

# Corporate Environmental Policy Statement

## The purpose of the statement is for the Council to:

- Recognise that a healthy natural and built environment is essential for sustainable development of the city.
- Be committed to the protection and enhancement of the environment of the city when carrying out of its own functions and duties.
- Accept responsibility for complying with all relevant environmental legislation.
- Minimise the environmental effects of the Council's activities.
- Promote environmental care through the Council's influence over others.
- Be committed to the internationally recognised waste management practice of source reduction, reuse, recycling, resource recovery and environmentally safe residue disposal.
- Be committed to continual improvement of its environmental performance through implementation, monitoring and review of its policies, programmes and services.

## The principles that underlie the Statement are:

- prevention is better than cure: it is always preferable to prevent an environmental problem emerging than to try to clean up afterwards.
- polluter pays principle: the organisation or individual responsible for an environmental threat should bear the cost of cleaning up or of prevention.
- equal priority principle: the protection of the environment ranks equally with other business activities.
- resource efficiency principle: activities will be conducted in ways which result in the most efficient use of natural resources.

## The policies of the Christchurch City Council are:

- **Document review**  
When policies, systems, plans, codes of practice, training manuals and similar documents are written, reviewed and updated, environmental aspects shall be considered and incorporated where possible.
- **Legislative requirements**  
The Council will meet all legislative requirements relating to the environment including the monitoring of compliance with conditions of consents.
- **National and international conventions**  
The Council shall respect international and national policies and agreements as they relate to the City.
- **Education and public awareness**  
The Council will promote an awareness within the community of environmental matters as they affect the City.  
Training will be provided to promote the environmental policy among staff

and to ensure all staff understand their responsibility to consider and promote environmental aspects in their work.

- **Contracts**  
Contract documents for the design, supervision and maintenance of works and services will incorporate requirements for the protection of the environment. Organisations that seek to supply the Council with goods, works and services will be made aware of Councils environmental policy to enable them to develop and promote their own environmental initiatives.
- **Use of chemicals**  
The use, storage and disposal of chemicals will be managed in a way that avoids or minimises adverse environmental effects. Integrated vegetation management practices will be developed with a reduction in agrochemical use where appropriate.
- **Purchasing**  
The Council will implement, where appropriate, practical and cost effective a "Buy Recycled" policy as part of an overall purchasing strategy that includes the choice of environmentally sound manufacturers and that utilises to the maximum extent practicable, New Zealand manufactured, reusable products, products made with recycled materials, products designed to be recycled and products with minimal or returnable packaging.
- **Conservation of energy**  
The Council will follow energy strategies which minimise energy consumption, select sustainable energy supplies, and minimise impacts on the environment.
- **Plant and vehicles**  
The Council shall use vehicles and plant in ways that minimise emissions to the air and, where the costs are similar to current vehicles, shall operate vehicles with alternative methods of propulsion.
- **Heritage buildings**  
The Council will conserve and enhance the listed historic buildings that it owns and increase public awareness and suitable use of these buildings.
- **Water conservation**  
The Council will promote the conservation of water in the buildings and on the open spaces it administers.
- **Open spaces and planting**  
The Council will manage and maintain the open spaces of the City in ways that enhance amenity, avoid adverse effects and minimise maintenance requirements. It will promote plantings as appropriate on its land.
- **Management of waste**  
The Council will implement "Cleaner Production" philosophies and methods to:
  - reduce consumer waste
  - increase the use of renewable resources
  - reduce hazardous waste
  - use ozone friendly products.
- **Office practices**  
The Council will promote sound environmental practices within the buildings it operates together with its obligations under the Health and Safety in Employment Act.

- **Emergency responses**  
The Council will seek to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on the environment caused by its operations during emergencies and is committed to full disclosure of environmental incidents.
- **Review of Environmental Policy**  
The Council will regularly review its own environmental performance and report its progress having regard to the principles of the Environmental Policy Statement.

Council  
26 November 1997

**Authorising Unit:** Strategy Support

**Last reviewed:** Wednesday, September 30, 2009

**Next review:** Tuesday, March 30, 2010