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| Report No:   | REP12-05-03 |
| File No:   | E390        |
| Date:  | 7 May 2012  |
| <b><i>Information Only -no decision required</i></b> |             |

## REPORT SUMMARY

**Report to:** Environment & Planning Committee  
**Meeting Date:** Thursday, 17 May 2012  
**Report Author** Rob Francis, Environmental Education Officer  
**Subject:** **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION REPORT**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers a number of general matters concerning the activities of the Environmental Education team as well as an overview of the current status of work being undertaken. Also attached is a Status Report as prepared by the Sustainable Business Advisory service.

### RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report be received.

### DRAFT RESOLUTION

**THAT the Environment & Planning Committee receives the Environmental Education Report, Report No. REP12-05-03**

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**Subject:** **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION REPORT**

## **1. The Environmental Education Team**

1.1 The aim of the Environmental Education Team is to provide effective and timely environmental education and support to Council, to Council staff, to schools, and in the Community.

## **2. Tasman Nelson Environment Awards Review**

2.1 The Tasman Nelson Environment Awards have been run as a joint activity between Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council since 2009. The objective of the Environment Awards to date has been to celebrate excellence and success in sustainability across the region, ultimately increasing the visibility of these behaviours and working towards establishing them as a norm.

2.2 This project is:

- reviewing the Awards in their existing format
- measuring them against the above objective
- exploring what influences 'real' behaviour change
- finding out about how other councils celebrate environmental projects
- providing recommendations on the best way forward to achieve this objective in the future.

2.3 This month responses to an online questionnaire are being analysed, as well a Focus Group and one-on-one interviews are being held.

2.4 Latest thinking is that the best chance to change behaviour in a positive way is when people "do it for themselves (i.e. not through coercion or better infrastructure). Voluntary behaviour change uses the approach of 'helping people to help themselves' - encouraging their own ideas for change.

### **3. Ecofest Golden Bay**

- 3.1 A mini-Ecofest Expo was held in Takaka on Saturday, 12 May. This was a small, Golden Bay targeted event that was planned to be self-supporting. The “by-line” for this event was “Sustaining our Community”.
- 3.2 The event has gained good “buy-in” from the Golden Bay community. Events will be held before and after, and on the day of the mini-ecofest, including:
- Eco-building and eco-business seminars
  - A bunch of “how-to” sessions
  - Expo of eco products and services
  - Seminars featuring Federated Farmers and various eco panels
  - Alternative power workshop, composting and other garden demos
  - Schools display
  - Council stands covering the floods, pests, environmental projects, waste, biodiversity
  - Joint display with Nelson City around areas of collaboration
  - Eco-home tour
  - Teddy bear eco picnic with the Sandcastle at Pohara
  - Recycling competition for kids
- 3.3 A verbal Report will be given at the meeting on how the even went.
- 3.4 Planning is well underway for the main Ecofest Expo, to be staged in August. The theme is about active transport, “getting there is half the fun”.

### **4. Enviroschools**

- 4.1 The Enviroschools Programme offers a framework to:
- Link environmental education projects together
  - Have an environmental vision for the school
  - Support the schools in planning and activating projects
  - Assist the integration of environmental projects into the organisation and operation of the school
- 4.2 Over the last period many Tasman schools have been supported including
- “Me in My Environment” planning session to assist Henley Kindergarten towards its environmental vision.
  - Next steps session with Richmond First Years and organised the next two Enviroschools Early Years (ESEY) cluster meetings that will be held in Richmond and Golden Bay in Term 2.
  - Envirogroups: Support for parent helpers at both Dovedale and Mahana Schools to restart their student Envirogroups.

- Beyond Green-Gold Schools: support to both Salisbury and Ngatimoti School planning for major projects and applications for funding. Salisbury for increased bush cover and Ngatimoti to enhance and protect the stream the students have been monitoring for the last five or more years.
- 4.3 National support: Completing 2012 school *draft* survey on achievement levels in theme areas (zero waste, edible gardens, biodiversity enhancement, use of energy, ecological buildings, clean air, waterways and water conservation) for the national EnviroSchool's office, so documentation can report regional areas of strengths and next step focus.
- 4.4 Golden Bay Kindergarten has achieved an EnviroSchools Bronze Award.

