

Energy

KEY ISSUES FOR 2010/11

Pressure on energy sources

Canterbury faces rising demand and costs for electricity and transport fuels. This is resulting in growing pressure on the national electricity transmission grid and increased summer irrigation places a strain on local distribution networks. Global demand for oil products also impacts on fuel prices. Canterbury is highly dependent on imported transport fuels with no ready substitutes available. The energy sector is fragmented and economic and regulatory issues are also barriers to achieving secure, reliable and affordable energy. The regional energy system can be affected by climate change adaptation and mitigation responses.

Energy efficiency

Inefficient use of energy both by businesses and domestic users creates unnecessary demand for all forms of energy. Consumer behaviour change is required and will not happen without advocacy or incentives for increased energy efficiency, innovation, sustainable forms of energy production and use, and reduced environmental impacts.

Note that energy efficiency is also addressed within the following groups of activities: Air quality; Land; Public Passenger Transport; Regional Land Transport; Waste, Hazardous Substances and Contaminated Sites; and Water Quality, Quantity and Ecosystems.

What's changed in the key issues since the 2009-19 LTCCP?

No change.



The energy group of activities contributes to the following community outcomes:

- Environment, in general, is to be looked after
- Everyone has access to acceptable standards of housing

Environment Canterbury is an advocating and influencing agency for promoting energy efficiency and the benefits of the use of sustainable energy and development of renewable energy. This includes the strategic integration of infrastructure with land use (Resource Management Act 1991 and National Policy Statement Electricity Transmission, April 2008).



Effect on the four well-beings

A resilient regional energy system enhances social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being.

UNCERTAINTIES

For 2010/11, the following is uncertain:

- a) The level of advocacy and facilitative role in regional energy strategy development and implementation.
- b) The type of energy issues that may emerge that require an Environment Canterbury response.
- c) Whether the Proposed National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Generation will be released in 2010/11 and the impact that this will have.

Which uncertainties have changed since the 2009-19 LTCCP?

Environment Canterbury's role in regional energy management, will be advocacy and facilitation. Uncertainty c) has been added.

ASSUMPTIONS

For 2010/11, it is assumed that:

- a) Provision has been made for funding for an advocacy and facilitative role in regional energy strategy implementation through the Christchurch Agency for Energy.
- b) Some provision has been made for investigating emerging energy issues.
- c) That the proposed National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Generation will not have any impact on the energy portfolio group of activities in 2010/11.

Which assumptions have changed since the 2009-19 LTCCP?

Assumption a) has been clarified as to its implementation role in the Draft Regional Energy Strategy. Assumption c) has been added.



OUR ACTIVITIES

Priority in 2010/11

The focus for this group of activities is the promotion of energy efficiency.

WE WILL UNDERTAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

Strategy

Facilitating the implementation of a Draft Regional Energy Strategy for Environment Canterbury's contribution to community outcomes for energy.

Investigations

Investigating energy issues and use.

Planning & consents

Developing policy for managing energy, assessing policy implementation and effectiveness, and processing resource consent applications.

Monitoring

Monitoring the trend in energy consumption.

Operations

Supporting energy efficiency measures.

Communicating, educating & advocating

Informing the community about energy issues, and raising awareness about energy initiatives.

Our work programmes in 2010/11

Strategy

- Facilitate the implementation of the Draft Canterbury Regional Energy Strategy through engagement with key regional stakeholders and Government agencies.

Investigations

- Investigate energy issues, and identify impacts across Environment Canterbury's groups of activities and the wider community.

Planning & consents

- Ensure district, city and regional plans give effect to regional policies for managing energy. Work collaboratively with territorial authorities during District Plan amendments to ensure alignment with regional policy.
- Ensure district and city and regional plans encourage the development of renewable energy and sustainable use of existing energy sources where appropriate.

Monitoring

- Monitor and report on energy and electricity usage trends.
- Compile data for the Regional Environment Report.

Communicating, educating & advocating

- Work with key agencies to improve energy efficiency.
- Provide public information about sustainable energy and energy efficiency.
- Advocate and promote regional energy initiatives and community projects.

What work programmes have changed since the 2009-19 LTCCP?

A draft Canterbury regional energy strategy has been developed in consultation with stakeholders.

Environment Canterbury is now only providing facilities for interest-free loans and subsidies for household energy efficiency initiatives through the Clean Heat Project under the Air Quality portfolio, and has removed the household energy efficiency initiatives from the Energy portfolio.

OUR LEVELS OF SERVICE

How Environment Canterbury's levels of service relate to the community outcomes

Environment, in general, is to be looked after
Everyone has access to acceptable standards of housing

Levels of Service	Community Outcomes
1 Partnering and advocating for energy efficiency with energy-related agencies	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
2 Working with territorial authorities	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Environment Canterbury's contribution will be reported on each year in our Annual Report.

1 Partnering & advocating for energy efficiency with energy-related agencies

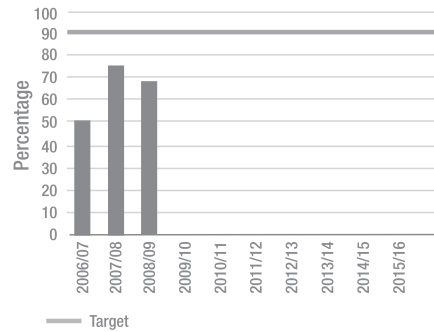
Measure

Key agencies rating of how Environment Canterbury is working with them in improving energy efficiency.

Target

90% of key agencies rate Environment Canterbury's involvement as very good or excellent (on a scale of very poor, poor, satisfactory, very good and excellent).

RATING OF ENVIRONMENT CANTEBURY'S INVOLVEMENT IN IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY



Source: Environment Canterbury.

2 Working with territorial authorities

Measure

The percentage of reviewed district and city council plans that give effect to or are not inconsistent with regional policies for energy efficiency.

Target

100% of reviewed plans (see table).

Note: Second generation plans will be developed by district and city councils by way of a plan review under section 79 of the Resource Management Act 1991. Environment Canterbury will review all second generation plans to ensure they give effect to the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (CRPS) or are not inconsistent with the partially operative Natural Resources Regional Plan (NRRP), or the associated variations and plan changes.

DISTRICT & CITY COUNCIL PLANS		
District Plan	First plan operative	Review of plan commences
Ashburton District Plan	2001	2008
Waimate District Plan	2001	2011

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

\$000	Annual Report 2008/09	Annual Plan 2009/10	LTCCP 2010/11	Annual Plan 2010/11
Total Expenditure	263	3,033	3,335	234
<i>Funded by:</i>				
General rates	263	272	286	233
Targeted rates	-	-	62	-
User pays/Other	1	-	-	-
Grants	30	2,754	2,850	-
Interest	2	114	262	1
Total Income	296	3,140	3,460	234
Reserves Increase/(Decrease)	33	107	125	-

Asset management & capital expenditure

There are no significant assets involved in this group of activities.

How this work is funded

For more information on source of funds and rationale for selection, see:

- Funding and Financial Policies 2009, Long Term Council Community Plan 2009-19 Part B.
- Rating information on pages 99-110.

What's changed in this financial summary since the 2009-19 LTCCP?

Environment Canterbury is now only providing facilities for interest-free loans and subsidies for household energy efficiency initiatives through the Clean Heat Project under the Air Quality portfolio and not through the household energy efficiency initiatives in the Energy portfolio.