

SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMME - SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1.0 OBJECTIVES

For the Whakatane District Council, “sustainability” is about incorporating how the people, environment and economy are shaped by the decisions and actions of the Council. Sustainability is about making the community outcomes of the District “real” and using them to guide the way we do business.

There are four key aspects of the Council's role in promoting sustainability.

A sustainable organisation – leading by example and being an innovator to reduce our ecological footprint.

Sustainability through service provision – ensuring the services that the Council provides are delivered in a sustainable manner

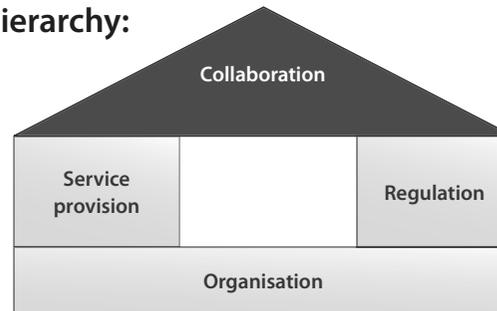
Sustainability through collaboration – working with others to encourage, facilitate and improve sustainability throughout the district.

Sustainability through regulation – Using the Council's regulatory functions and its responsibility to the community to ensure sustainable development.

A sustainable organisation is the first step the Council will take to work towards a sustainable district. This will ensure the Council can implement sustainable initiatives, where it has most influence. Working towards a sustainable organisation will also put the Council in a position to lead by example and demonstrate the advantages of taking a sustainable approach, including cost savings.

The other key aspects that the Council will work towards will act as pillars to build on the achievements already made by the Council and multiply the benefits across the District.

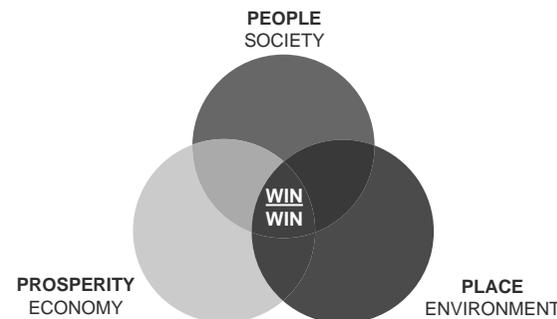
Hierarchy:



2.0 WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?

Sustainability is all about considering the impact of any action (or inaction).

This means understanding that everything we do will have consequences. Each consequence will have either a positive or negative impact on one of the four well-beings. Ultimately we aim to achieve outcomes that have the most positive benefits, without having a negative impact. This creates a win/win scenario and ensures that the action could be continued indefinitely without an adverse side effect.



An example for Whakatane:

By improving and sustaining the environment in which we live (place), there will be an improvement in the quality of life for the community (people). This will make Whakatane a more desirable place to live. By attracting people and therefore businesses to the area, this will help improve the economy of the district (prosperity).

3.0 PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE - WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE WHAKATANE DISTRICT COUNCIL?

The Council will continue to show a commitment to ensuring sustainable development and consideration of the four wellbeings through the following systems:

Council vision

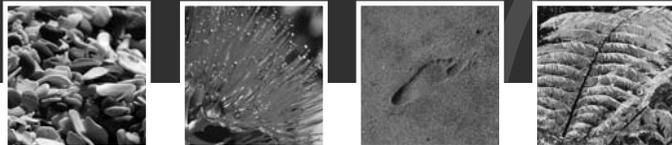
The Council has embraced a vision that represents to the community a commitment to promote the environment, culture, society and economy of the Whakatane District both for the community today and for future generations.

Purpose

An element of the Council's stated purpose is to provide a framework for sustainable development through long-term planning and strategies. The Council has incorporated an integrated sustainable approach throughout the LTCCP to ensure long-term sustainable development.

