

Report No:	REP12-03-06
File No:	E390
Date:	16 March 2012
<i>Information Only -no decision required</i>	

REPORT SUMMARY

Report to: Environment & Planning Committee
Meeting Date: Thursday, 29 March 2012
Report Author: Rob Francis, Environmental Education Officer
Subject: **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION REPORT**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers a number of general matters concerning the activities of the Environmental Education team as well as an overview of the current status of work being undertaken.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report be received.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Environment & Planning Committee receives the Environmental Education Report REP12-03-06

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1. The Environmental Education Team and Sustainability Education

- 1.1 The Environmental Education Team sits under the Strategic Development Department and has one full-time and two part-time employees.
- 1.2 Within a small team, we aim to provide effective and timely environmental education and support to Council, to Council staff, to schools, and in the Community.

2. Tasman Nelson Environment Awards Review

- 2.1 The Tasman Nelson Environment Awards have been run as a joint activity between Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council since 2009. The objective of the Environment Awards to date has been to celebrate excellence and success in sustainability across the region, ultimately increasing the visibility of these behaviours and working towards establishing them as a norm.
- 2.2 Staff from both councils are intending to review the awards in their existing format; measure them against the above objective; and provide recommendations on the best way forward to achieve this objective in the future.
- 2.2 The project will provide several options for consideration by both Councils, ranging from maintaining the status quo or improving the existing format, through to identifying different ways of achieving the above objective.
- 2.3 Please see below Key Milestones and timeline for the Review.

Note: The original timeframe was to complete the Review by the end of March. However, with Tasman District Council deciding not to run the Awards in 2012 (and the disruption to staff caused by the storm in late 2011) it is now planned to complete the Review by late May 2012.

Milestone	Date/Deadline
March 2012	Establish list of stakeholders (Karen Lee, Rob Francis)
March 2012	SWOT analysis of existing event (RF plus team)

Milestone	Date/Deadline
March 2012	Draft review questions and send questionnaire for stakeholders. Sample questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the environment awards create measurable change? • What could be improved/changed in the current awards process? • Do you feel that the Awards are the best way to celebrate and promote positive actions in the environment?
March 2012	Design and facilitate questionnaire to gauge online and social media feedback and input(RF, Richard Liddicoat)
March 2012	Review of existing awards programme across NZ (KL)
March 2012	Establish review panel to assess outcomes of project (KL, RF, Kath Inwood, Susan Edwards plus one Councillor each?)
March 2012	Review of behaviour patterns in NZ around use of rewards (KL)
April 2012	Questionnaire results analysis (KL, RF)
April 2012	Community engagement through a focus group (RF, KL)
April 2012	Follow up one to one interviews with range of stakeholders after questionnaires completed (RF, KL)
April 2012	Draft report
April/May 2012	Review report and recommendations with review panel
May 2012	Submit final report
End May 2012	

3. Ecofest and Ecofest Golden Bay

3.1 The focus of Ecofest for 2012 is Sustainable Transport - exposing the public to as many types of alternative transport as possible, whilst also promoting cycling and buses and offering the schools alternative powered toy car competitions; and working with Civil Defence to recap on the flooding and how to prepare for future flooding.

3.2 There are certain audiences that different areas of the Expo will target:

- Teens/Youths: via Funky Fashion shows, Op shop challenge
- Children: via Kids Trails, activities, and toy car competitions
- Businesses: via Business seminar
- Eco Challenge month to run from 16 July - 17 August with Sustainable Transport focus.

3.3 A mini-Ecofest Expo will be held in Takaka on Saturday, 12 May. This will be a small, Golden Bay targeted event that is planned to cover its own costs. The “by-line” for this event is “Sustaining our Community”.

