



Report **04.165**
Date 10 March 2004
File ENV/19/14/04

Committee **Environment Committee**
Author **Eleanor Phillips Environmental Education Co-ordinator**

Greater Wellington and Enviroschools

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of Greater Wellington's involvement in the implementation of the Enviroschools programme in the Wellington Region.

2. Background

The Enviroschools programme was initiated by Hamilton City Council in the early 1990s. This facilitated programme is a whole school approach to environmental education with the aim of creating a sustainable school environment. Enviroschools' students and staff create an enviorgroup, have an environmental vision and are supported by a facilitator to take an environmentally conscious approach across all facets of schools' operations. This 3-year process encourages changes in attitude and lifestyles, getting the whole school community involved in a range of projects.

The Enviroschools programme is now available nation-wide and is dependent on partnerships developed between schools, local and regional councils, iwi and community members. Local and regional councils generally provide the funds for schools to undertake the programme.

A recent development has been the creation of the Enviroschools Awards scheme. The Awards complement the facilitated programme and are an incentive scheme to encourage schools to become actively involved in environmental education and make a real difference in their communities. The awards serve as a reward for schools doing a range of local or regional environmental education programmes, and are applicable to schools that have undertaken *Take Action for Water*. The Awards are available to all schools, although those that have had some practical environmental education experience are more likely to succeed.

3. Discussion

3.1 The facilitated Enviroschools Programme

Schools that have done Greater Wellington's *Take Action for Water* programme often wish to continue with other environmental initiatives. However, our ability to assist these schools is limited. The facilitated Enviroschools programme enables schools that are serious about environmental education to apply it more comprehensively to their operations, curriculum and physical surroundings.

Greater Wellington has recently begun working in partnership with other local authorities and Jo Campbell (the Region's Environmental Education Schools' Advisor) to bring the fully facilitated Enviroschools programme to the Wellington region. We have agreed to fund the training of a facilitator who will work with schools on the 3 year long programme. Once trained, the person will be contracted by local authorities to deliver this programme. Currently Porirua City Council has agreed to fund 2 schools, and Hutt City Council one school, to take part in the facilitated programme.

3.2 The Awards Scheme

During 2003 the Awards scheme was promoted to all schools in the Region. This scheme is being jointly funded by the Ministry of Education, local authorities and Greater Wellington. Thirteen schools that had previously done the *Take Action for Water* programme requested copies of the Enviroschools Award application kits.

Fifteen other schools also received application kits. Judging of the Awards will occur in the middle of the year. This scheme will be ongoing and we will encourage schools doing *Take Action for Water* to apply and continue their involvement in environmental education.

4. Conclusions

Enviroschools represents an excellent opportunity to extend and assist schools to undertake environmental education beyond *Take Action for Water*. Through a partnership with the Ministry of Education and other local authorities, more schools in the Wellington Region will be able to undertake environmental education and make long term changes towards a more sustainable region.

The cost of training the facilitator, and our contribution to the Awards programme, is small and can be met within the current Environment Co-ordination budget.

5. Strategic context

Our support for the Enviroschools programme will add to the work we do on 'Water' in 'Towards a sustainable region'.

6. Communication

At this stage there are no communication implications for this report. Upcoming opportunities to promote Greater Wellington's involvement with EnviroSchools include when the first school starts to undertake the facilitated programme and when the award winners are announced.

7. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. *receive the report; and*
2. *note the contents.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

Eleanor Phillips
Environmental Education
Co-ordinator

Geoff Skene
Manager,
Environment Co-ordination

Jane Bradbury
Divisional Manager,
Environment