

Benefits for member councils of joining the EnergyWise Councils Partnership

The EnergyWise Councils Partnership

- is a cooperative activity between regional councils and territorial local authorities in your area
- co-operate with Central government – links with MFE, MOT and EECA
- tangible proof of your council's leadership role with your community - improved energy efficiency, energy conservation and enhanced renewable energy supply and use, consistent with sustainable management of natural and physical resources, acknowledged as core goals and activities of Wellington Regional Council.

The partners will work towards achievement of these goals and activities via commitment to specific actions and cooperative endeavours.

The Partnership will clearly acknowledge the importance of a holistic approach to sustainable management of energy, air quality, water and waste in our cities, towns and countryside. The partnership will recognise that implementation of sustainable management is a long term goal, but that the case for practical energy efficiency and appropriate renewable energy sources initiatives is compelling on the basis of cost-effectiveness and other grounds and consequently such initiatives should be implemented as soon as possible.

The Councils Partnership is important because energy use pervades most aspects of Councils' activities in their provision of community services and by their environmental planning and management. Councils are in a position to promote improved energy efficiency, energy conservation and the greater supply and use of appropriate renewable energy sources throughout their communities.

Implementation of the Partnership will assist Councils in their efforts to achieve the objectives of national and international legislation and agreements such as the Resource Management Act, Agenda 21, the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives.

This Agreement of the partnership involves central Government, through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA), and a group of several City, District and Regional Councils, committing themselves to develop, trial and refine the following partnership principles:

Each EnergyWise Council agrees to:

- Implement the EnergyWise Companies Campaign's Charter of Key Principles in their own internal energy management systems.
- Include energy efficiency objectives and performance measures in their Annual Plans.
- Ensure that improved energy efficiency and enhanced, appropriate renewable energy supply and use are explicitly considered in Council policy development and planning activities, particularly as part of decision making processes relating to:
 - Transport
 - Water supply



- Waste management
- The development of an urban form which contributes significantly to energy conservation, energy efficiency and sustainability.
- Establish or confirm criteria for project evaluation, such that energy efficiency, energy conservation and appropriate renewable energy projects are assessed on equal terms with other projects in a way which considers the financial, environmental and social costs and benefits from improved energy efficiency and the greater use of appropriate renewable energy.
- Identify mechanisms to address energy efficiency and renewable energy issues in their wider communities.
- Prepare and exchange reports between member Councils on their own case studies of energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives.
- Prepare and exchange reports on benchmark energy performance data and progress made to improve energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives.
- Share their experience with other Councils and support EECA in the facilitation of the Partnership to improve energy efficiency and renewable energy in the local government sector.

EECA agrees to support Councils, by facilitating information transfer, providing technical information and support, and will:

- Provide secretarial, coordination and facilitation support
- Publish case studies and guidelines developed in association with Councils
- Provide Councils with information on energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy for inclusion in community information and education initiatives
- Provide Councils with information on the environmental benefits of energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy
- Publish a partnership newsletter and establish an Internet home page
- Provide technical information and advice to Councils
- Coordinate inputs from experts outside the partnership
- Conduct seminars to facilitate information transfer.