ***Notes*** the content of the report.
3. ***Approves*** the Committee Chair to undertake a round of consultations with city and district councils in the region about a regional energy strategy.
4. ***Recommends*** that Council approves the preparation of a regional energy strategy.

Report prepared by:

Chris Laidlaw
Committee Chair