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Committee Regional Sustainability Committee
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Report from the Divisional Manager, Corporate and Strategy

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about progress with some of Greater Wellington's "sustainability programmes".

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. Communities for climate protection (CCP) programme

3.1 Corporate

The corporate action plan has been revised. It will go to the EMT for final approval before being released.

3.2 Community

The CCP Project Manager is engaged in a series of discussions with our territorial authorities about the implications of their greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories that were presented to the Committee at its last meeting. Some changes to the shape of the footprints have resulted as the data collection methods are better understood. Porirua City Council's waste footprint has decreased and Kapiti Coast District Council's has increased. Broadly speaking, the regional inventory's proportions are not greatly affected.

It is increasingly clear that some of the smaller territorial authorities will need assistance with addressing climate change. It is in GW's interests to make sure that they contribute to the development and implementation of a regional plan.

In the case of the Wairarapa, the potential size of the adaptation issues mean that making an early start on this thinking will be very advantageous.

We have been working with other regional councils on our approaches to compiling community GHG inventories. Auckland Regional Council, Environment Waikato and Environment Canterbury all expressed an interest in the possibility of using the same tool and agree that the GW tool, developed by Landcare Research Ltd, looks a likely candidate. This will be discussed along with other issues at a get together of climate change personnel from the four regional councils in mid-December.

The regional working group (ERAWG) has met with staff involved with the Regional Policy Statement to discuss how climate change could be addressed more strongly throughout the document, particularly in relation to impacts and adaptation.

4. Sustainable Business

A meeting has been arranged with regional business leaders to learn their views on Greater Wellington's role in enhancing the sustainability of the region's businesses. Organisations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Business New Zealand, the Sustainable Business Network, Grow Wellington, and NZX have been invited to attend. This meeting will occur on 1 December.

While this will give us a steer on what can be developed for the long term, our efforts for the past two months have been directed towards finalising this year's programme, e-Mission. As reported to the Committee earlier, e-Mission will enable around 25 businesses to reduce their carbon emissions through improvements in their waste management, transport use, and energy efficiency, and set them up to gain the Enviro-Mark environmental accreditation. E-Mission is funded by the Ministry for Economic Development, EECA, participating territorial authorities, and the businesses themselves. Our focus has been on finding ways to make the programme as cost efficient as possible for businesses, particularly in view of the current economic environment.

Good progress is also being made in implementing the public space waste reduction and recycling initiative at the Westpac Stadium, which is being funded by the Ministry for the Environment through the 'Love NZ' brand. Work is currently underway on the design of the overall system and the recycling bins that will be used.

5. Get Sustainable Challenge

The 2008 Get Sustainable Challenge wound up on 11 September with a highly successful awards event attended by 230 people. This year 46 businesses completed the Challenge (cf.41 last year), with around 33 of these also participating in the awards. The winners were:

- Sustainable Business of The Year Award: Paraoa Bakehouse
- Trailblazer Sustainable Business Award (SME): Paraoa Bakehouse

- Trailblazer Sustainable Business Award (Large/Corporate): Resene Paints
- Trailblazer Sustainable Business Award (Not For Profit): YHA Wellington City
- Emerging Sustainable Business Award (SME): Francis Consulting
- Judges' Special Mention: Zap Pest and Hygiene Services
- Emerging Sustainable Business Award (Large/Corporate): NZX Limited
- Judges' Special Mention: Green Cabs
- Sustainable Design and Innovation Award: Meridian Building Kumutoto Wellington.

These central region winners progressed to the NZI National Sustainable Business Network Awards which were held on 9 October in Auckland. Our businesses once again performed very well at the national level taking out the principal award and three of the remaining six categories. The winners were:

- Sustainable Business of the Year: Paraoa Bakehouse (Wellington region)
- Trailblazer Large/Corporate: Resene Paints (Wellington region)
- Trailblazer SME: Paraoa Bakhouse (Wellington region)
- Sustainable Design and Innovation Award: Meridian Energy (Wellington region)

6. Environment Awards

Greater Wellington's second annual Environmental Awards presentation held on 5 November was attended by close to 100 people including the 11 groups that made the finals. The awards recognise and reward the extraordinary work that individuals, schools, communities and businesses are doing in partnership with us to improve the health of the environment in our region. Judging from the feedback from participating groups the event was successful. Aside from being thrilled with their own success and very complimentary of the support from Greater Wellington, groups appreciated learning about the excellent work others in the region are doing and being able to put their projects into this wider context.

This year the judges had a hard time separating the finalists because of the high quality of all the projects. The Rata Community Partnership Award was shared by Friends of Maara Roa and MIRO – Mainland Island Restoration Operation; Fernridge School in Masterton took out the Meridian School Sustainable Project Award; Patrice O'Connor from Douglas Park School – also in

Masterton – won the Meridian School Environmental Leadership Award and Downer EDI Works Ltd took out the Nikau Compliance Award.

Winners received a cheque for \$500, native tree and a framed certificate, while for the first time this year Merit Award winners received a cheque for \$200, reflecting their commitment and the quality of their projects.

A debrief will be held shortly where issues such as the venue (considered to be too small and hot), award categories (there are opportunities to extend the awards with new categories, such as Take Charge pollution prevention), judging (consistency of approach across all categories) and publicity (to attract more entrants) will be considered.

7. Communication

No separate communication is required. There has already been media promotion of the Environment Awards.

8. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

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