

## **REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**Meeting Date:** 28 JANUARY 2009

**Subject:** COMMUNITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION PROGRAMME -  
MILESTONE 2

**File No.:** 360/15/2/4

Report by Mrs Y Paterson dated 19 January 2009.

1. **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

To complete Milestone 2 of the Communities for Climate Protection Programme Council must adopt a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is proposed that Council adopt a goal *to stabilise corporate emissions at 2005 levels by 2015 and then reduce by 20% by 2025.*

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- (a) THAT COUNCIL ADOPT THE GOAL OF STABILISING CORPORATE GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS AT 2005 LEVELS BY 2015 AND REDUCING EMISSION BY 20% BY 2025.
- (b) THAT COUNCIL ENDORSE THE PREPARATION OF A CORPORATE LOCAL ACTION PLAN TO MEET THE MILESTONE 3 REQUIREMENTS OF THE CCP-NZ PROGRAMME.

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Author

\_\_\_\_\_ Executive Staff

3. **REPORT**

3.1 **Background**

***Milestone 1***

Southland District Council is a participant in the Communities for Climate Protection™ - New Zealand (CCP-NZ) Programme, an international campaign to assist local Councils to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. CCP-NZ is a New Zealand Government initiative delivered by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability - Oceania (ICLEI Oceania)<sup>1</sup>.

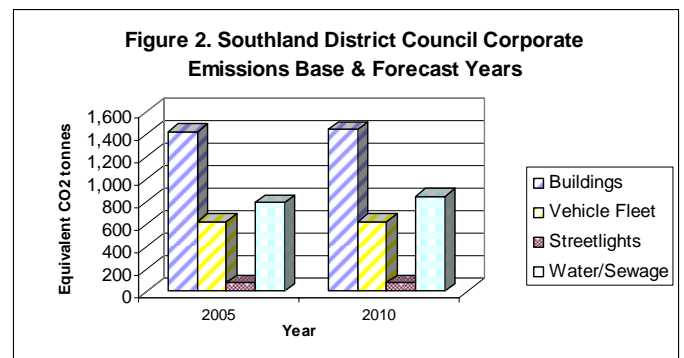
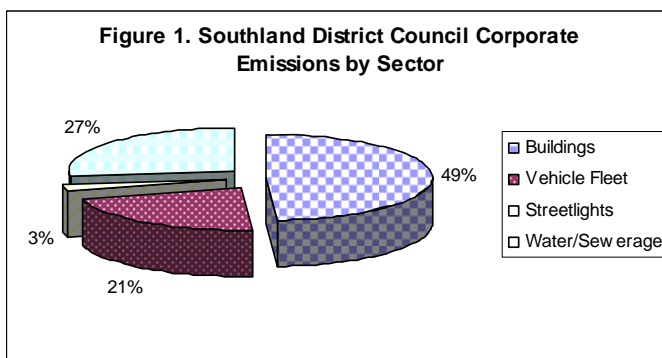
Southland District Council resolved to participate in the CCP-NZ programme on 31 August 2005 and committed to completing the five milestones of the programme:

- Milestone 1 - Conduct an inventory and forecast for Corporate (council) and Community greenhouse gas emissions.
- Milestone 2 - Establish an emissions reduction goal.
- Milestone 3 - Develop and adopt a local action plan.
- Milestone 4 - Implement the local action plan.
- Milestone 5 - Monitor and report on achievements.

Since joining the programme Council has completed Milestone 1 and the Deputy Mayor Jim Copland received the award for achieving this on behalf of Council at a ceremony in Rotorua on 29 July 2008.

The results of Milestone 1 showed:

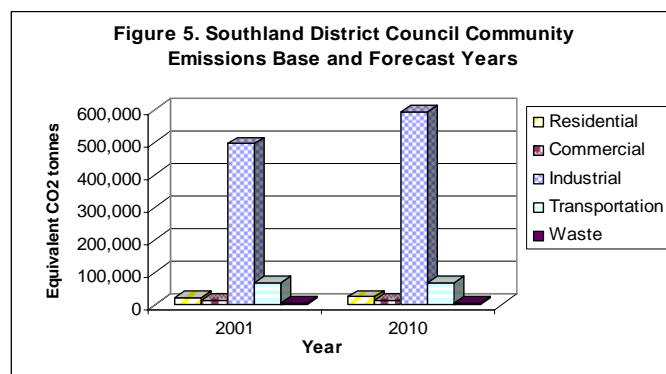
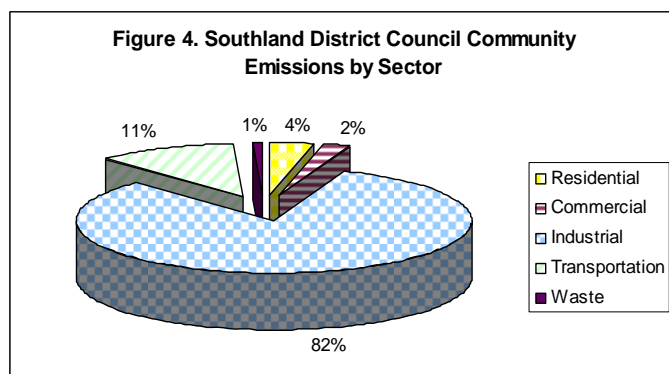
- Corporate emissions were 2,924 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>e) in 2005 and are predicted to increase in a business as usual scenario by 3% by 2010. The Building sector (49%) and Council's water and sewerage systems (27%) were the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability was founded in 1990 as the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives.

