

Sustainable Cities Update

News

2005 Year of the Built Environment

The 2005 Year of the Built Environment programme continues, with a current focus on awards and art.

The Awards recognise projects that exemplify the quality and relationship of built form with their environment, design innovation that enhances peopled environments, and sustainable design principles and resource use.

All members of the public, organisations and groups may nominate a project for consideration in the Awards. The New Zealand Institute of Architects is managing the Awards programme and further information, including the entry form, is available on their website (www.nzia.co.nz).

Award nominations have been called for each month, with the final round in October. Past winners include the Oriental Parade Beach in Wellington and the new formal entrance way to the University of Otago campus. Winners from each month form the finalists for the "Overall Winner - Year of the Built Environment 2005 Award", to be awarded in December.

Urban Life - A Celebration in Art is the Year of the Built Environment art competition. *Urban Life* encouraged New Zealanders to take a fresh look at our surroundings and depict an urban place, space, structure or activity that captures the imagination. The competition has been hugely successful, receiving over 350 entries.

The entries feed into a web-based exhibition in November and a physical exhibition in December, in Wellington. Judging the competition is a panel of artists, architects and arts enthusiasts - including celebrated architect, Ian Athfield. Five prizes will be awarded, including \$5,000 for the winning entry. For more details and to view the web-based exhibition, visit www.wcc.govt.nz/rd/urbanart

The 2005 Year of the Built Environment events calendar continues to grow, with 37 events registered for October alone - providing lots of opportunity for both public and built environment professionals to participate in the Year's programme.

Contact: Anna Wood, Ministry for the Environment (04) 439-7471 anna.wood@mfe.govt.nz.

The NZ Urban Design Protocol - Action Plans for year one describe commitment to act

Signatories to the NZ Urban Design Protocol are required to provide "Action Plans" to the Ministry for the Environment. These action plans outline each of the signatory's commitments to improving the quality of urban design for the next year. *Local Government New Zealand's* Action Plan is available from the library located at www.lgnz.co.nz. This plan includes the provision of a number of national workshops and the publication of associated presentations and reports aimed at enhancing the capacity of local government to contribute to quality urban design. Refer to <http://www.lgnz.co.nz/cgi-bin/calendar.pl> for further information on upcoming events.

Urban Design Champions

As part of Government's programme to support the uptake and implementation of the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol, the Ministry for the Environment hosted the first Urban Design Champions' workshops in Wellington and Auckland in August 2005. There was very good attendance - around 110 people attended representing 70 of the 99 signatories to the Protocol.

Champions supported a wide range of suggestions for a possible champions' network. For the full range of suggestions see the outcomes from the workshop at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/urban/design-protocol/champion-workshop-notes.html>.

The Ministry for the Environment, as lead agency supporting the implementation of the Protocol, proposes to focus its effort in the next few months on the following tasks:

1. Facilitating the creation of a collaborative organisation focused on urban design. This will include representatives from all the professional design institutes, the leaders of the existing Urban Design Forum, and the Property Council.
2. Developing an e-mail newsletter for urban design champions and supporting staff.
3. Investigating the potential for a website resource for urban design.

Contact: Erica Sefton, (04) 439 7538 erica.sefton@mfe.govt.nz.



First Travel Plan for a New Zealand Secondary School

An official launch in May 2005, by Mayor Dick Hubbard, saw Mount Albert Grammar School become the first high school in New Zealand to complete a travel plan. Developed by ARTA (Auckland Regional Transport Authority) in partnership with Auckland City Council, under the Auckland Sustainable Cities Programme, it involved extensive consultation with the school and community.

The school is looking at ways to include the travel plan into curriculum work. For more information see <http://www.mags.school.nz/index.html>.

