

Report **09.634**
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Committee **Regional Sustainability**
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Draft Regional Climate Change Response Plan

1. Purpose

To present the Draft Regional Climate Change Response Plan to the Committee for discussion and response.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

On 18 June 2009, the Committee approved a Discussion Document for circulation and discussion with officers of all the councils in the region. At a subsequent workshop on 4 August 2009, councillors clarified their views on the region's approach to climate change. On 3 September 2009, the Committee received an oral report on progress with the development of a draft climate change response plan which incorporated the comments received at the workshop. The draft Plan has now been completed by the Regional Emissions Reduction and Adaptation Working Group (ERAWG). It was presented to the regions' chief executives on 2 October and subsequently formally circulated to the territorial authorities for comment.

This Committee is being asked to consider the draft Plan and provide the Council's formal response.

The draft Plan is provided as a separate document (*Attachment 1*).

4. Discussion

The body of the draft Plan has been greatly reduced from the initial Discussion Document. The Discussion Document and its companion Technical Information Document are available on the GW website as background documents to the draft Plan.

The Plan proposes

- principles to guide climate change decision-making in the region
- emissions goals for the region expressed as percentage reductions to be achieved through the combined efforts of central and local government, business and the community
- key objectives and measures which will provide proxy measures for the success of local government's emissions reduction efforts in the region. These have been developed with ease of measurement and minimal additional effort in mind.
- early actions relating to adaptation which will lay the groundwork for future local authority responses to climate change
- longer term strategic actions which will assist with the reduction of emissions and with planning adaptive responses
- a regular climate change forum for all politicians in the region, as suggested by the Committee at the workshop of 4 August 2009, to discuss latest climate change information and address its implications for the region

There are three appendices which contain somewhat lengthy underpinning information which is considered too vital to understanding of the Plan to be relegated to the Discussion Document.

Appendix 1 contains all the parts of the Regional Land Transport Strategy relevant to climate change. The Plan proposes these objectives and plans of the RLTS as appropriate proxy success measures for local government's efforts to reduce transport-related emissions – the biggest emissions sector in the region.

Appendix 2 contains a “pick ‘n mix” menu of suggested initiatives which each local authority may choose to adopt, individually or collaboratively, to reduce further the emissions across all sectors - transport, other energy, waste and agriculture. Some initiatives relating to sequestration through forestry are also included.

Appendix 3 presents a very early model of what a shared decision-making process might look like for the region in relation to adaptation initiatives.

5. What next?

All local authorities in the region have been asked to provide comment on the draft Plan by the end of November 2009.

It is intended that local authorities adopt the Regional Climate Change Response Plan as their sole response to climate change or that they adopt the Plan and incorporate their own climate change response actions into the Plan. This is to allow each council to respond as they wish but to have an overarching response plan. The “pick ‘n mix” menu of suggested initiatives also provides for councils to decide individually how they would like to respond.

All comments will be considered as part of the development of the final Plan which will then go to all councils for formal sign-off. Hopefully, this will be early in the new year. This process will allow councils to include any initiatives in their 2010/11 annual plans.

6. Conclusion

The development of this Regional Climate Change Response Plan will demonstrate a collaborative approach to climate change in the Wellington Region, but also allow for individual local approaches.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Considers its response to the draft Plan as part of the regional feedback***

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Attachment 1: Draft Regional Climate Change Response Plan