



## Corporate Environmental Policies

Greater Wellington – The Regional Council promotes quality for life by ensuring our environment is protected while meeting the economic, cultural and social needs of the community. We achieve this by delivering services in environmental management, land management, flood protection and regional transport. We also maintain a network of regional parks and forests and provide bulk water to the cities.

The Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region sets out a vision for the Region and outlines the environmental results the community and Council are working towards. These are agreed to by the community.

The Corporate Environmental Statement shows that the Council is committed to providing its services in an environmentally responsible manner within a framework of economic reality. For all activities and services provided the Council intends:

<b>Compliance</b>	<p>To demonstrate compliance with all legal requirements for environmental management. Programmes and procedures will be implemented to ensure compliance.</p> <p>To recognise that environmental legislation applies constraints on activities in order to protect key resources on which human health and economic welfare depends. When providing services or carrying out activities, Council will actively demonstrate support for the intent of legislation and agreements adopted through leading by example.</p>
<b>Reducing Environmental Risks</b>	<p>To evaluate environmental effects of new activities or developments before comprehensive project planning takes place. Council will be able to demonstrate that it has identified environmental effects and alternative ways of carrying out the activity or providing the service, together with the means to protect the environment from short and long-term effects of activities.</p>
<b>Pollution, Hazardous Substances and Waste Management</b>	<p>To reduce or avoid pollutants being discharged to the environment from existing and new Council activities by considering alternative methods of undertaking an activity or achieving the desired outcome. Where discharges are unavoidable at present, Council will use environmentally safe treatment and disposal practises.</p> <p>To work towards reducing the volume and toxicity of hazardous substances used. Activities requiring the use of hazardous substances will be carried out to industry standards. Hazardous wastes that cannot be eliminated at source, reused or recycled, will be a priority for environmentally safe treatment and disposal.</p> <p>To pursue progressively waste reduction, reuse and recycling initiatives to reduce the amount of waste generated from Council activities.</p>
<b>Natural Resource Limits</b>	<p>To recognise and provide for natural limits to the use of renewable resources such as water, soil and forests, when planning or carrying out activities.</p>
<b>Resource Conservation</b>	<p>To conserve finite non-renewable resources, such as fuels, some energy sources and materials, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• considering the use of environmentally sensitive alternatives;</li> <li>• efficiently using finite resources where alternatives are not available;</li> <li>• ensuring options for reuse or recycling are considered before final disposal to landfills; and</li> <li>• improving energy efficiency and conservation in our operations where opportunities are available.</li> </ul>
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<p>To aim for no net loss of significant habitats, communities and ecosystems processes where Council carries out activities in the Region. Any adverse effects of our activities on habitats and communities will be reduced wherever practicable. Where adverse effects are unavoidable, habitats may be enhanced as compensation.</p>
<b>Environment and Business Decisions</b>	<p>To ensure that the environmental implications of business decisions are explicitly addressed.</p>
<b>Staff Participation in Environmental Management</b>	<p>To provide all staff with information about the importance of Council's environmental performance.</p> <p>Environmental awareness and specific areas of environmental risk will be addressed in training programmes and, where necessary, operating guidelines and standards provided.</p> <p>To provide all staff with a copy of the Corporate Environmental Policies.</p>
<b>Environmental Standards and Suppliers</b>	<p>To specify the environmental standards to be adhered to by Council's contractors. Standards will be the same as those required of Council.</p> <p>To encourage, or require through purchasing specifications, suppliers to Council to conform to the Corporate Environmental Statement.</p>
<b>Environment Performance and Assessment Report</b>	<p>To assess, using the ISO14000 standard as a framework; services, activities and management procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to ensure requirements of environmental legislation and the Corporate Environmental Policies are being met; and</li> <li>• to identify ways to achieve continuous improvement in environmental performance.</li> </ul> <p>An annual report on Council's environmental performance and recommendations for improvements will be prepared for the Council. Key points from the report will be included in the Council's public Annual Report.</p>
<b>Public Availability</b>	<p>To make the Council's Corporate Environmental Policies and report on environmental performance available to the public.</p>

Howard Stone, General Manager Wellington Regional Council