



Taking responsibility for a sustainable future



# Lincoln Envirotown: A model for community- managed, sustainable development

## Milestone 3 Report

March 23 2007

Prepared by Anneleise Hall  
for the Lincoln Envirotown Trust



Ministry for the  
**Environment**  
*Manatū Mō Te Taiao*

**Sustainable Management Fund**



## **Acknowledgements**

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## Introduction

Lincoln Envirotown Trust (LET) 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 third phase of the project (16 December 2006 – 23 March 2007) focused on installing a new project manager, strengthening LET's relationship with our partners, the community, other like-minded groups, local builders, developers and designers, monitoring several research projects, planning more public educational opportunities and developing a structure for the engagement and consultation process for our community plan public meetings.

### **New Project Manager**

Former Project Manager Anne Nelson resigned; finishing in December and three people were interviewed for the Project Manager's job. Anneleise Hall was the successful applicant and started on January 15. Anneleise has a diverse background as a reporter and sub-editor, tutor, event co-ordinator and facilitator along with good networking and communication skills and a passion for the environment. As a former local journalist she had already established excellent professional relationships with the council, local organisations and the community.

## **SMF grant deliverables – Milestone 3**

***a) Liaise with and seek expert advice from local urban designers, landscape architects, energy efficiency architects and designers and Selwyn District Council.***

### **Sustainable show home**

Lincoln developer David Hobbs has offered the free use of one of his subdivision sections for approximately five years to build an eco home. The building would be used as a site office for his subdivision project and sustainability centre and show home for LET. Architect Dr Robert Vale, of the Sustainable Design Centre Research Centre at the University of Auckland, has expressed interest in designing and overseeing the project free of charge provided it could be built to certain criteria including:

- Zero annual non-renewable energy use
- Zero mains water use
- Zero untreated sewage outfall from site
- Zero untreated wastewater outfall from site
- Zero stormwater run-off from site

David Hobbs has indicated he is open to this proposal and negotiations are continuing. A project such as this has huge potential by giving people a vision of what is possible, a chance to show sustainable living in practice, and model sustainable features. The project may also identify barriers in the building and resource management acts that inhibit sustainable building and could be a case study of how to comply without compromising the sustainability principles. Our public feedback to date has indicated huge public interest in

sustainable building and features and this project has the potential to be of huge public interest and set sustainable design precedents.

### **Sustainable building sub-committee**

LET has formed a sustainable building sub-committee, which is seeking expert advice about design principles and attributes for sustainable building with the long-term view of producing educational material for public distribution for builders and renovators. This sub-committee will also liaise with David Hobbs, Dr Robert vale, sustainable builders and developers to help facilitate the building of an eco show home in Lincoln. Participants in meetings so far include: Gloria Yaxley (Lincoln Business Association), Melissa Brignall-Theyer (Landcare Research), Faye Parfitt (Real Estate agent), Ilan Egoz (local resident), Anneleise Hall (LET Project Manager), Dennis Chapman (Engineer, power technology pioneer, technical director Enatel), Ross Hanson (resident and CRI employee), Catheryn Faid (builder/developer), Dr Sue Jarvis chair LET.

### **Sustainable development presentation**

Planner Doug Craig gave a PowerPoint presentation about sustainable subdivision design to the LET committee at our March monthly meeting. He helped put together the SNZHB44 Handbook that can be downloaded at [www.standards.co.nz](http://www.standards.co.nz). It is hoped that this handbook will be used as the standard for subdivision guide in the future – Kapiti council are using it.

Doug has recently been involved with the University of Auckland and is passionate about promoting sustainable development. We are hoping to liaise more with Doug in the future and he has expressed interest in being a workshop speaker.

