



Taking responsibility for a sustainable future



Lincoln Envirotown:

A model for community-managed, sustainable development

Milestone 5 Report

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Prepared by Anneleise Hall

Lincoln Envirotown Trust



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Sustainable Management Fund

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Milestone 5 deliverables

- a) develop community owned action plan
- b) develop an environmental management system for Lincoln Township.
This management system will provide the framework for future action, transparent and robust decision-making. Focus will be on creating a support mechanism for action and the continued involvement of the community in keeping their township sustainable.
- c) Develop long-term strategy for sustainability in Lincoln.

Provide MfE with a report on the above tasks, include a copy of the framework for the Environmental Management System and finalised community action plan.

Progress report summary

Action Plan

Following the Community Owned Action Plan consultation process, LET has compiled and distributed a draft community plan document to households in and around Lincoln. The plan finalisation has been transferred to Milestone 6 in agreement with our MfE advisor Lucy Green, as we have the opportunity to engage a visiting community engagement expert to facilitate our Action Planning workshop.

EMS

The EMS is underway and consultant Paul Barrett has been closely involved with the community consultation and draft plan process so the EMS will be closely aligned with the Community's Sustainability Action Plan. The EMS will provide the framework for communication and monitoring of community sustainability objectives. The EMS framework will align with the finalised community plan and will be reported on further in Milestone 6.

Sustainability Strategy

LET is taking a multifaceted approach to developing a long term strategy for sustainability in Lincoln.

While it is envisaged that community capacity will be developed through the action workshop for the community to develop and drive sustainability projects, LET also recognises that these initiatives need to be supported by research, education, business and policy.

For this purpose LET has organised a second workshop with Bliss Browne and invited guests representing local authorities, educational institutions, employers, community organisations and central government to help develop collaborative capacity to support and encourage sustainability initiatives.

The workshops will define sustainability goals.

LET has also been developing environmental business awards and promotional material to encourage businesses to sponsor sustainability projects.

Through this approach LET hopes an aligned vision for sustainability will emerge and networking, communication and collaboration between the community, local authorities, educators, business, researchers and employers will develop to support this vision.

Community-owned Action Plan Progress

After analysis of the ideas suggested and key themes identified during Lincoln Envirotown Trust's community consultation process, including discussion groups, meetings and submissions, a draft community plan document has been developed and distributed to households in and around Lincoln.

The four page document was deliberately kept simple in an attempt to engage as many people as possible in the process.

The front page advertises a community action workshop to prioritise ideas, find champions for projects and create a timeline for their implementation.

The second page gives a brief summary of LET's activities to date and objectives, an outline of the things the community enjoys and appreciates about Lincoln, and a summary of the consultation process and what happens now.

Page three outlines the main ideas and themes identified during the consultation process and gives people examples of the types of actions they could take and how these actions could be incorporated at a household, group and community level into activities and events that are already happening in Lincoln. These key themes will form the basis of the action workshop where people will be encouraged to "adopt a theme" and champion projects based on it.

Page four is a checklist of sustainability actions for individuals and households.

It gives people a practical list of easy actions they can take now. Many people are probably already doing some of the things on the list.

It encourages them to tick the boxes of the things they are already doing – and challenge themselves to try some new ones. This helps to reinforce to people that being sustainable is not a huge unachievable task. Many of the things that help the environment are easy to fit into the way we live and many do not cost money – in fact often they save us money!

We hope that even if people do not participate in the community meeting or do not get actively involved in sustainability projects the list will encourage them to take small achievable steps to be more individually sustainable and help raise awareness. A community group in Lyttelton has expressed interest in having the checklist on their website to download.



Sustainability Action Checklist

Things YOU can do NOW (or may already be doing!) as an individual or a household to help make Lincoln more sustainable - many of these things also save you money!!

Tick the things you are already doing.

Pin up this list and challenge yourself to do as many of these things as you can!

Share your tips with neighbours, family and friends.

- take reusable bags shopping
- choose products with the least or recyclable packaging
- compost food waste with a worm farm or Bokashi bucket system
- compost green waste or use a council yellow-lid bin
- reduce consumption – buy less
- plant some natives in your garden
- turn off lights when not in use
- turn appliances off at the wall
- turn down hot water cylinder temperature
- install a hot water cylinder wrap or cover
- when replacing appliances choose models with a high energy efficiency rating
- install eco friendly lightbulbs (energy efficient)
- have showers instead of baths
- install low-flow heads on showers
- water the garden at night
- collect water off the roof to water the garden
- wash your car on the lawn or on a gravel driveway
- mulch around plants to retain moisture
- plant native species that need less water
- use environmentally friendly cleaning and laundry products.
- check all taps and pipes for leaks/faulty washers
- use public transport, walk or cycle instead of using the car
- car pool with friends or neighbours for work and shopping trips
- when buying a car think 'small and fuel efficient is beautiful!'
- challenge yourself to a car-free day a week
- buy local, support local businesses and producers
- look at our website for links to other useful resources



Lincoln Envirotown Trust
Project Manager Anneleise Hall
Phone (03) 325 2811 ext 8290
Email halla4@lincoln.ac.nz
www.lincolnenvirotown.org.nz

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The Draft Community Action Plan Document

The front page of the Draft Community Plan Document was printed in colour and is attached with this report as a PDF. The front page has also been used as a poster and distributed round the township.