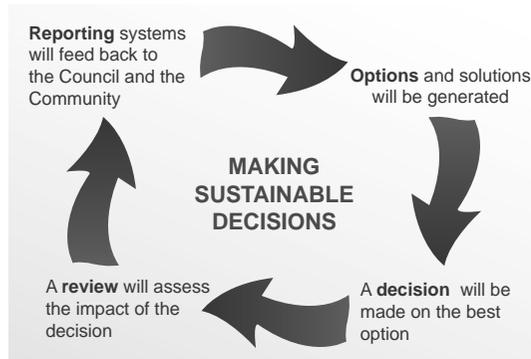
Decision making

The Council is committed to integrating a sustainable development approach to core decision making. This means that all decisions made by the Council will be



considered for their benefits to the community as a whole and for the future benefits of any decision.

This means that every decision made by the Council will be considered through the following process:



Community outcomes

Community outcomes are a desired state or ideal that the community identifies and believes is important for its present and future wellbeing. They are a mechanism through which sustainable development will be achieved. The Council is committed to progress towards its agreed community outcomes, therefore promoting community wellbeing and sustainable development.



Activities that the Council undertakes on behalf of the community all contribute towards the enhancement of the District's community outcomes. Links are made through the Council's LTCCP to represent where these contributions are made.

Asset management plans

The Council has developed thorough plans to help manage the assets owned and utilised by the Council on behalf of the community. This process ensures that all assets are managed in a way that will provide the most benefit to the community both now and in the future. Each Asset Management Plan includes a specific chapter highlighting where an activity may have a negative impact on the four wellbeings and what sustainable development approach will be implemented to address and mitigate the negative impact. Each project proposed for the coming 10 years, has been considered for its sustainable approach.

Long-term Council Community Plan

The Council has incorporated the principles of sustainability throughout the development of the LTCCP. The LTCCP outlines the proposed projects and activities for the Council over the following 10 years. For each activity the Council undertakes, there has been a review of the community outcomes to which the activity relates, and consideration for any potential impacts of that activity on the four well-beings. Using the "making sustainable decisions" model above, the Council has considered the potential options for ensuring sustainable solutions are undertaken.

Development and implementation of a sustainability strategy

During the term of the 2009-19 LTCCP the Council will develop and implement a sustainability strategy and associated action plans. The intention is to take

a considered approach to ensuring that principles and objectives of sustainability are integrated into all aspects of the Council's business. The programme has been split into three main phases and spread over a three year period, both to recognise the level of resource that is available to undertake this work, as well as to feed into the development of the next LTCCP. The roadmap below sets out the timing and structure of this programme.

Strategy

In 2009/10 the Council will develop and adopt a sustainability strategy. Its purpose will be to fully and clearly articulate the Council's intended activities and outcomes within this programme. It will undertake overarching cost/benefit analysis of the proposed programme.

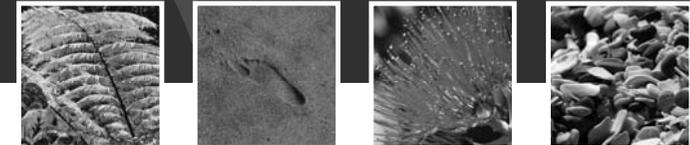
Action plans

In 2009/10 the Council will develop and adopt action plans for each of the four aspects of its role in promoting sustainability:

- A sustainable organisation
- Sustainability through service provision
- Sustainability through collaboration
- Sustainability through regulation

The action plans will set out in detail how the Council will achieve its objectives within each aspect of the sustainability roles. They will develop the connection between the sustainability programme and other Council programmes and activities. They will set out a programme of implementation initiatives, along with further cost/benefit analysis.

The first stage will involve an action plan for a sustainable organisation and will facilitate quick actions and a strong direction for the organisation. A focus for this plan will be Council accreditation with a highly



regarded accreditation scheme. The second stage will be to develop the other three action plans, incorporating the direction provided through the sustainability strategy.

Initiatives

In 2010/11, as the Council moves into the development of the next LTCCP, specific initiatives under this programme will be project planned, budgeted and adopted. This will feed directly into the review of the asset management plans and subsequently the development of and consultation on the 2012-22 LTCCP.