### **Energy efficiency**

LET attended an NZES – Local Government Energy Bridging Forum hosted by Environment Canterbury and facilitated by Jane Johnston, senior policy advisor for Local Government New Zealand with representatives from many ministries including MfE, MED, MoT, local authorities including CCC, ARC, ACC, ECan, EECA, and several community groups. The purpose was to identify appropriate relationship/s between national and local energy strategies. This was a good opportunity to network, learn, participate and strengthen our relationship with our regional council, Environment Canterbury.

### **Landscape architects**

Through ongoing dialogue and liaison with local developer David Hobbs we have facilitated an opportunity for him to collaborate with the Lincoln University Landscape Architecture group. Lincoln University ecological design students will use David's subdivision as a case study for a second semester assignment. There is potential for a student design to be implemented at the developer's cost at the end of the project.

The ecological design students went on a field trip to David's 4.2 ha Broadfields property on March 14. The large formal New Zealand garden, designed by award-winning Landscape Architect Robert Watson, features over 1km of totara hedges, beech and kauri forests and over 14,000 trees. LET Project Manager Anneleise Hall accepted an invitation to attend this field trip.

Meetings with Senior Lecturer Maria Ignatieva identified a number of areas where LET and the Lincoln University Landscape Architecture Group can work together in the future

including township planting project designs and public education resources on native garden design resources and sustainable landscape design.

## UDS submission

Chairwoman Dr Sue Jarvis presented a submission to the Joint Councils Committee on behalf of LET at a Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy hearing.

The draft Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy<sup>1</sup>, a collaboration between Christchurch, Selwyn and Waimakariri District Councils, Environment Canterbury and Transit New Zealand, predicts major growth and development in Selwyn over the next 34 years with Lincoln likely to be significantly affected.

*"The number of households will increase from 5,620 in 2001 to about 14,622 in 2041. Many of these additional people and houses are likely to be in Rolleston, Lincoln and Prebbleton, and on lifestyle blocks and rural residential sub-divisions between these towns."*<sup>2</sup>

### **UDS Submission attached Selwyn District Council**

LET presented a progress report to our partner the Selwyn District Council at the general meeting on February 14, 2007. The report included events and activities to date, events and activities planned and an outline of our proposed consultation process for the community-owned sustainability action plan. The attendance at our events and our growing mailing list indicated that we are engaging with a wide range of the community. We welcomed the council's suggestions on how we could feed the information we were getting through our public engagement into the council's planning and consultation processes. We praised their sustainability initiatives to date and thanked them for their support. Mayor McEvedy congratulated us on our success to date and agreed we were certainly engaging with the community.

LET is building good relationships with councillors and council managers. We have had support from the Solid Waste manager Dave Hock who has indicated enthusiasm and support for future waste reduction promotions, the community development department who support our public events and initiatives, HR manager Chris Hewitt administers the Project Manager's salary at the suggestion of Corporate Services Manager Douglas Marshall, CEO Paul Davy has invited us to be included as an agenda item if we need council consideration on any projects.

LET was invited to attend a stakeholder focus group for the Lincoln Structure Plan and Stormwater Plan, held at the Lincoln Community Centre. Project Manager Anneleise Hall and Chairwoman Dr Sue Jarvis attended. The plan's purpose is to identify the location, type and form of growth to occur in and around Lincoln and to promote the integration of roading networks, reserves, walkways and the provision of servicing infrastructures. The purpose of the Stormwater Plan is to identify the infrastructure needed to collect, treat and dispose of stormwater in an environmentally friendly way.

LET has also been liaising with the council planners regarding the best way to incorporate the information gathered from the community action plan engagement process into the council planning process. Councillor Lindsay Philips is a LET committee member and is attending our consultation launch representing council to answer public questions about the structure plan.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.greaterchristchurch.org.nz/DraftStrategy.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.greaterchristchurch.org.nz/Options/DistrictSummaries/SelwynSummary.pdf>

## ***b) Report on research information gathered and database***

### **Research**

Two research assistantships were awarded to undertake research of communities and sustainability.

