



Taking responsibility for
a sustainable future



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Lincoln Envirotown Survey Results 2007

Progress Towards Sustainability Report Summary



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

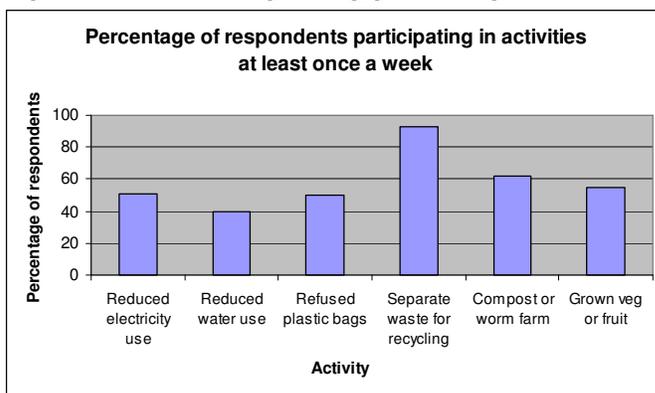
Sustainable Management Fund

2007 LINCOLN ENVIRO TOWN SURVEY – SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS

The Lincoln Envirotown Trust wanted to gather information from the residents of Lincoln about their actions, knowledge, opinions, attitudes and requirements towards becoming an environmentally sustainable township. A questionnaire was delivered to each household in Lincoln, in their mailbox, with a LET newsletter, and returned to drop boxes around the township (the Selwyn District Service Centre at the Lincoln Library in Gerald Street or the Four Square Supermarket).

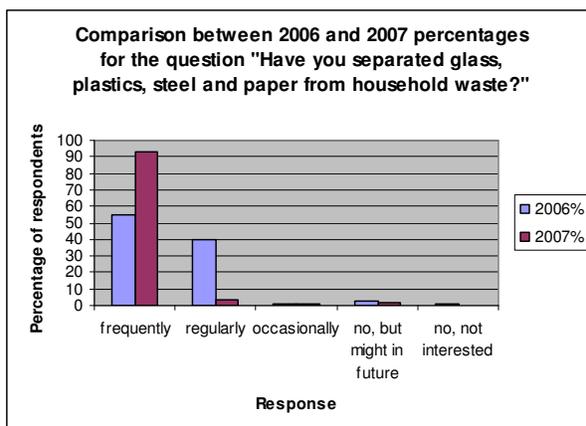
Some of the questions were the same or similar to some questions asked in the 2006 LET survey, these were used as a comparison between 2006 and 2007 to gauge progress towards sustainability. The survey was a combination of tick in the box, numerical and short answers, with spaces for comments and suggestions. 108 surveys were returned from the approximately 900 survey forms distributed. This represents an 12% return rate.

Many respondents were frequently (at least once a week) participating in a number of activities, which were progressing towards sustainability. For example, reducing or limiting the use of electricity, reducing or limiting the use of tap water, refusing a plastic bag or using a reusable bag when shopping, separating glass, plastic, steel and paper from household waste, composting or using a worm farm and growing garden vegetables or fruit.

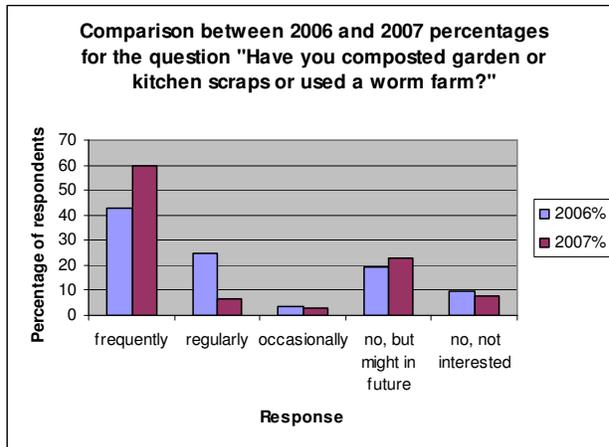


Respondents were less frequently participating in other activities, such as using a bus, carpooling or cycling to get to work, study, sports or shopping, buying products marketed as certified organic or environmentally friendly, becoming involved in a project to improve the natural environment, and participating in or giving a donation to an environmental organization.

