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PALMERSTON
NORTH
CITY

PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

9AM, WEDNESDAY 29 MARCH 2023

COUNCIL CHAMBER, FIRST FLOOR
CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
32 THE SQUARE, PALMERSTON NORTH

MEMBERS

Brent Barrett (Chair)
Kaydee Zabelin (Deputy Chair)
Grant Smith (The Mayor)

Roly Fitzgerald	Lorna Johnson
Patrick Handcock (ONZM)	Debi Marshall-Lobb
Leonie Hapeta	Karen Naylor

AGENDA ITEMS, IF NOT ATTACHED, CAN BE VIEWED AT

pncc.govt.nz | Civic Administration Building, 32 The Square
City Library | Ashhurst Community Library | Linton Library

Waid Crockett

Chief Executive | PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

Te Marae o Hine | 32 The Square
Private Bag 11034 | Palmerston North 4442 | New Zealand
pncc.govt.nz

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SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

29 March 2023

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Apologies

2. Notification of Additional Items

Pursuant to Sections 46A(7) and 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, to receive the Chairperson's explanation that specified item(s), which do not appear on the Agenda of this meeting and/or the meeting to be held with the public excluded, will be discussed.

Any additions in accordance with Section 46A(7) must be approved by resolution with an explanation as to why they cannot be delayed until a future meeting.

Any additions in accordance with Section 46A(7A) may be received or referred to a subsequent meeting for further discussion. No resolution, decision or recommendation can be made in respect of a minor item.

3. Declarations of Interest (if any)

Members are reminded of their duty to give a general notice of any interest of items to be considered on this agenda and the need to declare these interests.

4. Public Comment

To receive comments from members of the public on matters specified on this Agenda or, if time permits, on other Committee matters.

(NOTE: If the Committee wishes to consider or discuss any issue raised that is not specified on the Agenda, other than to receive the comment made or refer it to the Chief Executive, then a resolution will need to be made in accordance with clause 2 above.)

5. Annual Sector Lead Report: Environment Network Manawātū Incorporated Page 7

Memorandum, presented by Stephanie Velvin, Community Development Manager.

6. Further Analysis on the New Zealand Green Building Council Recommendations 1 & 5 Page 29

Memorandum, presented by Jono Ferguson-Pye, City Planning Manager.

7. Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge Consent Project - Quarterly Update Page 35

Memorandum, presented by Mike Monaghan, Group Manager - 3 Waters.

8. Committee Work Schedule Page 39

9. Exclusion of Public

To be moved:

“That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting listed in the table below.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for passing this resolution



This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as stated in the above table.

Also that the persons listed below be permitted to remain after the public has been excluded for the reasons stated.

[Add Third Parties], because of their knowledge and ability to assist the meeting in speaking to their report/s [or other matters as specified] and answering questions, noting that such person/s will be present at the meeting only for the items that relate to their respective report/s [or matters as specified].

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sustainability Committee

MEETING DATE: 29 March 2023

TITLE: Annual Sector Lead Report: Environment Network Manawatū Incorporated

PRESENTED BY: Stephanie Velvin, Community Development Manager

APPROVED BY: Chris Dyhrberg, Chief Customer Officer

RECOMMENDATION(S) TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

- 1. That the Committee receive the memorandum titled 'Annual Sector Lead Report: Environment Network Manawatū Incorporated' presented to the Sustainability Committee on 29 March 2023.**
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1. ISSUE

- 1.1 Environment Network Manawatū Incorporated ('ENM') has delivered its first report (July-December 2022) as a Sector Lead organisation, which is appended to this memorandum.
- 1.2 Reporting to Council is required under the Sector Lead Partnership Agreement structure.
- 1.3 Representatives of ENM are in attendance to present.
- 1.4 Analysis of the performance of ENM against agreed activities and outcomes is included in this memorandum below.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 8 June 2022, Council resolved to engage Environment Network Manawatū ('ENM') as a Sector Lead organisation.
- 2.2 Sector Lead organisations are a trial component of the 2022-2025 Strategic Priority Grants programme, as per Council's resolution of 6 April 2022:

'that the Chief Executive trial the Sector Lead Partnership agreement using the funding that has already been assigned to organisations through the 2022 allocations from the SPG [Strategic Priority Grant] fund, and report back to Community Development Committee prior to the development of the next 10 year plan'.