Urban Affairs - A Draft Statement of Strategic Priorities

Councillors attending the Urban Themes Session at the *Local Government New Zealand* Conference in July 2005 were privy to a preview of the "Draft Statement of Strategic Priorities". The statement was prepared by the Ministry for the Environment's Urban Affairs unit in consultation with local government officials. Lindsay Gow, Deputy Secretary, Ministry for the Environment, outlined the broad direction of the Statement. A panel of guests were then invited to react. John Hutchings (Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet), Gary Poole (CE, Wellington City Council) and Vijaya Vaidyanath (CE, Rodney District Council) presented very different and stimulating ideas for our politicians to consider before they were also invited to comment. The presentation is available along with other conference proceedings at www.lgnz.co.nz/events/conference/2005/presentations.html. The Ministry for the Environment will be seeking approval to release the Draft Statement for consultation. We anticipate that will occur by the end of 2005.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Guide

The Ministry of Justice and *Local Government New Zealand*, through the National Taskforce for the Reduction of Community Violence have developed Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Guidelines (CPTED Guide).

The purpose of the CPTED guide is to assist local authorities to develop and implement their own crime prevention programmes. The guide will promote the value of crime prevention design as a key component of good urban design, and show how to achieve more attractive and active use of public space that enhances public safety and reduces criminal offending.

In order to finalise effective guidelines, feedback was sought from local authorities around the country. The CPTED Guide will be published late November and distributed to councils soon after.

Sustainable Households Action Programme

For an annual fee of \$750 plus GST, councils can join the Sustainable Households National Programme. Members receive a variety of benefits, including, group tutor or facilitator written guides and visual-aid sets, annual update of learning/action handouts and activity materials, regional annual training day for organisers and tutors, basic marketing and recruitment materials, email and phone support for council organisers, website maintenance and developments and cooperation with relevant national agency campaigns and education programmes.

For further information about the benefits of joining the National Programme visit www.sustainablehouseholds.org.nz.

SMF applications for urban sustainability projects

The Ministry for the Environment is seeking Sustainable Management Fund (SMF) applications for urban sustainability projects in urban design, sustainable and integrated transport planning, and sustainable design and construction. Applications close on the Tuesday 8

November 2005. Successful projects will receive funding for the financial year from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007.

Councils are encouraged to give thought to urban sustainability projects that could meet SMF funding criteria. To get detailed information on the SMF process, project criteria, and other topic areas for SMF funding please visit the SMF website <http://www.smf.govt.nz/>.

Youth Development Partnerships Fund

The purpose of the Youth Development Partnership Fund is to enable the Ministry of Youth Development to respond to emerging needs and opportunities for young people through partnership initiatives with territorial authorities.

The Fund operates as a project based fund to assist territorial authorities wishing to implement the Youth Development Strategy. As a way of focusing the Fund for the first year, a theme of Employment, Training and Educations Outcomes has been chosen. This theme links well with the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs focus and activities.

Applications for 2005/06 are now open, with expressions of interest due by 4 November 2005. Further information and forms are available from the Ministry of Youth Development.

Sustainable development themes at LGNZ conference

The 2005 *Local Government New Zealand* Conference, with the theme *National Goals, Local Roles*, prompted a focus on central and local government partnerships within the breakout sessions. Partnerships are evident in the emerging practices associated with implementing the Local Government Act, 2002 and under the Sustainable Development Programme of Action. A number of sessions profiled matters associated with "applying a sustainable development approach". The presentations for all sessions are available at www.lgnz.co.nz/events/conference/2005/presentations.html.

Auckland Sustainable Cities Programme GEUDO office in Auckland

A new office has been set up in the heart of downtown Auckland to improve central government focus on Auckland-related policy development. The Government Economic and Urban Development Office co-locates staff from the Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry for the Environment, Department of Labour and Ministry of Transport. The shared focus of the office is on sustainable economic and urban development policy and one of the projects that the four agencies are working on together is the Auckland Sustainable Cities programme.

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Transport & Urban Form project

The Transport and Urban Form project of the Auckland Sustainable Cities Programme aims to build and foster Auckland urban communities where sustainable transport choices are the norm. There are three sub-projects:

- The Auckland School Travel Programme was formally launched by the Prime Minister in March 2005. 57 schools have commenced their School Travel Plans, 25 had adopted their plans by July 2005. 71 schools, about 10% of the Auckland regions schools, are participants in the programme.

A school travel plan document has been published at www.arc.govt.nz.

