



Taking responsibility for a sustainable future



Lincoln Envirotown: A model for community-managed sustainable development

1st Milestone Report

31 August 2006

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for the Lincoln Envirotown Trust



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Sustainable Management Fund



Acknowledgements

This project is made possible by the dedicated members of the Lincoln Envirotown Trust & Committee, our partners including Lincoln University, Landcare Research, Selwyn District Council, the Lincoln Community Committee, Lincoln Business Committee, Lincoln Community Centre, Waihora Ellesmere Trust, local schools, the Lincoln community, and many other supportive organisations. We are deeply appreciative of the support received from the Minister for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund, which is administered by the Ministry for the Environment.

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Introduction

The Lincoln Envirotown Trust is facilitating a community-driven action plan to sustainably manage Lincoln Township. In partnership with the Selwyn District Council, Lincoln University, Landcare Research, the schools, community groups, business interests, developers and local and national expertise in sustainable design and management, we are working with the community and for the community to see its vision of a sustainable Lincoln come to fruition.

The first phase of the project (1 July 2006 – 31 August 2006) focused on introducing the community to the project through the 8 July project launch; hiring a Project Manager; setting up infrastructure of the project and progressing rapidly on tasks outlined in the subsequent phases of our project.

Summary

In June 2005, members of the Lincoln Envirotown Trust (LET) (then a sub-committee of the Lincoln Community Committee) began discussing the need for a sustainable Lincoln in the face of increasing development pressure. The town of less than 2500 is poised to nearly double in the coming years, with 1493 new homes planned. Concerns about the impacts of this growth on the social, environmental, cultural and economic well-being have grown amongst the community and LET began working to make sure that growth was planned and occurred sustainably. Being a unique town with a tremendous knowledge base of researchers from Lincoln University and the Crown Research Institutes, an active school system and a dedicated community, Lincoln is the perfect site for a model sustainable town. Lincoln Envirotown Trust is making tremendous progress toward making Lincoln a true Envirotown by bringing the community together with the aid of the local scientific expertise, and working collectively towards addressing the future proactively and sustainably.

The momentum and enthusiasm for the project was elevated to the next level at our Project Launch on 8 July. This was a perfect springboard to promote involvement from all sectors of the community to engage in learning about sustainability and making changes in their own lives, as well as having involvement in the greater development issues occurring all around Lincoln. Following on the success of that event, we have completed the first phase tasks of the project, many tasks from the second and subsequent phases, and have garnered tremendous support throughout. This report looks at Phase 1 of the Lincoln Envirotown Project accomplishments and outlines actions underway.

Stage 1 Tasks & Deliverables

	Project Stages and Deliverables	Due Date	Estimated Cost (excl GST)
1	<p>(a) Advertise and appoint a Project Manager and person to staff the Sustainability Centre.</p> <p>(b) Select two students from Lincoln University to undertake research of communities and sustainability and set up an information database.</p> <p>(c) Promote and hold a project launch on 8 July 2006 to raise public awareness of the project.</p> <p>(d) Set up a working party comprising key organisations and community group representatives.</p> <p>(e) Develop and publish a web site to publicise information for Lincoln residents and other communities to access. <i>The web site will contain information such as a database, project activities and details of "how to" sessions held.</i></p> <p>Provide MfE with a report on the above tasks including students names and qualifications, members of the working party and link to new website. Include copies of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job advertisement for Project Manager • Job description for Project Manager • Appointed Project Manager's CV • Promotional material for project launch • Digital photographs of launch 	31/08/06	\$44,055.00

Stage 1 - Task (a)

- **Advertise and appoint a Project Manager and person to staff the Sustainability Centre**

Lincoln Envirotown Trust and Committee members successfully hired a Project Manager to begin 1 July 2006 in the position. We advertised for and interviewed five candidates for the Project Manager position from a pool of six applicants. The selection committee offered the position to Anne Nelson, our Project Manager. The appointment began just days before our big launch and she has been working hard on multiple aspects of the project alongside Trust members, partners, community members and along with other Trust members has been networking and promoting the project. Previous to this appointment Anne worked with for a University programme that brought current research on water quality and marine ecology issues to bear on policy and education. A major component of this work was to bring the researchers, decision-makers, educators and community groups together to collaboratively solve issues of importance to all and support each other's efforts.

Deliverables: Job advertisement for the Project Manager (as attached)
Job description for the Project Manager (as attached)
Appointed Project Manager's CV (as attached)

Stage 1 - Task (b)

- **Select two students from Lincoln University to undertake research of communities and sustainability and set up an information database**

We advertised for two research positions during August. We reviewed several applications received for the community sustainability research position and offered the position to a candidate, who will begin the research mid-September. The biodiversity position did not garner any candidates, to our surprise, so we have readvertised the position through Lincoln University, Landcare Research, and University of Canterbury networks as well as posting the position on our website and through various email distribution lists with a closing date of 15 September. Some candidates have been put forward and we hope to have the student in place shortly. As the biodiversity position is field-based, the student will not be able to start and complete the work until summer, so we still have plenty of time to bring them on board. We hope to have the community sustainability research position completed by summer to complement and inform the work we are undertaking with Lincoln community. We have ample support from Lincoln University faculty and look forward to incorporating the research results into our template for other communities to use.

