

A woman with dark hair, wearing a red polo shirt and dark shorts, is kneeling on a paved surface. She is focused on adjusting the spokes of a large, knobby-tired bicycle wheel. The bicycle frame is blue. The background shows a grassy area and trees under a clear sky. A semi-transparent green banner is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the title and subtitle. A green circle on the right side contains the date.

# Sustainable Practices

Palmerston North

SMALL CITY BENEFITS, BIG CITY AMBITION

2018/21

Te Kaunihera o Papaioea  
Palmerston North City Council





To fulfil the vision of small city benefits, big city ambition the Council has adopted five goals. The Eco City Strategy was developed to achieve **Goal 4: An eco city**, and this plan shows how the Council will contribute to achieving this goal.

For the city to become more sustainable, residents need to adopt more sustainable practices. However, Council recognises that, on its own, an 'information intensive' programme (involving flyers, billboards, advertisements, or workshops) does not produce significant changes in behaviour. Instead, Council must systematically identify and reduce the barriers to change, while also considering raising the barriers to undesirable behaviour.

One example of this approach having been successful is zero waste events. Council worked with the organiser of the Street Feast to make the recycling/composting bins prominent and easily identifiable in the event space. At the same time, it reduced the number of landfill bins available, and used consistent packaging to make it easy for patrons to place all of their compostable plates and other waste in the correct bins. The usually-high cross-contamination

rates were reduced, and opportunities opened up to productively use waste that would previously be sent to landfill.

Other ways Council helps encourage sustainable practices are through direct education. Council works with Horizons Regional Council to deliver the EnviroSchools programme in schools and early childhood centres, to reduce waste and energy use, and to engage with biodiversity. Council also supports the EcoDesign Advisor (EDA) programme, in which an experienced Council officer delivers advice to residents about how they can make their homes warmer and drier while also reducing their power bills and environmental footprint.



**The purpose of the Sustainable Practices Plan is to educate the community, and in particular property owners, on the benefits of investing in sustainable building design and green buildings and demonstrate leadership and best practice by developing and implementing an environmental sustainability plan for the Council, Council run events and facilities (Priorities 6 and 7, Eco City Strategy).**

The Council will foster sustainable practices and behaviours in order to help:

- Deliver services at lower cost with greater resource use efficiency; Minimise Council, household and event energy and resource use as well as waste generation; Create warm, dry, energy efficient homes and business environments; Drive greater use of active transport and electric vehicles; Increase public understanding of, and engagement with, environmental issues.



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## Where we are now



- Many Council services are provided with minimal consideration of opportunities to reduce energy and labour inputs and waste generation.
- Only a small proportion of Council's procurement Capital New, Renewal and operations include a formal assessment of life cycle energy, labour and waste impacts.
- Much of Council's involvement in the sustainability area takes a highly 'information intensive' approach, which largely fails to effectively change behaviours.
- Recent 'behaviour change' initiatives in the waste minimisation area, have demonstrated that engagement with different parts of Council, the community and strategic partners can change the nature and volume of waste created e.g. at public events.
- Eco Design Advisor service is well subscribed to and rated highly positively by users.
- Requests from schools for assistance with stream investigations and tours of Materials Recovery Facility, Waste Water Treatment Plant and other Council facilities going unmet.
- Council funds Horizons Regional Council to implement the 'Enviroschools' programme, encouraging sustainability at participating schools and early childhood centres.

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## Where we want to be



- Council processes include formal consideration of sustainability during procurement and contracting for services to deliver similar or improved services using fewer resources and at lower cost.
  - Council's promotion activities incorporate a modern approach to fostering sustainable behaviour, including an appreciation of the various barriers to desired behaviours.
  - Eco Design Advisor service continues to be well-utilised.
  - A modal shift from single occupancy vehicles to greater levels of walking, cycling, public transport, car pooling and electric vehicles.
  - Council-modelled low resource use practices become widely known and adopted by key partners and stakeholders in the community and commercial sector. Public events target reduced waste volumes and zero waste to landfill with high rates of composting and recycling for all residual material.
  - Council staff adopt low resource use and waste generation practices for all activities and make greater use of IT solutions as well as recycling and composting for any residual waste delivering lower operating costs.
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## How we're going to get there

### Day to day / ongoing actions to achieve the purpose

- Provide free independent advice to residents about how to make their homes more sustainable through the 'Eco Design Advisor' service.
- Foster waste reduction and more sustainable waste management behaviours across the city including requiring all events on Council land and/or funded by Council to use 100% recyclable or compostable materials.
- Support community groups to foster sustainable practices through fee for service arrangements.
- Support for the 'Enviroschools' programme.
- Facilitate provision of electric vehicle charging stations in convenient locations in the City Centre.
- Invest in migrating existing manual Council systems and processes to on-line and digital platforms to achieve simpler, easier and lower cost outcomes for all customers.

