

Report 09.151  
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Committee Regional Sustainability Committee  
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## Priority energy work programme actions

### 1. Purpose

To update the committee on progress regarding sustainable energy work programme actions since the last committee on 25 February 2009.

### 2. Background

At the last committee on 25th February 2009, the Regional Sustainability Committee endorsed the list of possible sustainable energy actions within the Wellington region.

Within that list, five potential priority actions were identified, namely:

- Domestic insulation
- Domestic air tightness
- Plug in electric vehicles (EV's)
- Wind
- Marine (tidal current).

Another item was identified during that meeting, namely wood burners.

Additionally, the 'usability' of the EECA website was identified as a hurdle for the general public to overcome. A desire to improve how the public can gain access to information – be it through the EECA or Greater Wellington (GW) websites was expressed. The committee was also advised that EECA have granted a sum of money to enable GW to produce a publication to communicate work and initiatives in the energy area, and how the general public can assist or receive assistance.

### 3. Comment

Since the last meeting, the following actions have been taken:

- A number of discussions have been held with EECA officials, including one between EECA's CEO and GWRC's Chair and Chief Executive regarding domestic insulation and domestic air tightness – these are GWRC's top two priority sustainable energy projects. To date these discussions have proved most useful. Further exploration is currently being undertaken into a greater level of detail on these matters.
- Discussions have been held with GWRC's communications group as well as with a prospective journalist to help compile the publication that EECA is funding.
- Regarding marine energy, discussions have been held with both Grow Wellington and EECA on the issue of resource allocation - how the tidal current can be allocated between users. EECA is funding a report that will address this issue and GWRC is discussing with EECA the issues it would like covered.
- Discussions have been held with the Chief Executive of the New Zealand Wind Energy Association which, among other things, discussed the usefulness and practicalities of a constraint mapping exercise to help determine where wind farms could preferably be sited - in particular the difficulties of representing different sized wind farms was explored i.e. the difference between one wind turbine and many tens of turbines.

### 4. Communication

No further communication is required at this time. Ongoing discussions with key parties will continue and given publicity when key outcomes are reached.

### 5. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

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

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