## **5. Schools**

- 5.1 There are other schools in the District with keen teachers doing environmental work but their schools are not ready for the EnviroSchools Programme. We continue to support these teachers with resources, advice and promotion of good practice.
- 5.2 A "sustainability support and share network" meeting was held for Moutere and Motueka teachers. We visited the Rudolf Steiner School in Motueka to provide teacher support and follow up sessions.
- 5.3 A "Promoting Inanga Spawning" site workshop was organised by Trevor James and follow up sessions have been held at Tasman and Golden Bay schools.
- 5.4 We have worked with a student environmental group to apply for Kids Restore Funding for native corridor project at St Pauls School Richmond. The plan is to create a native corridor with 1,000 plants to join up with Salisbury School's patch of lowland bush. We met with the new Kura Kaupapa School, Tuia Te Matangi, to discuss environmental education support and the option of a shared wetland area (with Salisbury School)
- 5.5 The new EcoBuzz for Term 2 is now available to all schools in the region, as well as environmental educators. This is seen as a valuable resource by teachers in Tasman.
- 5.6 Other work has included:
- Working with Waimea Intermediate Wastebusters' students group to arrange a school tour of the Resource Recovery Centre.
  - Creating resources for Kindergarten worm farm presentations and a trial at Bounce in Mapua.
  - Planning waste audits with Waverley Street Kindergarten and Salisbury School in Term 2.
  - Tamariki Wai in Golden Bay - four schools have adopted streams to clean up and rehabilitate; Collingwood Area School had adopted a farm stream.

- Takaka Primary - has adopted the Rototai Reserve (Parks and Reserves) and a stream on Fonterra land.
- Working with educators from Tiakina Te Taiao and the District Health Board on exploring and monitoring estuary sites with a view to more student engagement.
- Running a pilot workshop with secondary students in Golden Bay about the Long Term Plan, and how they can be involved in the process.

## **6. Recent Collaboration with Council Departments**

6.1 The Environmental Education team attempts to actively collaborate with other parts of Council to deliver quality outcomes and 'good bang for buck' in the community.

6.2 Recent collaborations include with:

- Community Services - gardening advice, resources and support at the Positive Aging Expo.
- Engineering - providing waste education in schools, community gardening and composting workshops and demos, and discussion around possible wetland at Salisbury School.
- Environment and Planning - supporting inanga spawning workshops, and working to improve air quality through the Good Wood scheme.
- Strategic Development - LTP workshop with secondary students.
- Civil Defence - displays and dissemination at Ecofest Golden Bay.
- At Ecofest Golden Bay there will be Council personnel, displays and information about: riparian planting, flood recovery, eco-building, biosecurity/pests, biodiversity, biking skills and walking tracks
- Also featured is a "Council Lounge" enabling the public to talk with their representatives (Council and Community Board) in a relaxed and informal setting
- Customer Service - providing displays, keeping them updated on Environmental Education activities

6.3 The Environmental Education team is available to provide best practice advice to other Council staff and the community about the best ways of explaining issues and working with the community.

## **7. Community Vegetable Gardens**

- 7.1 A successful meeting of people involved with community gardens across Te Tau Ihu o Te Waka a Maui (top-of-the-south) occurred in April. The aim was to share ideas about how these initiatives can be more sustainable, and contribute to community resilience. Nelson City Council and Marlborough District Council were also taking part. Funding for this Hui was provided by the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board.
- 7.2 Over 30 people from community gardens across the top-of-the-south attended and explored opportunities to network and talk about gardens, share ideas for future development and brainstorm what the role of community gardens should be for the region in the future, as well as opportunities to combine resources and funding.
- 7.3 As well as supporting community resilience, the gardens provide vegetable growing skills in the community, and support our objectives of minimising green waste and food scraps going to landfill.
- 7.4 Outcomes include better communication and sharing of ideas and resources; feasibility of a linked “umbrella” organisation to support gardens; and exploring the option of further hui linked to gardening events e.g. Growables, Ecofest.
- 7.5 This year, we are again organising composting and other garden workshops in Golden Bay, Motueka and other parts of Tasman, as well as assisting two community gardens to establish in Motueka. Some of this will be funded by the District Health Board, as well by waste minimisation funds sourced by the Engineering Department.