- 2.3 A three year Partnership Agreement commenced between ENM and Council in July 2022 accordingly.
- 2.4 The Agreement stipulates that activities funded contribute to the achievement of priorities 1-3 within the Council's Eco-City strategic direction.
- 2.5 Reporting requirements within the Agreement include an annual report to Council covering the activities delivered and outcomes achieved in the preceding period.
- 2.6 To allow for two reports to be received in advance of the 2024-34 LTP process, and inform the Sector Lead trial, the organisations have been asked to present their first report now covering the first six-months of their contract from 1 July to the end of December 2022, to be followed by another report in early 2024.

3. ANNUAL REPORT ANALYSIS

- 3.1 Environment Network Manawatū Incorporated are the central environmental umbrella organisation in the Manawatū. They provide support and assistance to Palmerston North communities with a focus on collective community action with environmental groups. ENM undertakes research, provides advice, information, advocacy and human resources for the environmental sector within the Manawatū. ENM have a total of 65 member groups across two key initiatives: Manawatū Food Action Network and Manawatū River Source to Sea. ENM also administers the Environmental Initiatives Fund.
- 3.2 ENM has been an incorporated society since 2008 and receives multiple and diverse sources of funding, including grants from Palmerston North City Council, Department of Internal Affairs (Community Organisation Groups and Lotteries grants), Horizons Regional Council, Environment Hubs Aotearoa (Ministry for the Environment Community Environment Fund), Eastern and Central Community Trust, and income from the Ruahine Kiwi Project. ENM works towards meeting several different investment outcomes through its activities and, therefore, their report includes activities that are not solely funded by Council.
- 3.3 ENM have seen significant growth in their organisation in recent years. ENM are a key partner in achieving Council's Eco-City goal. The Sector Lead agreement specifically covers initiatives that focus on the city of Palmerston North, although staff acknowledge that work achieved by ENM initiatives have a wider impact on the Manawatū region and acknowledge that ENM provide sector leadership in both a citywide and regional capacity.
- 3.4 The amount of funding ENM receives through this Sector Lead Partnership Agreement is \$165,000 per annum (plus GST and adjusted for inflation in years two and three).

3.5 The current funding agreement activities contribute to the achievement of Goal Four: An Eco-City from Council's 2021-31 strategic direction, and align with the following priorities:

- Priority 1: Respect and enhance the mauri of the river.
- Priority 2: Work with the community to reduce carbon emissions.
- Priority 3: Regenerate native biodiversity.

3.6 The agreement also includes that ENM are expected to maintain their strategic leadership role by continuing to demonstrate the characteristics of a sector lead, as stipulated by the Support and Funding Policy 2022, including:

- a. providing capacity-building and support for other community organisations to develop and connect;
- b. delivering the highest level of expertise and highest quality service;
- c. thinking, working and advocating strategically;
- d. having robust strategic and business plans in place.

3.7 **Table 1: Assessment of agreed activities**

Strategic Alignment	Activity	Comment	Assessment (Not met; developing; or met)
Priorities 1, 2 & 3	Facilitate a membership network of environmental groups and deliver environment related education initiatives	<p>ENM are performing well in this area.</p> <p>Their Annual Report identifies their contribution to sustainability by increasing social media presence, increasing staffing as financial capacity allows, promoting events, increasing volunteer participation.</p> <p>Delivery of the Future Living Skills programme is an example of on the ground service delivery that utilises the depth of experience and skill within the ENM network.</p>	Met
Priorities 1, 2 & 3	Umbrella two collective action networks: Manawatū River Source to Sea and	<p>ENM have delivered a range of high-quality activities and programmes in this reporting period.</p> <p>Staff view there is further opportunity for ENM to expand</p>	Developing

	Manawatū Food Action Network	both networks to pursue new collaborative initiatives and ideas generated from community; however, note the organisational capacity to do so by ENM is limited by financial constraints.	
Priorities 1, 2 & 3	Administer the Environment Initiatives Fund in support of community-led environment initiatives	ENM are performing well in this area. This fund is vital to the ongoing support for small community-led environmental initiatives that would otherwise find it difficult to source alternative funding.	Met
Priorities 1, 2 & 3	Provide capacity-building and support for other community organisations to develop and connect	ENM work collaboratively with other environment organisations in Palmerston North, across neighbouring regions and nationally through the EHA ('Environment Hubs Aotearoa') network and other national networks to support the development and promotion of environmental initiatives. Delivery of seasonal Manawatū Food Action Network hui, as an opportunity for food organisations to work collaboratively, is an example of an important network coordinated and delivered locally.	Met
Priorities 1, 2 & 3	Deliver the highest level of expertise and highest quality service	ENM are performing well in this area. Staff assess that ENM continue to work to optimise organisational efficiency (reviewing organisational structures and policies), to develop staff competency through professional development opportunities and to continually grow the visibility of their service within the region.	Met
Priorities 1, 2 & 3	Think, work and advocate	ENM are strong in this area. ENM provide both environmental	Met

