



Taking responsibility for
a sustainable future



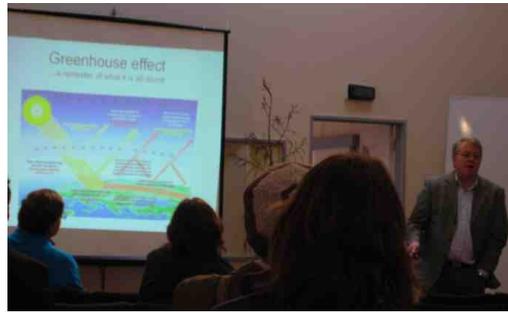
www.lincolnenvirotown.org.nz

Lincoln Envirotown Trust Newsletter

June/July 2008

"A Healthy Ecology is the Basis for a Healthy Economy" - Claudine Schneider, U.S. Representative in *The Green Lifestyle Handbook*.

Winter is upon us and we hope the short days and long nights provide time for reflection about how all of our small actions to help improve and protect our environment really do add up to a whole lot of good. As always, we hope this issue of our newsletter gives you great ideas and opportunities to get involved with LET in creating a more sustainable future for our Lincoln community.



Above: Kindy's Energy Blitz sign, reduce carbon footprint lecture, exhibit hall.

LET Energy Blitz Big Success

Future Proof Energy Expo Draws Crowds

Despite the threat of bad weather, crowds of Lincoln residents attended the LET Energy Blitz on June 7th, 2008. The event was held in conjunction with World Environment Day and featured speakers, rides in a hybrid car, exhibitors, music for children, a booked energy homes bus tour, and more. During the panel discussion, the top four recommendations to keep warm in an older home included insulating roofs and floors, sealing door and window cracks, using thermal drapes, and putting on an extra layer of clothing. The energy homes bus tour featured new homes built to be energy efficient as well as older homes that have been retrofitted to be more energy efficient. The expo was a good way for residents to come and learn more about reducing their energy bills and carbon footprints.

For those who did not get to go on the booked Energy Bus Tour, but are interested, there will be another tour in August. Contact Sue Jarvis at 329-5858, or sue.jarvis(at)orcon.net.nz for more information and to book.

Keeping warm in winter may be more difficult than expected for some. Please see the article about fuel poverty from the Community Energy Action Charitable Trust at the end of this newsletter for more information.

LET Envirokids News



LET Envirokids Club

The LET Envirokids Club meets the third Wednesday of each month. In June, LET Envirokids met and learned how to key out native plants and made native plant leaf print T-shirts. Next month the LET Envirokids Club will be participating in a special Kidsfest™ event for their monthly meeting (see information below).



Join Us For A Special Kidsfest™ LET Envirokids Club

Everyone Welcome!

When: Friday 18th July, 10 – 11.30am

Where: Lincoln Community Centre

What: The theme will be “Imagine the House of the Future “ – what will we be doing there, how will we be living? We will be providing activities and fun for 3 - 12 year olds.

What to bring: Boxes, such as shoeboxes; wear old clothes. Children, please bring an adult with you. In conjunction with this we will also be running another illustrated story competition on the same topic open to 3-18 year olds – see the article below for more information. This holiday activity will be instead of the July Envirokids club normal monthly meeting. **For further information contact Joy Hurley, 325-7497 or b.I.Stevenson(at)slingshot.co.nz, or Sue Jarvis, 329-5858 or sue.jarvis(at)orcon.net.nz.**

Lincoln Envirotown 2008 Story Competition

LET will again hold an illustrated story competition as part of Kidsfest™. This year's theme is “**Imagine the House of the Future – in 100 years time**”. Write an illustrated story on the topic, and get it to us by the **deadline, 24 July, 2008!** There will be prizes for each age group: 6 and under, 7-10, 11-14, 15-18. Use the information below to help get ideas, **and be sure to attach the entry form at the end of this newsletter with your entry.**

This topic was suggested by the children at the 2007 prize celebration. If you are in the youngest age group, you could draw a picture of your idea of your house of the future. Ask an older person to help you write a few words to go with your picture.

We hope to make the best stories into a book to be available locally, as we did with the previous Lincoln stories. The National Library has asked for a copy of our other books – so your stories might be there too!

Think about:

What will we be doing in the house of the future? How will we be living? Perhaps the petrol will have run out, or at least be very expensive, perhaps many people will have to work at home, be educated at home. How will this work? Perhaps we will need to grow our own vegetables, make our own energy. How will it be different from how people live in their homes now, or fifty or a hundred years ago? Talk to your grandparents, how much has changed since they were young. How much do you think it will change in your lifetime? Will we build our homes differently? Will there be different things in them?

For further information contact Sue Jarvis, 329-5858 or sue.jarvis(at)orcon.net.nz.