<sup>2</sup> Note that the figures in the initial Milestone 1 Report have been altered to include the diesel used to generate electricity for all Stewart Island residents. As SIESA is owned by Council the emissions from all of its power generation is to be counted at corporate emissions. This has resulted in corporate emissions going from 1,708 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e in the initial Milestone 1 Report for 2005 to 2,924 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

- Community emissions were 605,447 CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2001 (this figure now includes the emissions from waste going to landfill - the original Milestone 1 report did not include this) and are predicted to rise by 17% by 2010 due to population growth. The Industrial (83%) and Transport (15%) sectors were the largest producers of greenhouse gas emissions in the Community (Industrial includes emissions from energy sources used in the agricultural sector, but not other emission sources, such as methane, as the data for this is not available).



### **Milestone 2 - Reduction Goal (Corporate)**

The next stage in the programme is to set goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (Milestone 2). The reduction goal is a quantitative objective for the local action plan. An emissions reduction goal will provide economic benefits for council, through ensuring efficient energy management and reduced corporate costs. This reduction goal will also demonstrate a strong commitment from Council.

It is proposed to initially set a corporate goal only so that Council leads by example to begin with before working with the community on how they can reduce their emissions. It is intended that a community goal will be set sometime in the near future with input from the community and possibly the other Councils in the Southland region.

The goals set in Milestone 2 are typically expressed for the Council as a whole and as a percentage of greenhouse gas emissions from Council's base year. For example, "10% below 2005 levels by 2015," or "Stabilise at 2005 levels by 2015 and then reduce by 20% by 2025."

Council's goal could be one of four different types:

- **Stretch goal** - A goal that inspires the organisation to extend itself e.g. "Reduce 50% below 2005 levels by 2025."
- **Bridge goal** - A goal where Council sets a moderate short-term goal, but a stretch or political goal for the long term e.g. "Stabilise emissions at 2005 levels by 2015 and reduce emissions from 2001 levels by 50% by 2030."
- **Political goal** - A goal where the primary objective is to take a political stance on an issue eg endorsing a goal to complement a Regional Council goal, or to demonstrate council leadership. (Councils that set carbon neutrality goals are setting political goals.)
- **Pragmatic goal** - A calculated goal that has been fully estimated by the quantification of a set of actions to be taken and Council is confident that the goal can be reached.

### Other Councils' Goals

Over 250 Councils throughout the world have set a 20% reduction goal over a 15 to 20 year period, following the example of Toronto, Canada who became the first city in the world to set a greenhouse gas emission target. Toronto endorsed a goal in 1990, aiming to reduce CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions by 20% from 1988 levels by 2005. A report recently commissioned by the City indicates that Toronto has cut its emissions by 67% from 1990 levels - exceeding its goal by more than three times.

There are 13 New Zealand Councils (out of 34 participants) which have achieved Milestone 2 or higher. Their goals are outlined in the table below:

Council	Corporate Goal
Carterton District Council	1) Reduce emissions to 10% below 2001 levels by 2010. 2) Reduce emissions to 70% below 2001 levels by 2025.
Hamilton City Council	1) Slow rate of increase of emissions to 11% on 2001 levels. 2) Reduce emissions to 20% by 2020.
Kaikoura District Council	1) Reduce emissions to 100% below 2001 levels by 2020.
Kapiti Coast District Council	1) Reduce emissions to 15% below 2001 levels by 2010.
Masterton District Council	Information not available.
Nelson City Council	1) Stabilise emissions at 2004 levels by 2012. 2) Reduce emissions to 40% below the 2004 level by 2020.
New Plymouth District Council	1) Stabilise emissions at 2006 levels by 2010. 2) Reduce emissions to 20% below 2006 levels by 2015.
South Waikato District Council	1) Stabilise emissions at 2001 levels by 2010. 2) Reduce emissions to 20% below 2001 levels by 2021.
South Wairarapa District Council	1) Stabilise emissions at 2001 levels by 2010. 2) Reduce emissions to 70% below 2001 levels by 2025.
Taranaki Regional Council	1) Stabilise emissions at 2001 levels by 2010.
Auckland Regional Council	1) To reduce emissions for ARC operations (excluding farming) by 20% (CO <sub>2</sub> e/fte) by 2009/10. 2) To improve fleet fuel efficiency by 20% (L/100km) by 2009/10. 3) To develop and implement a sustainable procurement policy and practices. 4) To implement a Travel Plan - a customised package of measures for the ARC promoting alternative travel choices and reducing reliance on the single occupancy. 5) To reduce energy use at Head Office by 20% (kwh/sq.m) by 2009/10. 6) To achieve Milestone 5 by end of 2010.
Waitakere City Council	1) Stabilise emissions at 2001 levels by 2010. 2) Reduce emissions to 50% below 2001 levels by 2021.
Wellington City Council	1) Stabilise emissions at 2001 levels by 2010. 2) Reduce emissions to 20% below 2001 levels by 2020.