	strategically	advocacy to local government and contribute to environmental policy development.	
Priorities 1, 2 & 3	Have robust strategic and business plans in place	ENM have both a strong management committee (comprised of members of ENM's group members or affiliates) and a resilient and enthusiastic team of staff who are experienced in ENM service delivery. In their Two-Year Plan July 2022-June 2024 ENM are focusing on strengthening and enhancing ENM's core service and progressing their interactions with member groups to grow their impact.	Met

- 3.8 Alongside an annual report which provides information on the agreed activities, Sector Lead organisations are required to provide six-monthly performance measure data for a range of indicators related to their activities.
- 3.9 The measures are based on a Results Based Accountability approach, where impact of effort is demonstrated by measurement of who is 'better off' as a result of the activities or services, as well as 'how much' of the activity or service was delivered and 'how well' it was delivered.
- 3.10 The performance measure data provides an evidence base to support the information in the annual report.
- 3.11 **Table 2: Performance measure data for period July 2022 to Dec 2022**

'How much'	Total number of members (groups) of ENM	65
	Total number of events and/or activities delivered for members of ENM	9
	Total number of Manawatū Food Action Network Network ('MFAN') members (groups)	45
	Total number of projects supported by MFAN	12
	Total number of Manawatū River Source to Sea ('S2S') members (groups)	34
	Total number of projects supported by S2S	20
	Total number of Environmental Initiatives Fund	3

	('EIF') grants allocated	
	Total number of ENM volunteers across the organisation	171
'How well'	Percentage of ENM members who report they were highly satisfied/satisfied with ENM activities	86.4% (19 of 22 respondents)
	Percentage of members who report they are highly satisfied/satisfied with S2S activities	87.5% (7 of 8 respondents)
	Percentage of members who report they are highly satisfied/satisfied with MFAN activities	86.2% (25 of 29 respondents)
	Percentage of participants at ENM events who report being highly satisfied/satisfied with the event	92.1% (35 of 38 respondents)
'Better off'	Percentage of participants who report they learnt something new as a result of attending an ENM event	100% (37 of 37 respondents)
	Percentage of ENM members who report they feel better connected to other environmental groups as a result of ENM	91.3% (21 of 23 respondents)
	S2S: Percentage of members who report they are better connected to other river action groups as a result of S2S	75% (6 of 8 respondents)
	MFAN: Percentage of members who report they are better connected to other food resilience groups as a result of MFAN	86.2% (25 of 29 respondents)
	Percentage of EIF recipients who report they were able to successfully deliver their initiative as a result of the grant	0% (not yet completed)

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 This memorandum has provided background to and comment on the annual report of Environment Network Manawatū ('ENM') as required by their 2022-2025 Sector Lead Partnership Agreement with Council.

- 4.2 Staff have assessed that ENM are performing well against their agreed activities across the board. Staff have identified that Manawatū River Source to Sea and Manawatū Food Action Network have potential for growth if capacity allowed.
- 4.3 There is insufficient data in the six-month performance measure reporting requirements to adequately assess the full scope of service delivery achievement at this stage.

5. NEXT STEPS


- 5.1 Staff will continue to support ENM to deliver the wide-ranging activities and initiatives covered by the Partnership Agreement.
- 5.2 Staff will support ENM to provide a wider data set for the next round of data collection January – June 2023, to accurately reflect their contribution within the environment sector.
- 5.3 ENM will present its next Annual Report, covering year two of the Agreement, early in 2024. Further staff commentary on progress will also be provided at that time.

6. COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Does the Committee have delegated authority to decide?	Yes
Are the decisions significant?	No
If they are significant do they affect land or a body of water?	No
Can this decision only be made through a 10 Year Plan?	No
Does this decision require consultation through the Special Consultative procedure?	No
Is there funding in the current Annual Plan for these actions?	Yes
Are the recommendations inconsistent with any of Council's policies or plans?	No
The recommendations contribute to Goal 4: An Eco City	
The recommendations contribute to the achievement of action/actions in Environmental Sustainability	
The action is: Administer grants in line with the community funding policy; Monitor for-purpose organisations contracted or funded by Council against agreed outcomes.	
Contribution to strategic direction and to social, economic, environmental	Sector Lead Organisations contribute to the achievement of Council's strategic direction, particularly Goals 2, 3 and 4, which seeks to enhance the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the community.

