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Committee Regional Sustainability
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Climate change response update

1. Purpose

This report updates the Committee about Greater Wellington's response to climate change.

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

Greater Wellington (GW) signed up to the Communities for Climate Protection programme (CCP-NZ) in 2006 and achieved Milestone 1 (development of a greenhouse gas emissions inventory) in July 2007. Milestones 2 and 3 entail the establishment of emissions reduction goals and an action plan to achieve these goals.

The CCP programme is split into two sectors – corporate and community. In April 2008 Council approved emissions reduction goals for the corporate sector (i.e. for the carbon emissions the organisation is responsible for directly in carrying out its functions). Setting reduction goals for the community sector is still in progress and is a collaborative exercise with the territorial authorities.

The Committee approved the adoption of a new regional greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory and a new base year of 2006/07 for monitoring emissions reduction progress at its meeting of 25 February 2009.

4. Discussion

4.1.1 Work of the regional working group

Since the selection of a preferred updated inventory, the regional Emissions Reduction and Adaptation Working Group (ERAWG) has been working on the development of reductions targets and initiatives for achieving them, as well as on adaptation initiatives. A discussion

document has been drafted and its contents workshopped with a group of professional experts from Victoria University's Climate Change Centre, NIWA, Otago University's Centre for Sustainable Cities, the Institute of Professional Engineers NZ, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Ministry for the Environment.

The document will give background information on climate change in general and on the specific impacts it is likely to have in the Wellington region, as far as can be determined at this stage. It will analyse the regional emissions inventory and identify major emissions sources for reductions targets. A major section is being prepared which will offer TAs a range of potential initiatives they (and GW) could take to make inroads on the region's emissions.

For obvious reasons, it will be difficult to establish final emissions reduction targets until the various councils have identified which initiatives they will adopt. ERAWG is currently discussing the relative merits of percentage target reductions in emissions totals where results depend in large part on the actions of central government versus other targets whose achievement the councils might more easily influence. Any decision regarding continued participation in the CCP-NZ programme will be germane to this as percentage reductions in emissions totals are a requirement of that programme.

The final major section of the document will cover adaptation issues and possible responses. This section presents some challenges to the Working Group because of the uncertainties in this area over both speed and magnitude of impacts which are likely or possible in such areas as sea level rise, increased wind and changes in rainfall. Input from the professional experts has been particularly valuable in this regard.

4.1.2 Community input

It is *not* intended to formally consult the community on the regional response to climate change until 2010 (see below).

Further input on the development of the response will be sought from Ara Tahi, the Hill Country Advisory Group and other Wairarapa farmers, and from a workshop of special interest community groups such as the Sustainable Energy Association, the Domestic Energy Users' Network, the Sustainability Trust, Transition Towns etc.

As a result of this input, a final discussion document will be brought to the Committee meeting of 18 June for approval prior to circulation to TA officers. TA officer input via workshops and other meetings will allow ERAWG to produce a draft regional climate change response plan which will then go formally to the councils (including GW) for discussion as part of their annual planning round. Those councils which consider it necessary would be able to consult on the draft plan during the usual community consultation period for their annual plans.

4.1.3 Timeline to delivery of final community action plan

A process and timeline for delivery of a final community action plan has been developed as in the table on the next page. This is slightly different from the previous timeline you have seen as a result of process requirements.

Date	Action
17 April	Review of discussion document by workshop of professional experts
12 May	Progress report to Regional Sustainability Committee
19 May	Workshop of invited community groups with specific interests in relation to CC issues
10 June	Discussion with Ara Tahiri
18 June	Regional Sustainability Committee considers draft discussion document for approval
19 June	Discussion Document circulated to TAs
1 st week July	TA officers workshop on discussion document
10 July	Presentation to CEOs' Forum
End of August	Draft Plan completed
10 September	Draft Plan to Regional Sustainability Committee for approval
11 September	Draft Plan circulated to TAs .
September 2009 to February 2010	GW and TAs incorporate provisions into annual planning process
March/April 2010	Community consultation on plan through annual planning process
July 2010	Final plan drafted

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Approves the development process for the Regional Climate Change Response Plan***

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