## **8. Good Wood**

- 8.1 The Good Wood scheme is about improving air quality, particularly in Richmond. At present there are 10 Good Wood firewood merchants in Tasman and Nelson.
- 8.2 Most firewood merchants have reported good firewood sales so far this year. There is a definite trend for people in Tasman and Nelson to buy their firewood earlier. This means that firewood burned in winter is more likely to be seasoned (dry) and cause less air pollution.
- 8.3 Over the next month we will be visiting the firewood merchants to monitor that they are meeting the conditions of their voluntary agreement. Council staff are now distributing information about the Good Wood scheme and information about best practice in “fire management” with all fireplace consents.

## 9. Sustainable Business Advisor and Tasman District Council Energy Assessment

- 9.1 Funding for the role of Sustainable Business Advisor (David Francis) will run out at the end of June. Jointly with the Economic Development Agency, Nelson City Council and the Nelson Environment Centre, we are exploring options in order to maintain this service.
- 9.2 The service has provided a real boost to sustainability in the region, especially giving local business a real 'edge' in their performance. As well, the service has provided leadership in exploring a number of regional energy and efficiency issues.
- 9.3 Please find attached a Summary Report as prepared by the Sustainable Business Advisor, David Francis. He will be in attendance at the meeting, and can answer any questions in relation to the Report.
- 9.2 Using available data combined with site visits David has assessed ten Council assets to identify energy and cost savings. A brief outline is included in the Report. More detailed information is being shared with Jim Frater, Council's Property Manager.

## 10. Focus until next Environment & Planning Meeting

12.1 Over the next six weeks, staff will be focusing on:

- Ecofest Golden Bay
- Tasman Nelson Environment Awards Review
- EnviroSchools, Good Wood merchant visits
- Ecofest Expo
- Community gardening
- The Environmental Education Strategy.

## 11. Recommendation

That the report Environment Education Report REP12-05-03 be received.

## 12. DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Environment & Planning Committee receives the Environmental Education Report, Report No. REP12-05-03.



Rob Francis  
**Environmental Education Officer**  
**Appendices:**

*Appendix 1 Nelson Tasman EDA Sustainable Business Advisory Service - Status Report to 30 April 2012.*

**Nelson Tasman EDA Sustainable Business Advisory Service:**

**Status Report to 30 April 2012**

**Business Assessment Project Stream**

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|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <2 hr Nelson Tasman business clients:            | 215 |
| < 2hr Nelson Tasman business assessment visits:  | 271 |
| 20+ hr Nelson Tasman business clients:           | 37  |
| 20+ hr Nelson Tasman business assessment visits: | 108 |

Assessments generally focus on resource use (energy, water, waste water, solid waste etc), and recommend sound technical and financial solutions to reduce such use.

While recommendations are specific to each business, generally speaking energy can be reduced by about 10 -20%.

Example cases:

| Client                   | Project                                     | Outcome  |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Richmond Mall            | Installation of Ecobright Energy Controller | 30% reduction in affected lighting energy      |
| Mapua School             | T5 Lighting Upgrade                         | 50 % reduction in lighting energy              |
| Mapua 4 Square           | T5 Lighting Upgrade                         | 50 5 reduction in affected lighting energy use |
| Richmond House of Travel | Dicroic lighting reduction                  | 60% reduction in lighting energy               |
| Ambrosia Café            | Energy bill monitoring                      | \$1300 over charge identified and refunded     |
| Whitwells                | Lighting Renewal                            | 30 % reduction in energy use                   |
| Wholemeal Café           | Lighting Upgrade                            | 80 % reduction in lighting energy              |
| Ambrosia Café            | CFL lighting upgrade                        | 70 % reduction in lighting energy              |

**TDC Facilities Assessed To Date**

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TDC service centres and some TDC-related facilities have been assessed as part of the normal SBA business assessment role to date. Detailed assessment reports for each facility with energy saving recommendations have been provided to the property manager for appropriate action.



## **Project Development Streams**

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The attached spreadsheet details the status and progress. The following notes summarise the project aims, current status, and future actions.

### **Project #1: Boiler Biofuel Development**

**Project Aim:** To identify a reliable and certified supplier of boiler liquid fuels derived from bio materials. To assist with the implementation of this fuel throughout the Nelson Tasman region.

**Current Status:** Only one company (Bio-Diesel NZ Ltd) is currently developing this drop in fuel option. Their fuel continues to be in the testing stage and is not ready for commercial implementation. Future progress with the project depends on final development of the fuel which in turn depends on the maintenance of the bio-diesel subsidy which is currently up for review. SBA has been actively lobbying all local MP's both in person and by email to maintain subsidy in some form.