and cultural well-being	
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ATTACHMENTS

1. ENM Sector Lead Report [↓](#) 



Sector Lead Report to PNCC

Reporting period: July – December 2022

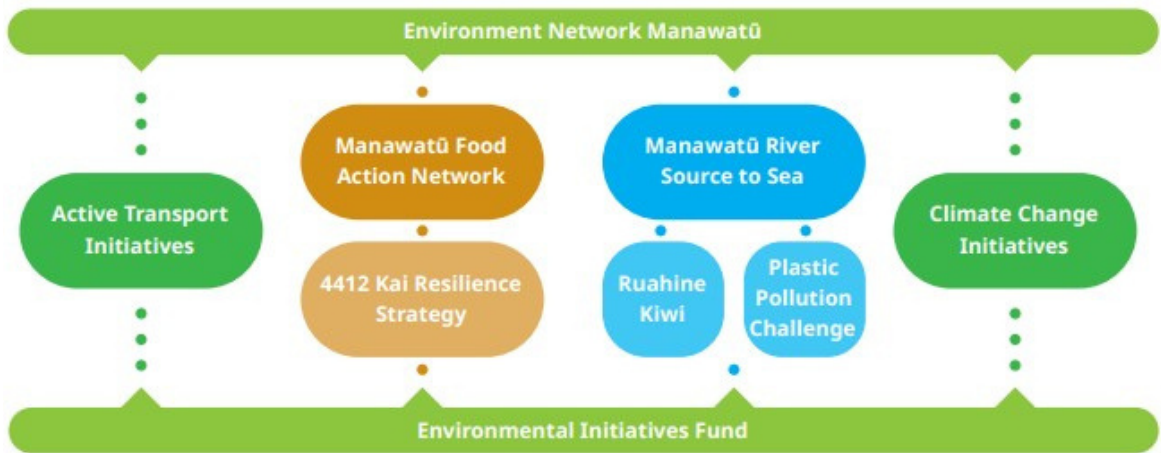


Who we are

Environment Network Manawatū (ENM) is the environment hub for the Manawatū Region with the key purpose of facilitating and enabling communication, cooperation, and increasing collective action amongst its member groups and the wider community. ENM provides leadership by underpinning, fostering and encouraging environmental initiatives in the region. Our 65 current member groups are from throughout the Manawatū River Catchment with interests including biodiversity regeneration, freshwater management, citizen science, food security and resilience, sustainable living, alternative energies, and active transport. The network is organised into two collective focus areas; Manawatū Food Action Network and Manawatū River Source to Sea.



Supporting and celebrating the work of 60+ member groups.



ENM provides significant services, including projects, and activities across four main workstreams that underpin our place as a sector lead organisation in Palmerston North:

1. The core communication, coordination and collaboration service that ENM provides to our member groups and the public.
2. The coordination of collective action towards the improvement of biodiversity in the entire Manawatū River catchment through the work of the Manawatū River Source to Sea. (S2S). This collective is comprised of ENM member groups working together with the vision of engaging the community in collective action to enhance biodiversity and the mauri of the river in the Manawatū River catchment, and to build community wellbeing. The projects currently undertaken by S2S include the Ruahine Kiwi Project, the Plastic Pollution Challenge and Palmerston North Repair Café.
3. Through the work of the Manawatū Food Action Network (MFAN) Collective, cross-sectoral collaboration, the coordination of collective action, the support of grassroots initiatives, and the development and implementation of a Kai Resilience Strategy for Palmerston North were enabled. MFAN is a collective of social service and environmental organisations (and other community stakeholders) working together to increase collaboration, education and awareness around issues of food security, food resilience and food localisation.
4. The distribution of the Environmental Initiatives Fund (EIF) to support the development of community-led environmental projects in Palmerston North that align with the PNCC Eco-city Strategy.

If ENM does everything right as an organisation, we will have an inspired, connected community creating a healthy living environment in the Manawatū (Catchment).

Our contribution to PNCC outcomes

An important goal for Palmerston North is to be to an Eco City. ENM's activities and services have a positive impact on the following priorities within that goal:

Priority 1: Respect and enhance the mauri of the Manawatū River.

Priority 2: Work with the community to reduce carbon emissions.

Priority 3: Regenerate native biodiversity.

Priority 6: Educate the community, in particular property owners, on the benefits of investing in sustainable building design and green buildings.