Outputs: Names and qualifications of the research students:
Emily Arthur - Bachelor of Science, Conservation and Ecology
Lincoln University, Certificate in Adult Teaching, EcoTourism and resource management tutor and community educator
(second research position information to be forwarded as soon as finalised)

Stage 1 - Task (c)

- **Promote and hold a project launch on 8 July 2006 to raise public awareness of the project**

On the morning of 8 July 2006 the Lincoln Community Centre was filled with well over 100 people listening to opening ceremony speeches. Throughout the whole day there were about 100 people at any one time gathering resources on sustainability; test driving hybrid cars; learning about subjects such as solar power and native biodiversity as well as listening to informative talks, that ran every 20 minutes throughout the day. The event was highly successful in publicising our efforts, providing resources and information to a wide spectrum of the community; as well as conveying the support we enjoy from local and central government, community groups and the local research partners in Lincoln. Valuable new networks were forged that day and as well all our established collaborations strengthened and celebrated. The mood was festive and upbeat and buzzing with an anticipation of things to come. It was a wonderful event that set the stage and continued to build momentum for this community project.

Deliverables: Promotional material for project launch (as attached)
Digital photographs of launch (as attached)

Stage 1 - Task (d)

- **Set up a working party comprising key organisations and community group representatives**

The Lincoln Envirotown Trust is an active group made up of representatives of the business community, Landcare Research, Lincoln University, Waihora Ellesmere Trust, and HortResearch and local residents. The Trust is thoroughly engaged as a working party for the project in addition to members from the Lincoln Envirotown Committee, which is an extension of the legal Trust group and consists of the Trust members, additional members of the Lincoln community and representatives other key stakeholder groups. The Committee is an extension of the legal Trust group, and is equally active and committed to the project. We have two high school students on the committee who wanted to be part of the Trust but weren't old enough to do so! We have also assembled a committee focused on education events in the coming months made up of Trust, Committee and other community members. We enjoy a diverse and robust membership that is growing by the day. Being firmly grounded as a community project, participation in the process as well as the outputs is strongly encouraged and fostered.

Outputs: Key working party members:

- **Dr. Sue Jarvis, Chair Lincoln Envirotown Trust, Sir Peter Blake Environmental Educator, local resident**
- **Professor Ian Spellerberg, Lincoln University, local resident**
- **Jason Arnold, Coordinator Waihora Ellesmere Trust, local resident**
- **Melissa Brignall-Theyer, Forest Ecologist, Landcare Research, Lincoln resident**
- **Gloria Yaxley, Lincoln Business Association, local business owner, local resident**
- **Mike Bowie, Ecologist, Lincoln University, Lincoln resident**
- **Rhys Taylor, Sustainability Researcher, Landcare Research**
- **Dave Lane, Resource Care, Environment Canterbury, Lincoln resident**
- **Raewyn Young, educator, Lincoln resident**
- **Dr Maria Ignatieva, Landscape Architect, Lincoln University, local resident**
- **Dr Colin Meurk, local native biodiversity expert, Landcare Research**
- **Anne Nelson, Lincoln Envirotown Trust Project Manager**
- **Several other committee members and Lincoln University faculty members serve as advisors to strategy and written outputs and participate in planning meetings as needed/able.**

Stage 1 - Task (e)

- **Develop and publish a web site to publicise information for Lincoln residents and other communities to access. The web site will contain information such as a database, project activities and details of “how to” sessions held.**

A website template was developed as in-kind contribution by Landcare Research. Our website is updated at least weekly, usually several times a week, to promote Trust and other community-related activities. This, as with all websites, is a dynamic process that will

continue to grow and evolve. Our website address is on all our promotional materials, business cards and distributed to stakeholders for wide use as a community resource. We are looking forward to an expanding set of comprehensive resources on the website as well as published results from the survey, our workshops and learning sessions.

Output: Lincoln Envirotown Trust website: www.lincolnenvirotown.org.nz

Additional Outputs and Accomplishments

In addition to the deliverables associated with Stage 1 of the project, we are well on our way to accomplishing tasks and deliverables in subsequent stages:

- **Survey completed, distributed, collected & analysis underway**
- **An additional student researcher to be funded through Lincoln University (August 2006 – research to be complete February 2007)**
- **Recruited student from UK for full-time contribution to our project (1 July 2007 – 29 August 2006) for a total of 404 hours of in-kind contribution**
- **Sustainability Centre set up, materials gathering and alternative site scoping**
- **Sustainable Living course funding gained, advertised and organised**
- **Mahoe Reserve planting and maintenance activities**
- **Work with local developer**
- **Brochure and poster creation**
- **Networking and project promotion**

Survey completed, distributed and collected

We have created, distributed and collected the surveys from the Lincoln community. As the analysis is being completed in September, we will report out fully on the results in our Milestone 2 report. We have the rough analysis already, which is proving most helpful in forming our strategy and efforts to work with the community on the issues that concern them most.