### New ongoing actions to achieve the purpose

- Work actively with community and business partners to change existing practices to deliver more sustainable outcomes which reduce resource use and waste on an on-going basis.
- Support Horizons Regional Council to engage with schools and community organisations (e.g. scout groups) to host tours, urban stream science fieldtrips and tertiary expos.
- Extend scope of behaviour change programme to foster sustainable practices within the three waters and waste areas.
- Support the Active Transport plan through an education, awareness and promotion programme. To include: bikes in schools programme, developing school and workplace travel management plans, and encouraging a modal shift towards active transport.

### Specific programmes to achieve the purpose (with timeframe)

- Review Council's fleet, and develop a management plan for rationalizing the fleet and/or incorporating electric vehicles where appropriate (by end of 2017/2018).
- Review and implement the Council workplace travel management plan, encouraging more staff to carpool and use active transport to commute to work (by end of 2018/2019).
- Develop specific procurement guidance documents detailing more sustainable procurement options for operational areas. For example, ensuring all options to minimize and reduce resource use are explored leading to minimal levels of waste which can be recycled or composted (by end of 2017/2018).
- Investigate the development of a 'sustainable practices' programme encouraging water conservation (by 2018).
- Develop a set of lighting, insulation, heating and water use standards to be used in all Council facility upgrades and new builds (by end of 2018/2019).
- Provide Council's efficiency standards to the wider public, supplemented by Council case studies demonstrating the energy savings of such measures (by end of 2019/2020).
- Develop a road map to achieving a low carbon city (by end of 2020/2021).



## Actions contributing to Council's strategic themes

### a) Smart city practices

- Encourage uptake of zero emission vehicles and bikes.
- Provide on-line feedback to communities on progress in achieving sustainable goals.
- Provide on-line virtual tours of Council facilities and activities instead of high risk and high cost physical tours.

### b) Sustainable practices

- Help foster more sustainable behaviours and practices will help Council achieve its other sustainability goals, such as the reduction of energy, waste and carbon emissions.
- Support the Active Transport and Public Transport Plan through an education, awareness and promotion programme. To include: bikes in schools programme, developing school and workplace travel management plans, and encouraging a modal shift towards active transport.

### c) Iwi partnerships

- Mātauranga Māori (Māori indigenous knowledge) is an important component of sustainable practices in Aotearoa New Zealand. To foster this knowledge base and its development in a contemporary context the Council actively engages with Rangitāne o Manawatū and seeks to identify and pursue common environmental aspirations.
- The Council supports Rangitāne o Manawatū retention and expression of mātauranga Māori through iwi led wānanga on taiao toitū (environmental sustainability).
- The Council ensures its capability and capacity to engage with Māori through ongoing professional training and support of key staff including the significance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Te Reo and tikanga Māori, and insights into Te Ao Māori – Māori world views.
- Work with 'Enviroschools' programme to encourage the establishment and expansion of the te reo and tikanga Māori version of the programme in the city and region.

### d) Strategic partnerships

- Work with Horizons to grow the Enviroschools programme.
- Work with Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority (EECA) to implement energy efficiency programmes.
- Work with New Zealand Transport Authority to design and implement active transport programme.
- Assist businesses and other public institutions to reduce waste and energy use and improve sustainability.
- Work with Bikes in Schools Programme partners to encourage growth in cycling.



### Measures of success

- Measurement of this plan is captured under Energy, Waste, Active Transport and Three Waters Plans.

### Related policies



- Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw
- Waste Management and Minimisation Plan
- Water Supply Bylaw
- Trade Waste Bylaw
- Stormwater Drainage Bylaw
- Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy

### Long-term Plan levels of service

Council fosters sustainable practices and behaviours so that city residents and organisations become more sustainable.

### Long-term Plan KPIs

Number and description of sustainable practices campaigns (Narrative measure).  
Number of Eco Design home consultations (Narrative measure).



**Palmerston North City Council**

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