Through ENM's core activities and services we:

1. Showcase good eco-solutions in a space where the community can experience and learn about the benefits of sustainable building design and green buildings.
2. Provide the community easy, central access to information and advice on environmental initiatives and green solutions.
3. Enable access to a space for community-led development dedicated to the sharing of ideas and initiatives to increase regeneration of biodiversity, improve the mauri of the Manawatū River, and reduce carbon emissions.
4. Raise public awareness of ENM and our work.
5. Encourage residents of Palmerston North to make choices and have personal habits that are sustainable and/or environmentally conscious.

'ENM has always been a part of connection to the city and to place...it's an invaluable part of belonging and feeling like I have positive ways to contribute.'

Through the activities and services of the S2S Collective, and its Plastic Pollution Challenge, Ruahine Kiwi and Palmerston North Repair Cafe projects we:

1. Increase Palmerston North resident's awareness of the impact predator control has on improving biodiversity by engagement with Ruahine Kiwi Project. This legacy project will benefit both present and future generations.
2. Aim to re-introduce Kiwi into the Southern Ruahine Range by 2025. This will be an achievement PNCC residents can be proud of and will increase the mana of the city.
3. Support an active and knowledgeable citizenship who participate in environmental initiatives and advocate for the environment.
4. Increase residents and businesses knowledge about the impact of plastic pollution in the Palmerston North urban streams and the Manawatū River and work together towards developing solutions to reduce it.
5. Encourage residents to value the Manawatū River and its tributaries, including the urban streams in Palmerston North, and to actively engage in collective action to enhance its mauri.
6. Advocate for the city and its residents to value enhanced biodiversity and have a new understanding of the economic benefit opportunities that regeneration of biodiversity brings.
7. Foster and promote the advantages of a local volunteer repair culture through the monthly Palmerston North Repair Cafe event. This reduces the number of items going to landfill and increases community cohesion.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sustainability Committee

MEETING DATE: 29 March 2023

TITLE: Further Analysis on the New Zealand Green Building Council Recommendations 1 & 5

PRESENTED BY: Jono Ferguson-Pye, City Planning Manager

APPROVED BY: David Murphy, Chief Planning Officer

RECOMMENDATION(S) TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

- 1. That the Committee receive the memorandum titled 'Further Analysis of New Zealand Green Building Council Recommendations 1 & 5' presented to the Sustainability Committee on 29 March 2023.**
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1. ISSUE

At the 30 March 2022 meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Committee, the Committee resolved that the Chief Executive report back on the options and implications of policy changes recommended by the Green Building Council's presentation to the Committee on 30 March 2022. These were:

- 1) Reduced cost (fees) for consenting buildings that are certified as lower carbon.
- 2) Enable greater density for homes built to the Homestar standard.
- 3) Reduce the Infrastructure Growth Charge for homes or buildings that are water efficient.
- 4) Provide greater consenting support to applicants undertaking projects with a 6 Homestar rating or higher.
- 5) Reduced development contributions for sustainable buildings or homes.
- 6) When a LIM report is requested, include information on the Homestar rating.
- 7) Include case studies of Homestar or Greenstar buildings on the PN City Council website.

The 21 September 2022 Environmental Sustainability Committee resolved that the Chief Executive provide further analysis on Recommendation 1 (Reduced fees for consenting buildings that are certified as lower carbon) and Recommendation 5 (Reduced development contributions for sustainable buildings or homes) to support decision-making on those options.

This memorandum provides the Committee with information on the implications associated with responding to these recommendations.

2. NATIONAL CONTEXT

National direction as set by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment ('MBIE'), as part of the Building for Climate Change ('BfCC') programme, has included publishing for consultation the Transforming Operational Efficiency Framework and Whole-of-life Embodied Carbon Emissions Reduction Framework. These documents set out objectives to increase the construction and operational efficiency of buildings.

In December 2020, as part of the plans for a zero-carbon public sector, the Government committed to using the National Australian Built Environment Rating System New Zealand for their own buildings in a bid to drive down emissions. From 1 April 2022, new non-residential Government buildings with a capital value over \$25 million have had to meet a minimum New Zealand Green Building Council ('NZGBC') Green Star rating of 5. The same standard will apply to Government buildings with a capital value over \$9 million from 1 April 2023.

The BfCC targets are developed in more detail within the National Emission Reduction Plan ('NERP') 2022, and National Adaptation Plan ('NAP') 2022.

Chapter 12 of the NERP includes:

- promoting locally produced sustainable construction materials,
- encouraging low emission design including a transition away from gas,
- requiring energy measurement through compulsory Energy Performance Certificates, and
- making amendments to the Building Code to improve the minimum energy efficiency standards of buildings.

