

Green initiatives win awards

WHEN IT comes to innovation and sustainability, Kapiti Coast District Council is a winner.

Its achievements in cutting carbon and waste, which reduces energy costs and dependence on fossil fuels, are being recognised nationally.

The council won double honours at the 2014 Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority (EECA) awards, picking up the NZ Community Award for a range of projects to improve residents' energy efficiency and awareness.

These include a free eco design service, which provides advice on how to have more energy efficient healthier homes, a greenest neighbourhood competition encouraging community-building, resilience and more sustainable living, and clean technology initiatives centred around the council's Otaki Innovation Hub.

The council also scooped the EECA Opus International Consultants Public Sector Award for its carbon and energy management scheme.



Striking home: The Kapiti Coast District Council's home has been transformed into an award-winning civic administration centre that is fit for purpose, fully accessible, earthquake safe and reflects 21st century architecture. **Photo:** JASON MANN PHOTOGRAPHY

It was the first council in New Zealand to gain CEMARS (Certified Emissions Measurement and Reduction Scheme) certification for managing/reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

There was yet another win, at the 2014 Green Ribbon Awards, which recognises council's success in reducing its greenhouse gas footprint by 48 per cent since 2010 through a range of energy and waste minimisation initiatives.

The programme has delivered significant economic benefits to the council and community, energy cost savings in 2013-14 of more than \$350,000.

The council is leading by example and supporting businesses and residents to do the same with a range of initiatives including:

- Operating New Zealand's first battery-powered electric refuse collection truck, manufactured by Zero Emission vehicles, which has reduced energy costs of the collection service by 70 per cent.
- Making a \$31,000 waste reduction grant to rubber recycler Entyre NZ for its first tyre cutter, which will reduce tyre waste in landfills and encourage recycling.
- Installing solar water heating at the local swimming pool and solar power at the town's library to support Energise Otaki's bid to make the area a net exporter of clean energy.
- Requiring grey water systems and/or rainwater tanks for all new homes in the district

- Running the lower North Island's premier sustainability-oriented annual event, the Sustainable Home & Garden Show.

Finding a long-term solution to the district's water problems was a major community achievement, recognised this year with a New Zealand Planning Institute Award.

The Kapiti Water Supply Project, a partnership between the council, CH2M Beca and Te Ati Awa Water Working Group, was chosen for its commitment to community engagement and robust approach to planning.

This has resulted in a 100-year solution that gives the community certainty of water supply for the foreseeable future.

A revamp of the council's 1970s Civic Building by architects Armstrong Downes Commercial won silver at the 2014 Master Builder's New Zealand Commercial Project Awards.

It was transformed into a striking civic administration centre that is fit for purpose, fully accessible, earthquake safe and reflects 21st century architecture.

This was the second win for the building, which won a Wellington architecture award from the New Zealand Institute of Architects in 2013.

Meanwhile, the council is seeking forward thinking businesses as tenants for a state-of-the-art building in Otaki.

The council holds the master lease for the property, which is already home

Fun Fact

Kapiti Coast District Council has proved that size doesn't matter when it comes to energy initiatives, says Opus International Consultants. Being the first local authority to gain certification for measuring and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting smart energy use in homes and businesses, has won awards - proof they are leaders in green sustainable living. Opus International Consultants supports small communities like Kapiti Coast, which are applying a community approach to energy solutions.

to the successful Entyre NZ rubber recycling business.

Additional businesses are now being sought for the 936-square-metre building.

The three units, built on strong environmental principles, provide a benchmark for commercial accommodation in the region.

Features include 100 per cent seismic standard, wind and solar renewable energy sources, and harvested rainwater captured on-site into large underground tanks.

The council is looking forward to working with new businesses who share its vision, Mayor Ross Church says.

"We're taking a long-term partnership approach to establishing smart, sustainable industries and jobs within our region.

"We're very proud of what's happening here in Otaki and looking forward to welcoming more forward thinking, cutting edge businesses."

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SMART, INNOVATIVE & SUSTAINABLE LEASE OPPORTUNITY

Kāpiti Coast District Council has available three fully fitted-out, state-of-the-art units built on strong environmental principles within Otaki's Clean Technology Business Park. The three units provide a benchmark for commercial accommodation in the region. Available immediately to individuals, businesses and entities who share in our vision for a thriving Kāpiti Coast region full of exciting job opportunities. Attractive & affordable lease packages available. Submit your Expressions of Interest now!

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