



PROJECT PORT LYTTELTON

Portal to Canterbury's historic past, a vibrant sustainable community, creating a living future

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Sustainable Energy Strategy for Christchurch 2008-2018

This is a submission prepared on behalf of Project Port Lyttelton. We are a grass roots community organisation in Lyttelton actively interested in issues that relate to our townships sustainability. We work on many levels. This submission has been put together by our "Energy Matters" sub group. Contributors were Margaret Jefferies, Wendy Everingham, Helen Hobson, Chris Twemlow, Sam Masters and Kris Herbert. We have a wider reference group as well. Contributors were Steve Lowndes and Arthur Williamson.

We congratulate the Christchurch City Council for drafting this strategy.

We support your broad vision and many of the activities identified in the plan.

We commend the Council for your in-house council energy reduction programmes and for producing a good snap shot of energy usage in Christchurch. We think your twin objectives of reducing the total energy used in Christchurch and increasing the share of renewable energy in the energy mix is correct.

Our submission enhances your draft ideas and seeks to make the strategy stronger. We have made comments on each of the sections of your action plan.

OVERARCHING IMPROVEMENTS

- All of the schemes suggested in the strategy are voluntary. Council needs to develop incentives and regulations to ensure better results.
- Council needs to invest in energy reduction. Existing budgets should be re-assessed and surplus funds directed to energy saving initiatives for the community. This strategy does not indicate what resources the council is prepared to invest.

TARGETS/GOALS

- We believe the scenarios you have come up with are not demanding enough. Your strong action option does not even meet base Kyoto requirements for CO2 emissions. Kyoto should be the benchmark for improvements.
- We are currently producing 20.5% of our energy from renewables which is a terrific achievement. The target for usage of renewables in 2017 is only 25.5%.

We think we should aim higher. Some countries are aiming for 20% of energy from renewables by 2020 coming from a lower renewables base than we have.

- Target rates need to be individualised. We need a carbon footprint per person/ per business and a target set for energy consumption. People need to be able to personalise their energy footprint. George Mombiot suggests energy rationing. Every person must be responsible for change. If we are not all in it many people will not participate. A rationing system enables individuals to make energy choices in the way they think is best. The council should work closely with other government agencies to achieve this.
- The goals have no concrete numerical numbers. This plan needs specific targets for everything.

ACTION PLAN

Organisation administration

- We feel the proposed Energy Agency is not a flexible enough organisation to implement real change. The group consists of “expert” agencies. There must be a wider group of stakeholders. Where is the university, interest groups and local communities? Energy is the critical issue for this century and the more minds tackling the problem the better the outcomes.
- If an independent organisation is needed, establish an Incorporated Society or a Co-operative so that the organisation is transparent and open to more people to participate. Trusts are limited by small numbers and are not required to be transparent.
- Establish a Wisdom Council within the organisation. Open the group up to whoever shows an interest. The right people will get involved. That is how Project Port Lyttelton functions.
- Fund this group appropriately so it can make real progress.
- Christchurch should join the post carbon cities initiative in the USA or the transition towns programme in the UK for further ideas on how this city could improve its energy future.

Awareness

- A recent township survey in Lyttelton highlighted receiving information by the web was the preferred option. Please ensure that whilst booklets might be produced many people prefer this alternative.
- Residential Thermography is a great suggestion. This needs to be backed up by an action plan. Homes and businesses that do not perform well need to be given incentives to improve their buildings. The Energy Action Network could be given

more resources to achieve this. Lower income homes and rental properties should be targeted first.

- Travel plans should be encouraged for all households and businesses.

Businesses

- The idea of an energy expo is not new. Christchurch already has a Sustainability Expo. More funding should be given to this event than establish a new event for businesses.
- Identify the companies that are already doing well. Share their good news stories complete with figures on the savings achieved. We need to have our exemplar businesses.
- It is a good idea to promote companies that are trying to do the right thing and reduce energy. The Pledge might provide incentives to businesses to compete against one another and strive to get better results.

Renewable Energy

- Establish a pilot project in Lyttelton for wind energy. We would like to see the township powered by 5 Windflow Turbines. This could be a joint community, business and council project.

Transport

Transport has the biggest impact on our energy requirements. With most energy sources being non renewable, we think the largest effort needs to be expended on this area. A secure energy future will mean having to make very different transport choices. The era of the single car driver must come to an end.

- Council budgets need to be closely examined. Can money be diverted from new road projects to improve transport choices?
- Council should purchase/develop an electric car fleet that can be hired out to the general public. This might encourage households to have one car. Cars could be located at service centres and be booked out when needed.
- Council should invest in better walking and cycling networks.
- Bikes must be able to travel on buses.
- Bus networks must be constantly improved. Service frequency must continue to improve and bus priority needs to be on all major routes.
- Light rail should be supported.

Building Sector

- Consents for both commercial and private residences that are deemed energy efficient should be fast tracked
- No incentives are listed for the retro fitting of existing buildings. As the majority of homes and businesses already exist this is something that needs addressing.
- Building by-laws should be developed that enforce energy efficiency methods, for instance better standards of insulation, double glazing, passive solar design etc.
- Bylaws should also enforce central boiler heating systems for apartment and business tower blocks. Central heating fuelled by wood waste would be an energy efficient way to heat these large spaces.
- Consent relief should be granted for solar hot water systems.
- Energy ratings of all properties should be included on LIM reports.
- Ultra efficient wood burners should be encouraged. Legislation should focus on smoke polluters.

Other

- The Lyttelton community is willing to be a pilot for any energy initiatives that the council would like to trial in a community.
- The City could look at brokering deals with power companies where they buy power from private (household) generators at a rate which gives an incentive to install systems.
- Lyttelton would like to have a demonstration energy efficient building. The current community centre would be a perfect place for this project. The building is in need of upgrade now.

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