Proposed amendments to the Building Act published in December 2022 would give effect to these recommendations by introducing mandatory Energy Performance Certificates for certain building types, waste minimisation plans for certain demolition projects and embedding climate change as a key consideration under the Act. In addition, mandatory reporting for embodied carbon would be analysed and used to set carbon caps for new buildings from 2025. In this regard, proposed Government legislation will drive the outcomes sought by recommendations 1 and 5 by 2025.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH RESPONDING TO NEW ZEALAND GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS 1 & 5

Council has recognised through the Low Carbon Fund that in order to allocate resources efficiently a financial value should be placed on a given unit of carbon. This is currently the spot price set under the Emissions Trading Scheme ('ETS'), taken as \$85 per tonne CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e).

For an investment to be efficient in terms of reducing carbon it should therefore cost less than \$85 per tCO₂e otherwise it would be a better use of resource to buy carbon credits from the ETS.

The NZGBC have recently published a review of the Homestar specifications that indicates that the additional cost of constructing to Homestar 6 is over \$5,000 (around 0.5%) compared to minimum Building Code H1.

A report on construction cost changes completed by Thinkstep ANZ on behalf of the NZGBC in 2019 estimated that a 200m² house in Wellington includes approximately 63 tonnes of embedded (construction) CO₂ over the 90 year life of the building which can be reduced by approximately 3 tonnes through Homestar 6 certification.

A report on operational cost changes completed by eCubed Building Workshop Ltd on behalf of the NZGBC in 2018 estimated that a 180m² house in Wellington can reduce operational CO₂ (mostly through heating, hot water and lighting) by approximately 0.335 tonnes (1765kWh) per year through Homestar 6 certification. This equates to 30.15 tCO₂e over the 90 year life of the building. Using a per m² value an equivalent 200m² house would therefore save 33.5 tCO₂e over the same period.

Construction Cost Increase	Construction Saving (tCO ₂ e)	Operational Saving (tCO ₂ e)	Cost per tonne of carbon
\$5,000	3	33.5	\$136.98

From a purely quantitative or cost of carbon perspective, it is therefore more efficient at current ETS rates to purchase carbon credits than construct a Homestar 6 rated building.

Adopting NZGBC recommendations 1 or 5 would mean using public funds to incentivise citizens to invest in Homestar 6 certification when there are more cost-effective ways to reduce emissions. That said, it is recognised that for many new home builders it will not be a case of deciding to invest in Homestar 6 certification or purchasing carbon credits from the ETS.

Homestar 6 certification also provides broader sustainability outcomes over and above carbon reductions, e.g. reduced water consumption. An incentives programme would also signal to the market and supply chains that the Council is supportive of green buildings and changing traditional building practices.

4. RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Rates of uptake for any new programme to promote sustainable buildings is uncertain and no engagement with construction companies or architects has been carried out in the preparation of this memorandum.

Any funds allocated to incentivising green buildings could be funded in one of two ways:

- An increase in rates to cover either a reduction in income (from building consent fees or development contributions) and/or to create a grant fund.
- An unbalancing of the fee structure to require minimum code buildings to subsidise green buildings. This may be subject to legal challenge.

Either method will require staff capacity to amend the Development Contributions Policy or the building consent fee structure.

The Development Contributions Policy has been prepared on the basis there is a correlation between dwellings / land area / gross floor area and the demand placed on network infrastructure. While the Development Contributions Policy could be amended to include a general reduction for green buildings, this does carry some risk if the amendment is undertaken in the absence of evidence that green buildings place reduced demand on all forms of network infrastructure. This risk could be managed by establishing a grant as opposed to amending the policy to include a reduction. A similar grant was established to support development contributions payable on community projects on the basis they still place demand on network infrastructure.

Allocating public funds to incentivising private developers in order to create higher priced homes may also carry some reputational risk.

Council does not currently require its own buildings to comply with any certification regime as it is possible to achieve benefits where they are cost effective using the Low Carbon Fund model and a detailed analysis of each building on a case by case basis. Requiring or incentivising an action that we do not currently do ourselves carries some reputational risk.

5. NEXT STEPS

Should the Committee decide that the wider benefits of signalling to the market and supply chains that the Council is supportive of green buildings outweighs the financial cost and other risks, a programme of incentives can be devised for inclusion in the next Long Term Plan.

If a Long Term Plan programme is developed it will be important to avoid replicating the upcoming Building Code changes or incentivising developers beyond the net gains that would be achieved through increased sale price and national incentives.