- The Air Quality/Bus Emissions monitoring project completed emissions testing of the full Auckland bus fleet by May 2005, and will install catalytic converters on 13 trial buses by Dec 05.

- A national review of Passenger Transport Procurement legislation has been initiated by the Ministry of Transport with a joint working group of Auckland local and central government officials. Problem definition work is due for completion by the end of October 2005, consultation on a draft report will be completed by February 2006, with recommendations and a final report submitted by the end of March 2006.

Contact: Lesley.Jenkins@northshorecity.govt.nz or B.Walsh@transport.govt.nz.

Building a more sustainable Auckland

How we design, build and operate our buildings has a significant impact on our environment and our natural resources. Buildings also contribute significantly to civic pride and local identity - and this applies particularly strongly to our public buildings.

Sustainable buildings illustrate that sustainable development is possible and achievable. They take into account environmental, social, economic and cultural considerations. They are also about taking a long term view.

There is no 'one size fits all' when it comes to building a sustainable building. But in general, sustainable buildings are buildings that are well designed, aim to reduce waste, and make efficient use of key resources such as land, energy, water and materials. They offer natural light and clearer air, healthier and more comfortable indoor environments. They cost less to run over their whole lifetime and are sufficiently adaptable and durable to meet the changing needs of future generations.

They are also about putting the principles of good urban design, as outlined in the NZ Urban Design Protocol, into practice. For example, interacting with and responding to their surrounding urban environment, offering pedestrian and cycle links, being close to public transport choices, and creating hubs for community life.

Sustainable building is rapidly gaining ground in New Zealand. The public sector has a growing portfolio of these buildings, and is reaping the benefits of greener, healthier buildings with lower operating costs.

One of the projects currently gaining momentum is the public sector commitment to building sustainable public buildings in the Auckland region. This project is being driven by the Urban Form Design & Development (UFDD) work strand of the Auckland Sustainable Cities Programme.

This project is an excellent opportunity for local and central government to collaborate and demonstrate leadership in the sustainable building sector, with a particular focus in the Auckland region.

In fact, a considerable amount of work is currently being undertaken in New Zealand across both local and central government, and by research agencies, in the area of sustainable (or 'green') buildings. For example, a steadily increasing number of sustainable buildings are being built, across both the private and public sector. Waitakere City Council is one of the local authorities incorporating sustainability into their new buildings and community facilities. Over the last seven years, the Council has been extremely busy building four libraries, two community centres, a sports stadium, a swimming pool, and a new Civic Centre and transport hub. The last of these projects are due to be completed in the next twelve months. There are also many other councils and public sector agencies actively contributing to sustainable building across New Zealand.

'Real life' examples like these are proving that building sustainably is possible and desirable. They are also a

key part of generating and encouraging enthusiasm and commitment amongst the Auckland public sector to building sustainable buildings into the future. Constructing a set of case studies that demonstrate good practice is therefore a key part of the UFDD sustainable buildings project.

Other work supporting this Auckland project includes 'The Value of Urban Design' report (available on the Ministry for the Environment's website www.mfe.govt.nz) and a soon to be released document 'The Value Case for Sustainable Building in New Zealand' by the Ministry for the Environment's Govt3 team. These reports add weight to the argument that well designed, sustainable buildings offer significant economic, social and environmental benefits. A longer-term goal of the UFDD sustainable buildings project is to produce an easily accessible web-based resource of sustainable public building information. This will look to include information such as a checklist of sustainability features/priority issues, practical advice, case studies, best practice guidelines, value case information, practical tips, education materials and key sustainable building contacts.

Watch this space over the coming months for more information and updates on this project. For more information, contact megan.howell@waitakere.govt.nz.



Massey Library and Community Centre, Waitakere City: This centre incorporates innovative environmental features and integrates visual arts throughout. Sustainability features include solar panels, rain water systems, permeable car parks, natural ventilation, heating and cooling systems, solar orientation, pedestrian and cycle facilities.



Landcare Research Tamaki Building: An award winning state of the art New Zealand example of what can be achieved. Sustainability features include use of alternate energy sources (solar panels, small scale wind turbine), composting toilets, waste water systems, on-site storm water management, and air extraction and ventilation systems.