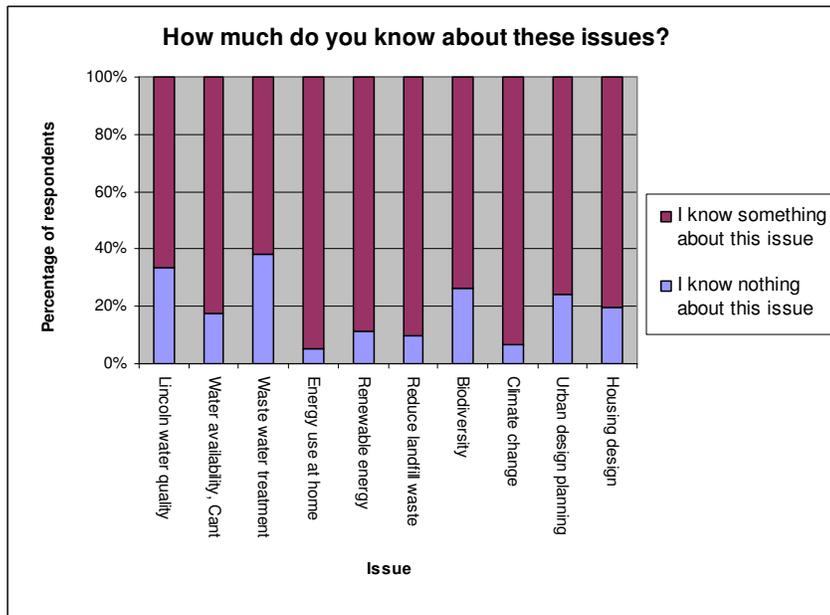
A comparison between 2006 and 2007 survey results has shown that there has been progress towards sustainability in some areas, although other areas are largely unchanged. The biggest change is a jump in respondents separating glass, plastic, steel and paper from household waste, at least once a week. 55% of respondents separated glass, plastic, steel and paper from household waste in 2006, compared to 93% in 2007.



There is also an increase in 2007 from 2006 in the number of respondents composting garden or kitchen scraps or using a worm farm.



Most respondents felt that they knew something about environmental issues. Between 60 and 95% of respondents felt that they knew something about each issue in the survey. Respondents thought that they knew most about energy use at home, climate change and how to reduce household waste going to landfill.

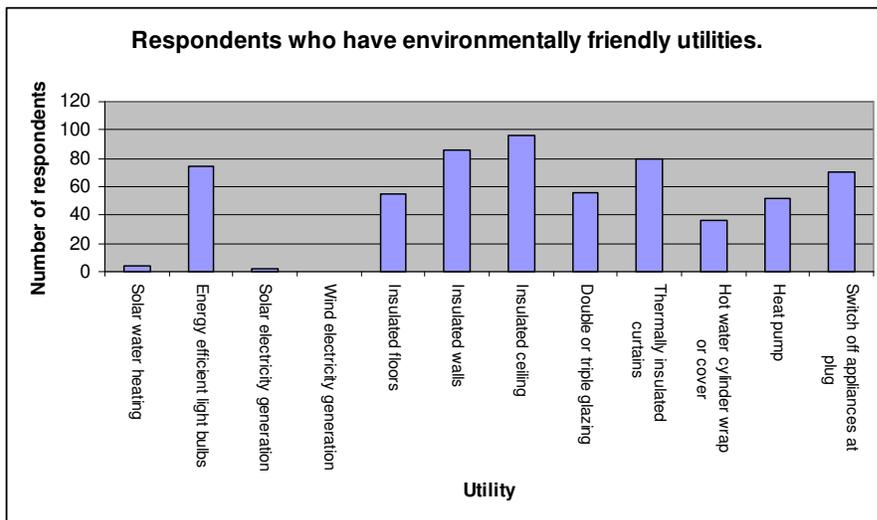


Between 15% and 40% respondents said that they would like to know more about the environmental issues listed. The two most popular being Lincoln water quality and Lincoln waste water treatment.

Over 50% of respondents had lived in Lincoln for less than 5 years, so had arrived fairly recently. 18% had arrived in the last year. When asked how much longer they expected to live in Lincoln, 45% of respondents, who answered the question said that they expected to live in Lincoln for another 20 years or more.

Two-thirds of families chose to have their children educated in Lincoln. This is fewer than in 2006 (although there were only a few respondents).

Many of the respondents already had a number of environmentally friendly utilities around their homes. The most common were insulated ceilings (over 90%), thermally insulated curtains (over 80%), insulated walls (over 80%), and energy efficient light bulbs (over 70%).



Some of the utilities were uncommon, but many respondents indicated that they would like to know more about them. Some examples are solar hot water heating, solar electricity generation and wind electricity generation.

Only a small percentage of respondents had attended each of the LET activities, with the exception of visiting the LET caravan/centre, which had been visited by 40%. Quite a number of people indicated that they were interested in having similar events run again. 23% of respondents were interested in another composting workshop, 21% of respondents were interested in another zero waste street challenge and 15% of respondents were interested in another native gardens tour.

Most respondents were aware of environmental issues in the media, with over 60% often reading news or features about environmental and sustainability issues. Al Gore's movie '*An Inconvenient Truth*' was the most common memorable TV programme or film.

An earlier community consultation produced a number of topics that respondents were asked to rank as important through to not important. Preserving our waterways, the Liffey, and Lake Ellesmere and reducing waste were considered the most important.

Lincoln Envirotown survey respondents averaged 1.8 cars per household, with only one household not owning a car. The respondents estimated that they drove on average about 20 000 km per year. 23% of respondents had downsized a car in the last year. One respondent said that they had bought a hybrid car in the last year.

The average (mean) electrical power bill for a month was \$184, (taken for the winter months of June and July). Other fuels that were used were gas, wood, coal, and wood pellets.

Analysis of the results of the 2007 Lincoln Envirotown Trust survey and the comparison with the 2006 survey indicates that some progress is being made towards Lincoln becoming more environmentally sustainable.