Public consultation on any incentives programme could occur as part of the next Long Term Plan.

6. COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

<p>Does the Committee have delegated authority to decide? If Yes quote relevant clause(s) from Delegations Manual: 2. To consider environmental matters including:</p>	<p>Yes</p>
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• Environmentally Sustainable practices		
Are the decisions significant?		No
If they are significant do they affect land or a body of water?		No
Can this decision only be made through a 10 Year Plan?		No
Does this decision require consultation through the Special Consultative procedure?		No
Is there funding in the current Annual Plan for these actions?		No
Are the recommendations inconsistent with any of Council's policies or plans?		No
The recommendations contribute to Goal 4: An Eco City		
The recommendations contribute to the achievement of action/actions in the Climate Change Plan		
The actions are:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Work with the community to reduce carbon emissions 5. Use Council's legislative powers and policies to ensure urban development is sustainable now and into the future; and 6. Educate the community, in particular, property owners, on the benefits of investing in sustainable building design and green buildings 		
Contribution to strategic direction and to social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being	Development of green buildings in Palmerston North is an important signal to the construction industry and will help prevent locking in emissions through poor design choices.	

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sustainability Committee

MEETING DATE: 29 March 2023

TITLE: Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge Consent Project - Quarterly Update

PRESENTED BY: Mike Monaghan, Group Manager - 3 Waters

APPROVED BY: Bryce Hosking, Acting Chief Infrastructure Officer

RECOMMENDATION(S) TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

1. That the Committee receive the report titled 'Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge Consent Project - Quarterly Update' presented to the Sustainability Committee on 29 March 2023.
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1. ISSUE

- 1.1 The Wastewater Discharge Consent Project Team completed the concept design and development of the Horizons regional resource consent application in late 2022. This was the culmination of four years of work developing the Best Practicable Option which comprises highly treated wastewater being discharged to the Manawatū river or to land.
- 1.2 Quarterly updates for the project were requested by Council. This report provides an update on the project for the 3 month period since the consent application was lodged in December 2022.

2. UPDATE ON LODGEMENT

- 2.1 The consent application was lodged with Horizons Regional Council on 19 December 2022 as planned. At the time of lodgement, it was agreed with Horizons that the initial processing timeframe for assessing the completeness of the application (section 88) would be 10 February 2023. This timeframe was agreed to reflect the complexity of the application, the number of public holidays and anniversary days occurring between lodgement and the statutory timeframe.
- 2.2 However, in February 2023 Horizons requested a further extension to the section 88 timeframe to allow additional time for the land discharge technical assessments to be reviewed. Palmerston North City Council agreed to the additional extension and a decision on the section 88 'acceptance' of the application is now due on 31 March 2023.

3. WORK CONTINUING SINCE LODGEMENT

3.1 Several pieces of work have continued since lodgement. These include:

- **Iwi Engagement** – There have been ongoing discussions with Iwi, and all Iwi groups have been advised of the extension of time to the section 88 request.
- **River monitoring** – Summer flow monitoring and mixing study. The mixing study, which was due to take place over the summer, has been delayed due to abnormal weather patterns creating high unseasonal flows in the Manawatū River. It is anticipated that this testing will now be completed in March or April.
- **Wastewater Treatment Plant Testing** – Seasonal Emerging Organic Contaminants (EOC) testing has started at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- **Biosolids Strategy** – Officers are undertaking further investigations to develop an ongoing strategy to deal with biosolids produced by the treatment plant, and how they may be beneficially reused.
- **Property** – Investigations are continuing into suitable properties for land discharge as a fundamental part of the new consent. Regular meetings are being held, and a pilot site strategy is being developed to enable Council to move with speed and confidence when suitable sites are presented. We are pursuing a willing seller-willing buyer philosophy. No specific sites have been identified at this time.

4. BUDGET

4.1 2022/23 budget breakdown is as follows:

Total Budget	Project Actuals (to end of Feb 23)	Remaining Budget	Proposed c/fwd (as per draft Annual Plan)
\$6,188,221	\$2,725,187	\$3,463,034	\$2,000,000

4.2 The draft 2023/24 Annual Plan has signalled a proposed carry forward of \$2,000,000. This is to take into consideration the delay to the section 88 outcome, but also because land investigation was not a requirement of the application lodgement so was pushed to post-lodgement to allow for the focus to remain on the lodgement of the consent.