3.4 Thus far, this has gained good “buy-in” from the Golden Bay community. Featured are:

- Eco-building and eco-business seminars
- A bunch of “how-to” sessions
- Expo of eco products and services
- Seminars also featuring Fronterra, the Aorere farmers catchment group, alternative energy, composting and other garden demos
- A home tour on 5 May
- Council stands covering the floods, pests, environmental projects
- Joint display with Nelson City around areas of collaboration

4. EnviroSchools

4.1 The EnviroSchools Programme offers a framework to:

- Link environmental education projects together
- Have an environmental vision for the school
- Support the schools in planning and activating projects
- Assist the integration of environmental projects into the organisation and operation of the school

4.2 The school year started with staff contacting all EnviroSchools to arrange a catch up with the lead teacher to discuss the current situation and plan for their needs for 2012. These meetings are still in progress. Staff are also making initial contact with schools that have showed interest in becoming an EnviroSchool in 2012.

4.3 Staff organised and held two EnviroSchools Early Years (ESEY) cluster meetings. Cluster meetings provide an opportunity for all EnviroSchools to meet together on theme and/or in geographical groupings. In this setting, teachers are able to learn off each other, as well as through the Facilitator. “Clusters” provide a collaborative “vehicle” for Council staff to work with a number of teachers from different schools at once. This is a more efficient use of our time, helps keep costs down, and provides the participants with a “richer” experience, learning from experiences of other teachers. For regional “clusters”, we share costs and programme delivery with Nelson City Council staff.

4.4 The first “Cluster” was for lead teachers on 8 February at Henley Kindergarten and the second on 7 March in Nelson was for all enviroschool teachers.

4.4 A workshop was held with Salisbury School teachers to enhance environmental connectedness in all of their programmes using the EnviroSchools resources around Māori perspectives.

- 4.5 Planning is underway with Salisbury School and council staff to assess further development of the native bush area, with the possibility of incorporating the stormwater drain. This is the only patch of native bush in the Richmond urban area. It is intended for this resource and development to be offered to neighbouring local schools and early childhood centres as a shared planning and action project to enable more in-depth learning of our natural biodiversity.
- 4.6 We have applied for funding from Mother Earth to run a shared Marlborough District, Tasman District and Nelson City councils Enviroschools teacher workshop in Term 3.
- 4.7 We are also writing reports and planning for the Enviroschools Regional Coordinators hui being held early April.

5. Schools

- 5.1 There are other schools in the District with teachers doing environmental work but their schools are not ready for the Enviroschools Programme. We continue to support these teachers with resources, advice and promotion of good practice.
- 5.2 The first teacher workshop with Top of the South environmental educators (TOTSEE) as a collaborative programme, was held on 8 March for Seaweed. Twelve teachers, from the Nelson-Tasman area (of whom half came from Tasman schools) had hands on experiences in the environment, to build their confidence in the bush and stream environs. It also provided professional development for each of the educators experiencing others expertise.
- 5.3 The team planned and organised Seaweed promotion and support for a collaborative Seaweed Photography competition run through the Cawthron Institute.
- 5.4 We have been promoting the annual Sir Peter Blake Youth forum to secondary schools in the District. The forum is being held in Auckland this year and includes the offer of a trip later in the year to the Kermadecs for 30 of the students who attend the forum.
- 5.5 School workshops around environment and health are being organised, with resources being funded by the District Health Board.
- 5.6 We are working with students from Mapua School, to create mud columns to show the microbiology of wetland mud both freshwater and estuarine. These sessions will be offered to other Tasman schools.
- 5.7 The team is organising a “how to make submissions to the Long Term Plan for local High School students” in collaboration with Mark Tregurtha, in Golden Bay. If this “pilot” is successful, we would like to offer these workshops to other high school students in Tasman.

- 5.8 The annual Environmental Education “Events and Theme Days” Calendar has been sent to all schools in the region.
- 5.9 The Environmental Education team adds environmental-focus features and games to the “Boredom Busters” magazine.
- 5.10 EcoBuzz, the quarterly environmental newsletter for schools in the region has been finalised sent out to all teachers for term 1.

Note: Both the Environmental Education Calendar and EcoBuzz will be available to view at the Environment & Planning meeting.