Lincoln Community Involvement / Get Involved



LET Responsible Business Award Presentations 24th July at 5.30pm in the Lincoln Community Centre

Lincoln businesses undertaking environmentally sustainable practices, demonstrating their level of achievement and their commitment to the sustainable future of the Lincoln community will be presented with Responsible Business Awards on the 24th of July by the Mayor, Kelvin Coe. To gain a certificate, businesses have completed a survey about their practices in the area of environmental sustainability and then received a visit by consultant Chris Hawkins. Bronze, Silver, or Gold level certificates will be presented. Businesses can upgrade to a higher-level certificate as soon as their sustainable practices have improved further.

Lincoln Envirotown Trust will publicise certified businesses that participate and will encourage people to support them. This is a **FREE** service to Lincoln Businesses - while our money lasts! **If you would like further information about the scheme, please contact Sue Jarvis, 329-5858 or 325-2121. If you would like to come to the awards ceremony please contact Sue for catering purposes.**

Lincoln Community Garden

Planning is underway for Lincoln to have a community garden. The Lincoln Envirotown Trust is in the process of negotiating a suitable site.

Our Community Garden would promote sustainability with a supportive and inclusive community food-growing project - very important with rising fuel and food costs. It will also provide educational opportunities for local people, both children and adults.

We are planning to work with the Lincoln Kidsfirst Kindergarten as part of their Gold Enviroschools project. There will provision for personal allotments, communal growing space and demonstration areas for educational purposes. We are hoping to have a part time manager to set up and manage the gardens.

A community garden was one of the actions suggested by the community for our Lincoln Sustainable Action Plan. We will be very grateful for any help, donation of tools, supplies, timber for boxing for raised gardens etc. **If you are interested in becoming involved, contact Sue Jarvis at 329-5858.**



Lincoln Envirotown Trust Meetings



LET meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm in the Lincoln Community Centre on Gerald Street. All interested parties are invited to attend. **For more information and to become involved with Lincoln Envirotown Trust, please contact Sue Jarvis, 329-5858 or sue.jarvis(at)orcon.net.nz.**

BioBlitz

LET will be running a BioBlitz in Lincoln with the help of Lincoln University. A BioBlitz involves the whole community working together to identify all the living things in an area – in our case the Liffey Reserve. It will be held on October 11th. The event is an opportunity for the public to come and find nature in the middle of Lincoln. It is a scientific race against time and lots of fun. The goal is to count as many species as possible in the time available. Watch the LET newsletter and Web site for more information.

News Briefs



Spotlight - Our LET Volunteers

Lincoln Envirotown Trust has been able to accomplish great things in moving our community toward a more sustainable future because of the interest, support and participation from you, our community members, and our volunteers. This month we highlight just one of the many faces working behind the scenes to make LET a success. **Ralph Scott** has been helping with LET for a number of years now. Ralph has helped to organize the Zero Waste Street challenge, organized the LET reusable bags, and provided guidance for the two Earlham College Students who helped LET in April. Currently, Ralph is busy working to have the Crop and Food corner entrance to Lincoln planted out with native plants. Ralph is also ever ready with the tools to help get things ready behind the scenes – everything from general handyman chores to setting up the Lincoln Community Center for the recent Energy Expo. Thank you Ralph for your interest in and commitment to LET! Your time and help are very much appreciated.

New LET Trial Carpool Message Board

LET is testing out a carpool message board online on the LET Web site. If you are interested in carpooling to and/or from Lincoln, please try using the new carpooling message board. E-mail Sue at [sue.jarvis\(at\)orcon.net.nz](mailto:sue.jarvis(at)orcon.net.nz) for the password.

Lincoln Planting Guide Nearly Ready

Ever wondered what native New Zealand plants might add that special something to your landscaping? A new Lincoln planting guide written for LET with help from Landcare Research and Lincoln University is coming soon that will help with basic background information and planting suggestions. Watch the LET Web site for more information, <http://www.lincolnenvirotown.org.nz>.

ecoNet

ecoNet is put out (Fridays) by Christchurch Branch of NZAEE (NZ Association for Environmental Education), a non-profit, national organisation of people working to promote and support environmental education, lifelong learning and sustainable behaviour throughout New Zealand/Aotearoa. You can sign up to receive the weekly environmental education event listings as an E-mail here, <http://www.environment.org.nz>.

Cent-a-meter Available to Borrow

The LET Cent-a-meter is a tool that assists homeowners with information about their own energy use. The Cent-a-meter is available from LET for a donation of five dollars or more and a \$100 refundable deposit. We now also have a Power meter for individual appliances **If interested, contact Sue Jarvis at 329-5858.**

NEVADASPORT



Thanks to Nevada Sport Ltd., for their generous donation!

Nevada Sport Ltd. saw us on 1% for the Planet, which one of their footwear suppliers, PATAGONIA Footwear, supports. Lincoln Envirotown Trust is one of only three New Zealand groups listed there. We are listed because of our involvement with the Jack Johnson Tour - they suggested it would be a good idea! **1% for the planet** is an alliance of businesses that donate at least 1% of their annual net revenues to environmental organizations worldwide. Thank you Nevada Sport Ltd. for your donation!