4.3 Officers anticipate that the remaining \$1,463,034 will be spent post the section 88 acceptance. However, until such time as this happens and Council understands any section 92 requests (requests for further information), this

cannot be confirmed. A re-forecasting exercise will be completed after the final assessment is completed by Horizons.

4.4 Please note that the budget proposed in 2023/24 does not include any land purchase that may be identified. When suitable land holdings become available for purchase reports will be brought to Council accordingly.

5. COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Does the Committee have delegated authority to decide?	Yes
Are the decisions significant?	No
If they are significant do, they affect land or a body of water?	No
Can this decision only be made through a 10 Year Plan?	No
Does this decision require consultation through the Special Consultative procedure?	No
Is there funding in the current Annual Plan for these actions?	Yes
Are the recommendations inconsistent with any of Council's policies or plans?	No
The recommendations contribute to Goal 4: An Eco City	
The recommendations contribute to the achievement of action/actions in Waters The action is: Lodge resource consent application for future discharge of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.	
Contribution to strategic direction and to social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being	Lodging for resource consent allows Council to continue to provide its wastewater services and allows for future proofing of the City.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

COMMITTEE WORK SCHEDULE

TO: Sustainability Committee

MEETING DATE: 29 March 2023

TITLE: Committee Work Schedule

RECOMMENDATION TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

1. That the Sustainability Committee receive its Work Schedule dated March 2023.

COMMITTEE WORK SCHEDULE – MARCH 2023					
Item No.	Estimated Report Date	Subject	Officer Responsible	Current Position	Date of Instruction/ Clause number
1.	March 2023	New Zealand Green Building Council Recommendations –scope Recommendation 1 (Reduced fees for consenting buildings that are certified as lower carbon) and Recommendation 5 (Reduced development contributions for sustainable buildings or homes)	Chief Planning Officer		21 September 2022 Clause 24
2.	March 2023	Wastewater Discharge Consent Project – Quarterly Update	Chief Infrastructure Officer		11 May 2022 Clause 26
3.	March 2023	Annual Sector Lead Report	Chief Customer		Terms of Reference

		(Environment Network Manawatū)	Officer		
4.	March 2023	Explore range of alternative 'Three Waters' funding, finance and investment options	Chief Executive	Referred to Strategy & Finance Committee meeting - May 2022	Council 7 December 2022 Clause 176
5.	June 2023	Licensing, Regulatory and Service Provision Tools for Waste Minimisation, and Impact Council Service Provision has on Commercial Sector	Chief Planning Officer/ Chief Infrastructure Officer		11 August 2021 Clause 24.5
6.	June 2023	Opportunities for native species re-introductions in the Turitea Reserve area	Chief Planning Officer		17 November 2021 Clause 38
7.	June 2023	Citywide Emissions Inventory 2022	Chief Planning Officer		Climate change plan ongoing action #3
8.	June 2023	PNCC Organisational Emissions Inventory 2021/22	Chief Planning Officer		Climate change plan ongoing action #1
9.	June 2023	Environmental Sustainability Report 2023	Assistant Chief Executive		Terms of Reference
10.	June 2023	Desktop analysis of opportunities for solar power on Council-owned buildings	Chief Planning Officer		Council 7 December 2022 Clause 174.2
11.	June 2023	Wastewater Discharge Consent Project - Quarterly Update	Chief Infrastructure Officer		11 May 2022 Clause 26

12.	March August 2023	Update on the Regional Climate Change Committee	Chief Planning Officer	Delayed to allow progress report on the Regional Climate Change Action Plan	Climate change plan ongoing action #1
13.	August 2023	PNCC Zero Carbon Feasibility Study - options emissions reductions scenarios	Chief Planning Officer		Environmental Sustainability Committee 21 September 2022 Clause 22
14.	August 2023	Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2019 - Annual Progress report	Chief Infrastructure Officer		9 September 2020 Clause 17
15.	August 2023	Low Carbon Roadmap - options to achieve the city-wide goal of 30% reduction in emissions by 2031	Chief Planning Officer		30 March 2022 Clause 6
16.	August 2023	Low Carbon Fund – Annual Report 2023	Chief Planning Officer		Committee of Council 9 June 2021 Clause 28.18
17.	October 2023	Wastewater Discharge Consent Project - Quarterly Update	Chief Infrastructure Officer		11 May 2022 Clause 26
18.	December 2023	Wastewater Discharge Consent Project - Quarterly Update	Chief Infrastructure Officer	Present to Council	11 May 2022 Clause 26
19.	March 2024	Waste Management and Minimisation Plan	Chief Infrastructure Officer		Terms of Reference

ATTACHMENTS

NIL