#### **1. Baseline ecological survey of Lincoln.**

- Awarded to Clowance Nolan

3rd year Bachelor of Natural Resource Management student

##### **Research brief:**

This project requires a baseline survey of some aspects of the indigenous flora, fauna and habitats in the Lincoln area. It is envisaged that this will focus on vascular plants. The purpose of the survey will be to establish a baseline so that future changes and improvements in indigenous flora can be monitored. One other useful outcome will be the identification of any culturally significant flora and significant vegetation and habitats. A research question could be: what aspects of indigenous flora can usefully be recorded to help promote and monitor the sustainable use of the environment?

***Report attached***

#### **2. Communities and environmental sustainability**

- Awarded to Emily Arthur

Bachelor of Science, Conservation and Ecology, Lincoln University, Certificate in Adult Teaching, EcoTourism and resource management tutor and community educator

##### **Research brief:**

The aim of the research is to document examples from around the world where communities (such as cities, towns or villages) have worked together to adopt or establish an environmental sustainability ethic. The purpose is to provide the Lincoln Envirotown Trust with such examples and with information that can help the Trust in its work with the Lincoln community. The role of schools in helping communities to achieve environmental sustainability could be one component of the research.

Sources of information will be obtained via the internet and via contact with organisations such as the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, Ecologic, Landcare Research and the Landcare Trust. The student will also be expected to liaise with some international organizations as well as organizations from other countries.

The Trust will be looking for information about what helped communities to be successful and also what prevented progress towards environmental sustainability. A research statement could be: Communities journeying towards environmental sustainability – what helps and what are the barriers?

***Report attached***

### **Information database**

The database on our website [www.lincolnenvirotown.org.nz](http://www.lincolnenvirotown.org.nz) continues to grow. We now have 50 links under 11 topic headings. We are regularly adding new links. Most of these sites have been recommended by our partners or supporters.

### **Sustainable Building**

BRANZ - Greenhome scheme  
Consumer Build - Green Homes  
New Zealand Green Building Council  
Earth Building Association of New Zealand  
Sustainability Expo in Christchurch - 27 - 28 January 2007

### **Sustainable Gardening and Landscaping**

Grow Green (Austin, Texas)

### **Low Impact Urban Design & Development (LIUDD)**

Landcare Research  
MFE Urban Design Protocol  
Urban Design Research in NZ  
Urban Ecology Programme Lincoln University

### **Energy**

Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority  
Environment Canterbury Energy  
Energy Rating Guide (Australia)  
Thermocell Solar Hot Water & Electricity  
Solar Electric Specialists, Ltd.  
NZ Photovoltaic Association  
NZ Wind Energy Association  
Solar Industries Association

### **Climate Change**

New Zealand Climate Change  
ECAN Climate Change Report

### **Enhancement & Restoration of Native Biodiversity**

Waihora Ellesmere Trust  
DOC Motukarara Conservation Nursery  
Environment Canterbury Resource Care  
Ngai Tahu  
New Zealand Landcare Trust  
Weedbusters  
Kiwi Conservation Club

### **Sustainability Education in Lincoln**

Isaac Centre for Nature Conservation at Lincoln University  
-Urban Ecology Programme  
-Te Ara Kākāriki Greenway Canterbury  
-Waterwatch

Lincoln University Environmental Organisation  
Lincoln High School Environmental Organisation  
Lincoln Kindergarten

### **Sustainability in Canterbury**

Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch Inc.  
Sustainability at the University of Canterbury  
Future Living Expo

### **Sustainability in New Zealand**

Ministry for the Environment  
Sustainable Households Programme

The Natural Step  
Sustainable Business Network  
Sustainability in Auckland  
**Sustainable Recreation and Travel**  
Consumer's Institute - Fuel Efficiency/Emissions Resources  
Little River Rail Trail

#### **Waste**

Selwyn District Council Zero Waste Strategy  
Zero Waste Trust NZ  
Target Zero (Christchurch City Council)  
Recycling Operators of NZ  
TerraNova (materials exchange)  
Disposal of electronic waste - Ministry for the Environment

#### **Mailing list**

LET has also been developing a contact database. We have 231 people on our electronic newsletter mailing list and many have expressed interest in participating in further educational workshops or discussion groups.