Nevada Sport Ltd is a NZ wide distributor of Outdoor Footwear & Apparel based in Selwyn for over 20 years and have an Outlet Store in Dressmart, Hornby called "Lets Get Outside", where there are always good deals on end of line products. www.nevada-sport.co.nz

**LET Kidsfest Holiday Program
Story Writing Competition Entry Form
“Imagine the House of the Future”**

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Entry form (please attach these details with your story)

(please print)

Name:

Phone number:

Age:

Title of your story:

Did you have help with your entry? Yes/No

If yes:

My helper was:

They helped with:

I used information from:

Deadline! Your story needs to be with us by the **24th July 2008**. It can be dropped in to the Lincoln Library, brought to the Lincoln Community Centre during the Kidsfest Holiday Programme “Imagine the House of the Future” run by the Lincoln Envirotown Trust on the 18th July (10.00am – 11.30am), or it can be mailed to: Sue Jarvis, 694 Gould’s Road, RD4 Christchurch 7674.



**Are You Living in Fuel Poverty?
Article for Community Newsletters
(ST Albans, Lincoln Envirotown, Project Port Lyttleton, CHAI)**

Many people in Canterbury, particularly those living on a low income could be living in fuel poverty. Whilst this phrase is relatively new to most Kiwis, families all over New Zealand are all too familiar with the actual experience of living in fuel poverty every winter.

A household is living in fuel poverty when essential household energy services such as heating, lighting, cooking, hot water are unaffordable to the resident(s). It is a concept used widely in the United Kingdom. A benchmark used there to identify households living in fuel poverty is to calculate if it would cost more than 10% of the household income to heat a home to a healthy living temperature of 18-21C (recommended by WHO) and provide other essential services. This definition includes households that do not heat their homes at all and spend little on energy because it focuses on the energy efficiency of the building, rather than how much a household is actually spending on essential energy services.

Fuel poverty has been used in the UK to inform and implement substantial government strategies that work to improve the warmth of cold, low income households. Compared to NZ, the UK government spends around eight times more than the NZ government on making cold homes warm and more energy efficient.

On 4 June Community Energy Action (CEA) hosted New Zealand's first fuel poverty workshop. Key note speakers were Gill Owen and David Green, leaders in initiatives on fuel poverty in the UK. Over 100 stakeholders attended from all over the country including NGO's, electricity suppliers, central and local government plus health representatives. As a result of this workshop CEA will be setting up regional and national-level Fuel Poverty Action Groups. Membership will consist of key individuals and agencies committed to working towards addressing fuel poverty in New Zealand. For more information about fuel poverty, visit <http://www.cea.co.nz/news-research/#fuelpoverty>

Christchurch has a legacy of old, cold, poorly insulated houses. New Zealand-based research indicates that people living in houses like these either give up heating their homes altogether, under-heat their homes or struggle to pay their power bills.

If your house is not energy efficient, maintaining a healthy indoor temperature is expensive and beyond the means of many people. Heat can be lost through ceilings, floors and draughty windows and doors. Many people also do not realise ceiling insulation aged over 20 years can settle and thin, which significantly reduces its effectiveness. Ceiling insulation may need to be 'topped up' with another layer of new insulation to reinstate good levels of energy efficiency in the roof space.

There are lots of things you can do to save energy and keep warm.

- Use external door draught-stops, internal door 'snakes' or 'sausages', plastic window insulation kits, and V-Seal draught stripping to prevent draughts and heat loss through your doors and windows. CEA sells these products online at <http://www.cea.co.nz/retail-shop/>. Costs range from \$5 to \$16.20!
- heat the room you use the most between 18°C-21°C, rather than your whole house. Heat your bedroom for around half an hour before you go to bed to 16°C.
- use heaters with a thermostat. These will maintain an ideal temperature without wasting electricity. If the heater you are using does not have a thermostat, it can be a good idea to keep a thermometer in the rooms you are heating. This will help you make sure that you are keeping your room at a healthy temperature, and at the same time avoid overheating and spending unnecessary money on heating costs.
- A damp house is much more expensive to heat. Minimise dampness in your house by keeping your house ventilated. You can do this by opening a few windows a little throughout the whole house for a couple of hours a day, two or three times a week.
- If you use an unflued gas heater, seriously consider replacing it with an electrical heater. LPG is no longer cheaper than electricity. An unflued gas heater will also release up to half a litre of moisture into the air an hour and will make your house damp and more expensive to heat.
- Ensure your house gets plenty of sunlight during the day. Cut down any trees or bushes that prevent the sun from shining into your house.
- Make sure your curtains are lined. Keep them open during the day to let the sun in and draw them in the late afternoon to trap as much free heat as possible.
- Make sure your hot water cylinder is set at about 60C. This will ensure that your hot water flows out of the tap no higher than 55C and minimise hot water heating bills.
- Most power companies offer the option of making weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments at the same pre-determined amount throughout the year. This means you pay a little bit more for electricity in the summer, but you aren't hit by very high power bills during winter. Give your power company a call and ask them about "smoothed" payments.