



Report 03.493
Date 22 August 2003
File ENV/15/01/01

Committee Environment Committee
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Environmental Education Annual Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of progress in implementing environmental education programmes during the 2002-03 financial year.

2. Background

This is the third annual report on progress in implementing the Council's environmental education initiatives. The report records progress towards achieving Annual Plan performance indicators for the *Take Action*, *Take Charge*, and *Take Care* programmes, and summarises other activities of the Environment Co-ordination Department. The report complements my six weekly Manager's reports.

3. The Year in Summary

As the attached report shows, in the third year of the environmental education programmes a considerable amount has been achieved. Key outcomes achieved this year are:

- 28 community groups are helping to restore stream, wetland, dune and coastal areas through *Take Care*.
- Care groups planted 80,000 plants, at 48 major planting events.
- 39 classes and 1150 students have undertaken *Take Action for Water*. Eleven schools have completed the guided version of the programme and another 5 have been assisted to do *Take Action* self-guided.
- The second *Take Action* programme has been scoped, work is underway on additional resources for teachers to make the action projects more effective, and the programme can now be undertaken in te reo maori.

- The *Take Charge* pollution control programme has been applied to 60 service stations across the Region and has been greeted enthusiastically by the major oil companies.

4. Appreciation

I would like to thank all of the staff involved in the programmes described in this report for their extremely hard work throughout the year and commitment to the cause. This work has often been done in the weekends and at night, in good weather and bad.

5. Communication

As this report provides a summary of actions achieved through the year, rather than any new initiative, it is not necessary at this stage to undertake any communications.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee accepts the report as evidence of the Council's implementation of its environmental education programmes for 2002-03.

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