



Rotorua District Council Fact Sheet for Sustainability in Action function 19 May 2010

Background

Rotorua District Council is a territorial authority with responsibility for essential community services within the Rotorua district, such as road maintenance, land-use and subdivisions, community health, and community services (eg. libraries, swimming pools and recreation areas). As well as providing essential services RDC is required through legislation to identify and address issues important to the community. These issues are identified through a consultative process and can range from well being of residents to alternative energy. One of the issues identified by the Rotorua community is the need to respect the environment. In the spirit of this expectation Rotorua District Council decided to start looking at how sustainability can be promoted within the organization as the first step to initiating major sustainability drives within the community. Following is a small sample of sustainability actions initiated within the Rotorua District Council corporate body.

Examples of Sustainable Actions

- ▶ Sustainability Policy adopted by Council in December 2008 to promote sustainable development as core to all RDC activities
- ▶ Staff with an enthusiasm for sustainability identified and meet regularly to consider sustainability issues
- ▶ Appoint an Energy Manager focusing on reducing RDC energy use
- ▶ Undertake energy audits at key RDC locations (eg. Airport and Aquatic Centre) with immediate positive impact on Council energy costs
- ▶ Electricity hedging and gas supply tendered
- ▶ Castlecorp (contracting business unit) - 'green office' zero waste initiative - annual waste and energy audits - recycling depot, worm farm & organic waste bins - recycling green waste – adopt a 'full circle' approach
- ▶ Aquatic Centre - energy audit with 98% of recommendations implemented - greater use of geothermally heated water - all operational materials that can be are recycled - water conservation initiatives - sustainability accreditation through Qualmark
- ▶ Workplace travel planning - information on getting to work incorporated in staff induction packs and on intranet, including cycling and walking maps - promotion of cycling and walking through events - 'Walk to Work Day', 'Bike Business Battle', 'Walktober' - cycling skills workshops - new shower block and lockers for staff - secure bike storage facilities & staff pool bikes - car pooling promotion

Further Information

For further information on sustainable actions taken at Rotorua District Council contact:

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