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Committee Environment Committee
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***Take Action* annual report 2006/07**

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of the activities and achievements of schools involved in the *Take Action* programme during the 2006-07 year.

2. Background

Take Action, Greater Wellington's environmental education programme for 8-12 year olds, is available free to all schools in the Greater Wellington region. The two teaching and learning programmes available are *Take Action for Water* and *Take Action for Air*.

Both programmes are facilitated by Council staff involving both teacher training and working alongside teachers and students on field trips and in class. The performance indicator for *Take Action* requires the programme to be implemented to the satisfaction of the Council and within budget.

3. Uptake of *Take Action*

In the 2006-07 year approximately 2800 students from 23 schools participated in *Take Action* (three schools did both the water and air programmes, which meant *Take Action* was delivered 26 times). This is the first year that *Take Action for Air* has formally been offered and so the schools include a mix of both water and air programmes. The *Take Action for Air* programme has been well received by the teachers who have been working with it.

We have met our commitment to work with all schools in the Kaiwharawhara catchment with both Wadestown and Cardinal McKeefry Schools working with the *Take Action for Water* programme this calendar year.

Lower Hutt was the targeted area for *Take Action* in the 2006 school calendar year with both Porirua and Masterton District being the target for 2007. Wellington city schools have exceeded expectations with their demand for the programme in 2007 and due to an already full school schedule a number of these schools have chosen to go onto a waiting list for the 2008 programme.

As Table 1 shows, schools from almost all territorial authorities participated in the programme in 2006-07, with the exception of Carterton district. We did endeavour to work with Carterton School this year, however due to other professional development commitments the school has re-scheduled to term 2 2008.

Table 1: 2006-07 schools undertaking *Take Action* by territorial authority

Territorial Authority	Schools participating in <i>Take Action</i>
Carterton District	
Kapiti Coast District	Kenakena School
Hutt City	Maungaraki School Muritai School – both water and air Naenae Intermediate – over two terms St Bernadette's School St Michael's School Wainuiomata Intermediate – over two terms
Masterton District	Chanel College Lakeview School St Patrick's School Wainuioru School
Porirua City	Cannons Creek School Glensview School Russell School
South Wairarapa	Martinborough School St Teresa's School
Upper Hutt	Trentham School
Wellington City	Cardinal McKeefry School Queen Margaret's College – both air and water St Brigid's School – both air and water Samuel Marsden School Strathmore Community School Wadestown School

4. **Take Action highlights**

There have been many highlights for the *Take Action* team this year. As well as the matters listed below the team has facilitated the first teacher training days for *Take Action for Air*.

There have also been many rewarding action project outcomes with students undertaking energy audits, creating and recording a radio advertisement and carrying out waste audits which have then lead students to take action with paper recycling systems and organic waste composting etc.

4.1 **Long-term action project success**

Take Action has been reconfigured to give effect to the outcomes sought by the Community Engagement Review, in particular extending the delivery of the programme and providing more long term support for schools to develop environmental education.

This model is working well in practice and council staff have welcomed the opportunity to work alongside their schools over a longer period of time. As a result teachers are taking their time to plan and implement long term and more sustainable action project work.

4.2 **Taking action in the community**

This calendar year the *Take Action* staff have made a concerted effort to link schools up with their local restoration planting project and integrate the two 'Take' programmes. As a result we have more schools than ever before planting alongside Care Groups on local restoration projects in their local community. Several more community planting opportunities are currently being confirmed for *Take Action* schools.

Table 2: 2007 Schools involved in community restoration planting projects

Care Group	Schools involved in planting thus far
Henley Lake Care Group	Lakeview School
	Te Kura Kaupapa Maori O Wairarapa
Hulls Creek Care Group	St Michael's School
Waikanae Estuary Care Group Inc.	Kenakena School
	Waikanae School
Maara Roa Care Group	Glenview School
Te Maara @ Cornwall – Community Gardens	Cannons Creek School
Restoration planting on school stream	Chanel College

Eastbourne Dunes Care Group	Muritai School
Albemarle Stream Care Group	Cardinal McKeefry School

4.3 Maataurangi Taiao team training

Take Action staff delivered training to the new Maataurangi Taiao Team (new Maori Education for Sustainability Advisors) in the *Take Action for Water* programme earlier this year. This new team has been set up by the Ministry of Education to support teachers across New Zealand working in both Kura Kaupapa and immersion (Te Reo) classes.

Take Action staff then worked with the fifteen teachers from across New Zealand who are involved in the professional development contract with the Maataurangi Taiao team and spent a day with the teachers giving training in the *Take Action for Water* programme. This training was very well received and the feedback very appreciative.

4.4 Regional Enviroschools Co-ordinator

The new Enviroschools Regional Co-ordinator is now working alongside the *Take Action* staff out of the Environmental Education Department approximately 2 days a week. This arrangement is working well with both *Take Action* staff and the new co-ordinator enjoying the professional interaction and professional sharing. We continue to look for ways of working better together.

4.5 School Awards

It is interesting to note that schools that had undertaken *Take Action* during the last calendar year accounted for 7 of the 22 schools receiving Enviroschool awards in December.

Kenakena School (a highly active participant in the *Take Action* programme) received a Conservation Award in August 2006 in recognition of its record of restoration activity with the Glendale Care Group.

School award nominations are starting to come in for the inaugural Greater Wellington Regional Council Environmental Awards.

4.6 Re-write of Take Action for Water

The *Take Action for Water* programme has been available to schools since 2000 and in this time the resources for the programme have undergone very little change. With our current stock of teacher resources getting very low it is time to re-print this resource. This also presents the opportunity to the *Take Action* staff to re-write and update this very popular teaching and learning resource.

Take Action staff are currently researching and planning the re-write of this resource. Opportunities exist to re-visit key council messages that should be

included in the resource and look at ways of best integrating current teaching and learning pedagogy.

4.7 Performance against budget

The cost of Take Action in 2006-07 was \$249,000 against a budget of \$231,000. The variation was substantially due to the need for additional bus transport caused by the large number of schools taking part. Additional funding has been provided from 2007-08 onwards to prevent a recurrence of this.

5. Conclusion

2006-07 has been another very busy year for *Take Action* with the launch of *Take Action for Air* and an increasing demand for the programme resulting in a waiting list for 2008 schools. A continued targeted approach to promoting *Take Action* to schools in 2007 will share participation across all territorial authorities.

6. Communication

The achievements of the schools described in this report have been described throughout the year in local newspapers and magazines. As this is a summary report no further communication is considered necessary.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report; and***
2. ***Notes the content.***

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