### **Additional Outputs and Accomplishments**

In addition to the deliverables associated with Stage 3 of the project, we have made significant progress with the planning and implementation of deliverables in subsequent stages:

- **Planning and promotion for a children's enviroclub to be launched in the April school holidays.**

LET has formed a children's club subcommittee and have enlisted help from the ECan educational officer for advice and material. We have a number of activities planned including wearable art made from recycled material, flax weaving and making an "environmental footprint" out of a natural clay tablet. We will focus on a number of themes, the first being reducing waste. The programme will be for 3-12 year olds and will launch in the holidays and run a monthly session on a weekday afternoon.

Draft Mission Statement:

The Lincoln Enviroclub is all about promoting a way of living for the benefit of present and future generations of children and their families.

Its values are:

- A. Making learning about sustainable living fun.
- B. Fostering respect for the natural environment and our community

Slogan:

"The Future belongs to the children, let's help them look after it."

- **Second Sustainable Household course already planned and promoted in our March Newsletter, on our website with the co-ordinator at the Eco picnic consultation launch.**

This is being run by local woman Raewyn Gillgren in her own home using materials and support from the Sustainable Living programme and featuring guest speakers on different aspects of sustainability. The course run last year was successful and well attended. The

benefits of the course include education about sustainable behaviour and bringing people in the community together with a common interest in sustainability. Feedback from the last course was positive. We have been allocated funding of \$548 from Adult Community Education to pay for tutor hours.

- **Development of Sustainability Centre resources to include more children's educational material and redesign with the assistance of a UK student.**

Our sustainability caravan is now operated from the Selwyn Farmers' Market site in Lincoln and is proving popular. The change of venue has seen a need to adapt the materials to best fit the space available. We are in the process of developing more provocative displays that get people thinking, with more intensive information available in folders to browse or handouts. Due to caravan's popularity with children and our desire to link the centre with our children's club initiative, we have purchased some children's books and seating. We have a visiting UK student contributing on this project. We have started getting informal feedback for our consultation by providing forms for people to list their ideas of how Lincoln should be in the future. Many people have joined our mailing list through the sustainability centre.

- **Formation of a small steering group including Project Manager, EMS consultant and expert facilitators to design an inclusive, participatory and robust community plan development process that can be used as a model for other communities.**

A steering group has been formed to design a consultation strategy using a combination of methods particularly suited to participation, and diverse groups incorporating elements of Open Space Technology and Appreciative Inquiry within a structured format.

- **Eco picnic consultation launch**

To be held in conjunction with the Selwyn Farmers' Market the event will include live music, displays and promotion of; EM Bokashi composting, solar hot water and the Sustainable Living course with experts on site to chat. LET representatives will also be chatting to the community and encouraging them to register for the public consultation public. A representative from the Selwyn District Council will also be attending to answer questions about the council's draft structure plan for Lincoln.

- **Contracted consultant to work with project manager to develop an Environmental Management System as part of the community plan engagement process.**

We have contracted consultant Paul Barrett to develop an EMS. Paul will work with the project manager to align the EMS consultation process with the community plan consultation process and develop an EMS that is tailored to Lincoln and endorsed by the community. Paul will make a presentation to the committee next month and is currently preparing a draft framework proposal to feed into our community consultation process.

- **Ongoing website development and updates**

The website is continually evolving. We have pages for: coming events, past events, about us, links/resources, our sustainability centre, and links to our newsletters.

- **Monthly newsletter redesign with logo and banner.**

*February and March issues attached*

## **Summary of attachments**

- 1-UDS submission with
- 2-accompanying story

3-Baseline ecological survey of Lincoln - report

4-Communities and environmental sustainability - report

5-February Newsletter

6-March Newsletter