Additional student researcher to be funded through Lincoln University (August 2006 – research to be complete February 2007)

Lincoln Envirotown Trust and Committee members and staff successfully wrote a research proposal for a student at Lincoln University this summer. The student will receive funding from the University to undertake “An Analysis of New Zealand Local Authority Approaches to

Implementing Low Impact Urban Design & Development.” The research will be put into a report, which we hope will be of use to local authorities throughout the country as well as support our work in Lincoln. We will report on the results of the research when completed in early 2007.

Recruited student from UK for full-time contribution to our project

Rachel Boughton joined us for the first eight weeks of our project work. Professor Ian Spellerberg, Lincoln Envirotown Trust member and Lincoln faculty member, recruited Rachel for an internship with our programme. Rachel worked tirelessly to research, source and create materials for our Sustainability Centre and helped staff it for the time we were located at the Community Centre. Rachel’s contributions were tremendous and much appreciated. We were able to provide Rachel with varied and challenging experience and some good additions to her portfolio. Rachel also created a database of contacts she made while collecting resources for the Centre, which is highly useful for our efforts.

NB: As 100% of Rachel’s time was spent on matters related to the Sustainability Centre (Milestone 2) her in-kind will be accounted for in the next milestone report.

Sustainability Centre set up, resource research & collection

We opened the Sustainability Centre 15 July, the week after the Launch. Tremendous effort was exerted to create a full array of resources and materials for the community to learn about sustainability. The Centre was available to the community on Friday and Saturday mornings from 10-12. At the time, our only option for a Centre was in the Lincoln Community Centre, a shared facility. As other groups used the same space during subsequent hours, the arrangement necessitated we set up and take down the displays each week. In order to provide a comprehensive array of materials for the community, our set up and take down time took inordinately long and didn’t justify the current configuration of the Sustainability Centre. We currently have a subcommittee of the Trust researching other location options for the Centre. During the four weeks we did remain open, the Project Manager and student Rachel Boughton managed to build up a significant collection of resources and planned in detail the resource needs and setup procedures for a Sustainability Centre. A full reporting of the Centre will be forthcoming in the next Milestone report.

Sustainable Living course advertised and organised

In order to bring the sustainability discussion to as many members of the community as possible, we decided to hold the Sustainable Living course this spring. Preparations are underway and the class is set to begin in late September, if all arrangements fall into place accordingly. We have secured funding to pay the tutor for contact hours with the students. Payment will be forthcoming at the conclusion of the class and receipt of class records, likely the beginning of 2007. As above, full reporting for this task will be in the Milestone 2 report.

Mahoe Reserve planting and maintenance activities

The Lincoln Envirotown Trust and many other community members have been working with Lincoln High School students to continue the planting and development of the Mahoe Reserve native vegetation project. Other groups such as Lincoln Kung Fu and Lincoln Kindergarten have become involved. Locals as well as organisations such as HortResearch have donated topsoil, compost, mulch as well as irrigation supplies. The Selwyn District Council has paid for some plants as well as fencing and a pathway. This old shingle pit and ex-illegal rubbish dump is fast becoming an asset to the community and a source of community pride and accomplishment. In addition to being an environmental enhancement exercise, it is also a success story of community building – neighbours meeting and coming together to work for the good of the community and environment.

Work with local developer

Trust and Committee members are working with a local developer to incorporate more sustainable design elements into his plans for a subdivision in Lincoln. The developer, whilst having already paid for his plans to be drawn up, is willing to re-design the subdivision after numerous consultations with Lincoln Envirotown members. This is a significant victory wherein the community has influenced a developer to change his plans by applying the local expertise and community views to the project. The developer is likely to build on more rural lands in the area, so this accomplishment should have far-reaching results if he continues down the path of building more sustainably. Through our networking with Landcare Research, they have generously offered to pay for the developer and his designer to travel to Auckland to meet with Landcare Research experts in low impact urban design.

Brochure and poster creation

We have contracted with the Lincoln University graphic designer, who designed our logo, to create a brochure, and display poster. Her work is beautiful and professional (and reasonably priced!) and we look forward to the final product mid-September. Samples to be included in Milestone 2 report.

Networking and project promotion

Significant progress has been made in networking and promoting our project within the Lincoln University staff, staff of Crown Research Institutes, local businesses, and other local and regional organisations. From this work, we have gained new support, collaborators and sharing of information that has proven mutually beneficial. We have secured agreement from numerous researchers to take part in upcoming workshops and talks and we welcome the opportunity to link the community with the local research resources.