Pages 2-4 were printed in black and white and the document was printed double sided, collated and stapled. The 4 page flyer was distributed in Lincoln Township and the two rural delivery areas surrounding Lincoln. (Around 2000 households.)

(Draft Plan (p4) checklist on previous page, Pages1,2,3 attached.

Plan finalisation

The plan will be finalised from information gathered at a finalised at a public meeting held on June 10.

We have the wonderful opportunity to host Bliss Browne, an international expert in community engagement, to facilitate our public sustainability action workshop.

The community plan consultation and development process incorporates principles of Appreciative Inquiry.

Appreciative inquiry empowers people by helping them build a vision for a better future based on their community's strengths. Then, by drawing on these strengths, the community charts a path to turn their vision into reality.

The consultation process identified the strengths.

The action plan workshop will build on those strengths to mobilise community action.

The 20 sustainability themes identified by the Lincoln community during the consultation process will be workshopped.

- Preserve our waterways, the Liffey and Lake Ellesmere
- Reduce waste
- Recyclable shopping bags
- Reusing items
- More recycling
- Community vegetable gardens
- Encouraging locally sourced native planting
- Native plantings on waterways
- More native planting in the village
- A community owned wind turbine
- Car pool to Christchurch
- Eco friendly houses
- Cycle lane to university
- More cycling and walking
- Use more public transport
- Car free days
- More events to bring community together

- More resting spots for social interaction
- Support local businesses and producers
- Community workshops about sustainability

Leaders will be identified to develop action taskforces with strategies to implement community-led action.

The finalised community-owned sustainability action plan will be launched publicly in July, posted on our website and distributed through a community newsletter.

“Everybody has dreams of a better community. Yet, dreams often fade when kept private. When brought into public light, dreams become stronger. When translated into achievable steps for action, and held in common by a group, they can transform a community into a place of hope.

- What small change in your community would make a big difference?
- How could you work to make it happen?
- Who could work with you to bring your vision to life?”

Bliss Browne, Imagine Chicago

Long-term strategy for sustainability in Lincoln

It is envisaged that the community sustainability planning process will mobilise and engage the community towards becoming increasingly sustainable. The process has been designed to identify and inspire leaders in the community to champion projects that align with their strengths and areas of interest.

LET is also working on:

- identifying strategies to make sustainability more attractive to the community
- ways we can align sustainability action with the objectives of different groups in the community
- working more closely with schools and educators
- building networks with other organisations that promote sustainability
- building a closer collaborative relationship with the Selwyn District Council
- building relationships with local developers and builders.
- defining common ground and links with local and regional government policies, educators, researchers and community groups
- sourcing continued sponsorship, funding and support for sustainability education and projects.

- continuing collaboration with Sustainable Living to run local courses for house holders (see attachment 9)
- launching annual business awards that encourage businesses through an award system to improve their sustainability practices. (see attachment 10,11)
-

Survey development

LET is preparing a follow up to the survey that was circulated at the beginning of the project.

After a couple of meetings and quite a bit of online collaboration and feedback the survey is taking shape.

It was decided to omit some of the original questions that had served their purpose to gather data and retain others to compare to last time.

It was also decided to include new questions to establish some measurable baseline data on waste and energy use. This will give us some data to compare with national averages and also data for comparison with a view to doing another survey in 2-3 years time.

We will engage local students to distribute the survey personally to householders and hope we will be able to get an improved return rate on last time with this strategy. We will also promote the survey and send press releases to local media.

Environmental Management System

Consultant Paul Barrett has been working closely with Project Manager Anneleise Hall to develop the EMS in alignment with the community sustainability action plan.

The EMS will provide a framework and monitoring system for the community's identified sustainability goals.

Report attached

Attachments:

- 1 p1 - workshop poster
- 2 p2 - summary
- 3 p3 - ideas gathered
- 4 EMS report
- 5 receipts
- 6 invoice
- 7 payment form
- 8 expenditures
- 9 Sustainable living
- 10 business award report
- 11 business survey