Connecting research and practice - sustainable cities

As part of the Auckland Sustainable Cities Programme, two workshops aimed at 'Connecting Research and Practice'

were held in October 2004 and April 2005. Participants from local government, central government and the research sector discussed the challenges of increasing the practical relevance and uptake of research on sustainable urban form in the Auckland region.

The workshops have helped clarify what research is needed for the Auckland region to achieve sustainable urban development. They have been important in providing better connections between the Auckland Sustainable Cities Programme and the research community, and have helped increase the practical relevance of research being done to local government practitioners. At the first workshop, researchers presented the range of research programmes currently underway (see box for summaries).

Selected Research on Sustainable Urban Form

Beacon Pathway. www.beaconpathway.co.nz
Creating homes and neighbourhoods that work well into the future and don't cost the Earth. A strong emphasis on retrofitting the existing housing stock.

TUSC: Tool for Urban Sustainability Code of Practice. www.tusc.org.nz
A web-based analysis tool to assess and plan new and retrofitted urban developments against sustainability indices.

LIUDD: Low Impact Urban Design & Development. www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/urban/
Transformation of urban development, construction and design. Using natural systems and low-impact technologies to mitigate excessive environmental and social impacts.

Learning Sustainability www.opus.co.nz/frstweb
Understanding the relationship between settlement form and economic, environmental and social performance, and providing tools to communities.

Building Capacity www.landcareresearch.co.nz
Research to underpin building capacity for change - providing tools that enable and empower, evaluating the effectiveness of initiatives, focussing on a range of levels.

Sustainable Pathways www.landcareresearch.co.nz
Aim to enable cities and regions to plan for sustainable development. Outputs include urban metabolism studies, future scenarios, and indicators.

Reduced CO2 from Sustainable Household Travel www.opus.co.nz/frstweb/co2/index.html
Understanding behavioural components of increased fuel use. Identifying systemic and individual barriers to better travel. Measuring the social impacts of reduced fuel use.

The second workshop focused on identifying the research that is needed for sustainable urban form. Key issues identified include:

- Institutional arrangements and processes to support sustainable development: improved governance mechanisms, information streams, and capacity within Councils
- Economics: evidence of the economic implications of sustainable practices, and better understanding of how urban form supports sustainable economic activity
- Intensive Housing: sustainable design options, and understanding the market
- Urban Form: sustainability implications of different urban forms

- Infrastructure: sustainability, stability and resilience of supply, and how to integrate alternative technologies
- End Users: making sustainable choices easy choices, and understanding the influences and thresholds for change.

A more detailed record of discussion points is included in the full workshop reports. To obtain copies of the reports, go to the library at www.lgnz.co.nz or for further information, contact megan.howell@waitakere.govt.nz

A national workshop to progress findings from the Auckland events aims to broaden the scope of the dialogue to include other relevant research projects and a wider group of practitioners concerned with similar questions and issues. The National Connecting Sustainable Settlements Research with Local Government Practice Workshop is to be held in Wellington on the 11 November 2005. A flyer and registration form can be found at <http://www.lgnz.co.nz/cgi-bin/viewevent.pl?id=991> or contact anna.sonek@lgnz.co.nz.

Publications

New Zealand Urban Design Protocol

The New Zealand Urban Design Protocol was officially launched in March this year. Copies of the document are available on the Ministry for the Environment's website <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/urban/design-protocol-mar05/>.

Urban Design Case Studies Available

A number of urban design case studies have been published at www.arc.govt.nz. These profile a variety of projects, offering insights relevant to the different scales and contexts in which urban design principles, as outlined in the Urban Design Protocol can be applied.

The Value of Urban Design

This document aims to establish whether there is a persuasive case for urban design - the design of buildings, places, spaces and networks that make up our towns and cities. The publication asks whether there is value to be gained through good urban design and what kinds of value good urban design does offer.

This work was commissioned by the Ministry for the Environment, Wellington City Council and Auckland Regional Council. To view the document see www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/urban/value-urban-design-full-report-jun05/index.html.