6. Climate Change

- 6.1 A new report released by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) makes the following statements:
- Global greenhouse gas emissions could rise 50 per cent by 2050 without more ambitious climate policies, as fossil fuels continue to dominate the energy mix.
 - Unless the global energy mix changes, fossil fuels will supply about 85 per cent of energy demand in 2050, implying a 50 per cent increase in greenhouse gas emissions and worsening urban air pollution.
 - The global economy in 2050 will be four times larger than today and the world will use around 80 per cent more energy. But the global energy mix is not predicted to be very different from that of today.
 - Fossil fuels such as oil, coal and gas will make up 85 per cent of energy sources. Renewables, including biofuels, are forecast to make up 10 per cent and nuclear the rest.
 - Due to such dependence on fossils, carbon dioxide emissions from energy use are expected to grow by 70 per cent, the OECD said, which will help drive up the global average temperature by 3 to 6 degrees Celsius by 2100 - exceeding the internationally agreed warming limit of within 2 degrees.
- 6.2 Canadian energy expert Nicole Foss, will give a talk at the Richmond Library later this month as part of a national tour. Her Richmond talk - “Building Lifeboats: How communities and families can navigate the choppy seas ahead” - is on Thursday, 29 March 2012, from 12.30 - 1.30 pm, in the Tasman Library meeting room. Foss will examine the global financial system and the increasing competition over resources such as energy, water and land. She will discuss how families and communities can prepare for challenging times ahead.

7. Community Vegetable Gardens

- 7.1 We are organising a meeting of people involved with community gardens across Te Tau Ihu o Te Waka a Maui (top of the south) on 5 April to share ideas about how these initiatives can be more sustainable, and contribute to community resilience. Staff from Nelson City and Marlborough District Councils will assist in facilitating this. Funding for this hui has been received from the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board (DHB).
- 7.2 Gardens are being invited from Tasman, Nelson and Marlborough. At the moment around 30 people have said they will attend. Along with our facilitator, Carol Taplin, we are hoping for an inspiring day with real and tangible outcomes for all who attend. On the agenda are opportunities to network and talk about gardens, share ideas for future development and brainstorm what the role of community gardens should be for the region in the future, as well as opportunities to combine resources and funding.
- 7.3 As well as supporting community resilience, the gardens provide vegetable growing skills in the community, and support our objectives of minimising green waste and food scraps going to landfill.
- 7.4 This year, we are again organising composting and other garden workshops in Golden Bay, Motueka and other parts of Tasman. Some of this will be funded by the DHB, as well by waste minimisation funds sourced by the Engineering Department.

8. Good Wood

- 8.1 At present there are 10 Good Wood firewood merchants in Tasman and Nelson. These are visited and monitored through the year, as well, an annual meeting is held to discuss issues and improvements.
- 8.2 Most firewood merchants have reported good firewood sales so far this year. It is good to note that there is a definite trend for people in Tasman and Nelson to buy their firewood earlier. This means that firewood burned in winter is more likely to be seasoned (dry) and cause less air pollution.

9. Tasman District Council Energy Assessment

- 9.1 Using available data combined with site visits David Francis, the Sustainable Business Advisor, is continuing to assess energy usage and identify energy and cost savings for Tasman District Council assets. This information is being shared with Jim Frater, Council's Property Manager, as each report is completed.
- 9.2 As David completes the assessments for a number of Tasman District Council assets, it is hoped to present the results to Tasman District Council Councillors, Managers and staff. In this way we can share best practice, and make sure that everyone is able to use their awareness in reducing energy consumption, and improve working efficiency.

- 9.3 Funding for the role of Sustainable Business Advisor (David Francis) will run out at the end of June. Jointly with the Economic Development Agency, Nelson City Council and the Nelson Environment Centre, we are exploring options in order to maintain this service.

10. Focus until next Environment & Planning Meeting

- 12.1 Workstream planning, Tasman Nelson Environment Awards Review, Enviroschools, Ecofest (Golden Bay and Expo), Community gardening hui, and the Environmental Education Strategy.

11. Recommendation

That the report be received.

12. DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Environment & Planning Committee receives the Environmental Education Report REP12-03-06



Rob Francis
Environmental Education Officer