Central government have also set goals for their operations, some of which include:

- Energy use reductions - To achieve a 10% reduction in energy use per FTE of premises occupied by the public sector departments by the end of 2012, compared with 2006/2007.
- Workplace travel plans - Public service departments to have workplace travel plans in place by the end of 2010 aiming for an aggregate 15% reduction in kilometres travelled, including by air.

- Vehicle carbon emissions - Public service departments to reduce their average CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per vehicle in their fleets by 25% by the end of 2012 based on a 2006/2007 baseline.

#### *Development of Southland District Council's goals*

A workshop on Milestone 2 and 3 was conducted with various Council staff (including some from Invercargill City Council, Environment Southland and Venture Southland) and two Councillors on 27 November 2008. This workshop was facilitated by a CCP-NZ Programme Coordinator and covered possible emission reduction goals Council could adopt and actions different departments could take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

A question was also included in the 2008 Residents' Satisfaction and Opinion Survey asking a) Do you think there is a need for Southlanders to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and b) If yes, how much do you think these emissions should decrease in the short term and long term? 62% of residents indicated that there was a need to reduce emissions with the majority of these indicating that emissions should be reduced between 0-10% in the short term and over half indicating that emissions should be reduced by over 20% in the long term (by 2025).

The proposed goals were set with the help of the Council's Resource Efficiency Team (RET) and with the Management Team.

#### *Recommendation*

It is proposed that a suitable greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal for Corporate would be *Stabilise emissions at 2005 levels by 2015 and then reduce by 20% by 2025.*

In setting this goal a number of things were taken into consideration.

- 1) Council is still in the process of building infrastructure (in particular water and sewerage schemes) which will make reducing emissions by a large amount in the short term very difficult. Water and Sewerage schemes are our second largest emitter of greenhouse gas emissions (27% of corporate emissions in 2005).
- 2) This type of goal would also be in line with many of the other New Zealand Councils who have set emission reduction goals. 7 of the 13 Councils who have achieved Milestone 2 have set a short term goal of stabilising emissions and as mentioned above over 250 Councils throughout the world have set a 20% reduction goal over a 15 to 20 year period.

The CCP-NZ goal is a flexible goal to aim for and to provide inspiration, rather than a mandatory target to hit or miss. It can therefore be adjusted by Council as the local action plan progresses.

#### *Reporting*

The progress Council is making towards achieving the goals will be reported to Council once a year.

### *Next Step*

Following the completion of Milestone 2 a corporate action plan will be developed which will outline how Council will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. Individual staff are currently being met with to discuss possible actions to reduce emissions from their department.

### 3.2 **Options Considered**

Council has the following options:

- 1) Adopt the suggested emission reduction goal *Stabilise corporate emissions at 2005 levels by 2015 and then reduce by 20% by 2025.*
- 2) Develop an alternative goal and explain the rationale behind it.
- 3) Decide not to adopt a corporate (council) goal until a community goal has been developed.
- 4) Decide not to adopt a corporate (council) goal until an action plan to reduce emissions has been developed.

### 3.3 **Policy and Plan Considerations**

There are no policy and plan considerations at this stage, however the goal may be incorporated into any sustainability policy which is developed in the future.

Information about the Communities for Climate Protection Programme and Council's progress to date may be included in the introductory section of the Long Term Council Community Plan 2009 - 2019.

### 3.4 **Consideration of Community Views**

As mentioned above, questions were added into the 2008 Residents' Satisfaction and Opinion Survey asking how much Southlanders should reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

### 3.5 **Financial Considerations**

The CCP™ NZ programme is an initiative funded by the New Zealand Government (Ministry for the Environment). It is delivered in New Zealand by ICLEI Oceania, a not-for-profit local government association. The programme provides support and tools for Councils to measure and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Many of the actions in Milestone 3 will result in reduced energy consumption which will make savings for Council and ratepayers. However, if the development of the Action Plan (Milestone 3) identifies that a source of capital is required to investigate or implement significant energy efficiency projects this will need to be incorporated into future budgets. Funding for such projects is available from sources such as EECA and the Crown Loan Scheme.

### 3.6 **Legal Considerations**

There are no significant legal implications associated with setting goals for the Communities for Climate Protection Programme.

4. **CONCLUSION/SUMMARY**

Council must adopt a greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal to achieve Milestone 2 of the Communities for Climate Protection Programme. It is recommended that Council adopt the goal of *Stabilising corporate emissions at 2005 levels by 2015 and then reducing emissions by 20% by 2025*. Once Milestone 2 is completed an action plan will be developed to work towards achieving the goal.

Yvette Paterson  
**ASSISTANT CORPORATE PLANNER**