SIGnals

This is the Ministry for the Environment's e-newsletter linking you to advice and information on what's happening in the world of sustainable business. See www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/about/signals/.

In Brief

Resource for urban design information

There is now a dedicated online resource for urban design information. The website www.rudi.net is the leading international online resource for best practice information in urban design. As urban design is high on the agenda in New Zealand, there are currently a growing number of organisations using the resource on a regular basis as a source for key information and to recruit staff through www.urbandesignjobs.com. The resource is relevant for those involved in urban design, regeneration, landscape design, architecture and planning.

A National Zero Tolerance to Graffiti Strategy and an Anti Graffiti Guide

Local Government New Zealand has initiated a project with funding assistance from the Ministry of Justice to develop a national zero tolerance to graffiti strategy and a guide for councils. Contact jane.johnston@lgnz.co.nz if you would

like to contribute to this work, particularly if you have projects that might be developed as good practice case studies for the guide, or experience of pitfalls to avoid.

Useful links

Governing Sustainable Cities

The Governing Sustainable Cities website is a useful site to find research on sustainable cities initiatives www.governingsustainablecities.org.

Beginner's guide to sustainable communities

The United Kingdom's Idea-Knowledge site contains a beginner's guide to sustainable communities. Although it is written from a United Kingdom viewpoint, it is similar to the approach we have taken to making New Zealand cities sustainable. To view the guide see www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelid=919821.

Statistics New Zealand

An update to the latest Local Government Connection web page is available at: <http://www.stats.govt.nz/products-and-services/newsletters/local-govt-connection.htm>.

This site provides a range of information pertinent to monitoring and reporting by local government, including a new local government resource kit and information about the regional GDP feasibility study and the Linked Indicators Project.

The second phase of the Linked Indicators Project has seen a Joint Task Group select and prioritise an indicator set, and identify information gaps that need to be filled. The team is developing a budget bid to enable Statistics New Zealand to undertake this work.

Events

National Connecting Research and Practice Workshop, 11 November, Wellington

Extensive research pertinent to sustainable settlements and the built environment is currently underway. Earlier in this newsletter we reported on workshops undertaken as part of the Auckland Sustainable Cities Programme. This national workshop will build on the work of those workshops as it includes additional national research projects and a wider group of practitioners. All council staff with the task of "applying a sustainable development approach" to address urban issues are invited to participate. This workshop is designed as an intensive dialogue between researchers and practitioners. The flyer has been delivered to all subscribers of this newsletter. The agenda will soon be available at <http://www.lgnz.co.nz/cgi-bin/calendar.pl>.

Talk Environment Roadshow

The Ministry for the Environment is currently visiting 16 locations around New Zealand for the Talk Environment Roadshow. For more information go to the Ministry's website www.mfe.govt.nz/withyou/talkenvironment/index.html.

Building a Knowledge Society

A conference aimed at linking government, business, academia and the community is to be held in November in Wellington. View <http://kmap2005.vuw.ac.nz> for the programme and registration details.

Key Statistics Conference

This Conference is to be held from 25 to 27 October 2005 in Wellington. View www.keystatsconf.co.nz for programme and registration details.

Sustainable Urban Transitions - public lecture

Sebastian Moffatt will be presenting a public lecture series on sustainable urban transitions.

Mr Moffatt was the team leader for the award-winning 'CitiesPLUS' 100 year sustainability plan for Vancouver,

Canada. He is currently leading the 'Bridging to the Future' project, looking at how regions can make the transition to sustainable energy systems. For further information visit www.citiesplus.ca and www.bridgingtothefuture.org.

The evening public lectures will be at the Auckland City Art Gallery, 2 November 2005, 6pm-7.30pm. The lecture will also be delivered in Wellington on 8 November 2005 (contact jim.ebenhoh@wcc.govt.nz) and in Queenstown on 14 November 2005 (contact Aliceann Wetzel at Christchurch City Council).

Auckland Sustainable Cities Website

A website www.auckland sustainablecities.govt.nz is expected to go live in November 2005. Watch this space for further information.

Sustainable Cities Update
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