**Future Actions:** Continued lobby action to the end of the SBA contract at end of July 2012. No further actions after that point.

### **Project#2: ICE Bio-fuel regional Supply**

**Project Aim:** To identify a reliable and certified supplier of boiler liquid fuels derived from bio materials. To assist with the implementation of this fuel throughout the Nelson Tasman region.

**Current Status:** The SBA has been working with Bio-Diesel NZ Ltd to set up a regional supply hub for bio-diesel in Nelson. All the necessary commercial work and regulatory work has been completed and the hub was publically announced by Bio-Diesel as a completed project but has been put on hold pending the review of the Bio-Diesel subsidy in June. SBA has been actively lobbying all local MP's both in person and by email to maintain subsidy in some form.

**Future Actions:** Continued lobby action to the end of the SBA contract at end of July 2012. No further actions after that point.

### **Project #3: Photovoltaic Distributed Generation Implementation**

**Project Aim:** The understand the technical, regulatory and commercial challenges facing PV distributed generation, and to work with suppliers and consumer's to implement it's large scale implementation.

**Current Status:** Several large scale commercial projects are in the process of evaluation currently. In addition, a regional workshop is scheduled for late July which will attempt to build a regional approach to PV implementation.

**Future Actions:** Continued preparation for the regional Meridian sponsored workshop up until the end of the SBA contract in July. No further action beyond this point.

**Project #4: Solarwall Introduction**

**Project Aim:** To facilitate the introduction of Solarwall technology into New Zealand and the region.

**Current Status:** The first Solarwall project proposal is currently being prepared by commercial partners for a high profile customer in the region. The proposal is due for presentation in a few days.

**Future Actions:** Assist with preparation of an EECA grant application to assist with the success of the project.

**Project #5: Forest Waste Reuse**

**Project Aim:** To encourage and enable the use of forest waste in the region as a fuel source.

**Current Status:** The new financing mechanism created to assist with the installation of wood boilers is being used to develop a proposal for a wood boiler in the Tasman region. Others may follow.

**Future Actions:** This project is now in commercial hands. No further actions are anticipated prior the SBA contract termination.

**Project #6: Biomass Liquid Fuels Project**

**Project Aim:** To assist Aquaflo in any way possible to advance the CRI / IH2 biomass liquid fuels project they are working on.

**Current Status:** Detailed Feasibility study funding is now mostly in place and the feasibility study is under way. SBA assisting where possible in terms of organizing meetings and coordinating EDA support for the project. SBA also organizing additional meetings with confidential parties.

**Future Actions:** Finalise meeting with a key NZ petrochemical party to discuss interaction of Aquaflo project with existing commercial parties. No further action prior to SBA contract end.

**Project #7: Biogas Cluster and Workshop**

**Project Aims:** To bring together parties that have communal interest in a regional biogas plant and hold workshop to investigate opportunities for cooperation.

**Current Status:** Workshop funding applied for and key speakers engaged.

**Future Actions:** SBA has declined to continue with this project stream due to the lack of time to get it organized prior to the termination of the SBA role, and inability to follow up the outcomes.

**Non-Core Sustainability Support Work**

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- Sustainability forum member and co-organizer
- NCC Vision workshop participant
- Member of the PNECC committee
- Member of the NMIT sustainability committee
- TDC / NCC Environment Awards Judge – Business category and leaders category.
- Guide/Host and co-organizer for Ecofest business tour
- Supported and attended TDC rural fires workshop
- Presented at Hybrid Homes sustainability seminar
- Assisted NCC with sustainability wording in purchasing contracts
- Did promo work on sustainability on Mainland TV
- Did promo work for sustainability feature in Nelson Mail
- Attended BANZ Councils biofuels conference in Wellington
- Attended EECA energy workshop in Nelson
- Mentored NGC students in sustainability course
- Assisted K Walshe at MDC to up-skill for sustainability trial
- Worked with NEC on schools assessment work programme
- Advised Palmerston North City Council on set up of SBA service
- Designed and negotiated schools sustainability funding programme with Mercury Energy
- Did energy security presentation to Network Tasman
- Attended NCC/TDC behaviour change seminar and invited business representative
- Working with Cawthron to scope and develop energy security strategy and study
- Mentored students in Lion Foundation Young Enterprise Scheme E-Day



David Francis  
Sustainable Business Advisor  
Nelson regional EDA