

HUTT CITY COUNCILKOMITI KAUPAPA TAIAO
CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road
Lower Hutt on

Tuesday 23 April 2024 commencing at 2:00 pm

PRESENT:

Cr J Briggs (Chair)	Mayor C Barry
Cr K Brown	Cr S Edwards
Deputy Mayor T Lewis	Cr A Mitchell
Cr C Parkin (Deputy Chair)	Cr N Shaw

APOLOGIES: There were no apologies.

IN ATTENDANCE:

A Blackshaw, Acting Chief Executive
A Geddes, Director Environment and Sustainability
A Nelson, Head of Parks and Reserves
J Scherzer, Head of Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery
G Roberts, Waste and Resource Recovery Manager
J Randall, Democracy Advisor

PUBLIC BUSINESS1. OPENING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Whakataka te hau ki te uru	<i>Cease the winds from the west</i>
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga	<i>Cease the winds from the south</i>
Kia mākinakina ki uta	<i>Let the breeze blow over the land</i>
Kia mātaratara ki tai	<i>Let the breeze blow over the ocean</i>
E hī ake ana te atakura	<i>Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened air.</i>
He tio, he huka, he hau hū	<i>A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day.</i>
Tihei mauri ora.	

2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

There were no conflict of interest declarations.

5. SIX MONTHLY INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY UPDATE

Report No. CCASC2024/2/79 by the Head of Parks and Reserves

The Head of Parks and Reserves elaborated on the report.

In response to questions from members, the Head of Parks and Reserves advised the following:

- the 10,000 plants allocated for the Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy planting project (the planting project) would be used solely for that project. Additional plants would be purchased for Council's replacement planting. The scale of the planting project would increase in future years.
- Council's community ranger would partner with communities to gather input on the Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy. The planting contract included 2-3 years of post-planting care to ensure plant establishment.
- the Eastern Hills were a key target area for deer culling. Deer tended to move to other areas after culls, so some intelligence work would be needed to assist in their eradication. Council was working collaboratively with Greater Wellington Regional Council for maximum impact.

Mayor Barry asked for regular updates on resource requirements for the planting project as the campaign progressed and public interest increased.

RESOLVED: (Cr Briggs/Cr Mitchell)

Minute No. CCASC 24201

"That the Committee receives and notes the information provided in this report."

6. UPDATE ON COUNCIL'S CLIMATE CHANGE WORK

Report No. CCASC2024/2/80 by the Senior Advisor - Climate and Sustainability

The Head of Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery elaborated on the report. He advised that electric utility vehicles would be available for purchase in 2024. He added that purchasing these vehicles would reflect Council's procurement decisions. He explained that the Low Carbon Acceleration Fund funding would be derived from the sale of carbon credits earned through carbon sequestering from forests in Council reserves.

In response to questions from members, the Head of Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery advised the following:

- contaminated soil from development had been a significant cause of increased emissions from the Silverstream Landfill (the landfill) in the second half of 2023. The soil also reduced the capacity of the landfill. As a result, the landfill was forced to reduce the amount of soil it was receiving. Emissions from the closed Wainuiomata Landfill had decreased and were now offsetting increased emissions at Silverstream

Landfill.

- wood waste was a significant contributor to emissions, but there were currently no options to divert treated wood. Officers were considering a soil remediation plant as an option. This would allow materials such as aggregate from soil to be recovered and reduce the amount of soil going to the landfill.
- officers were exploring the creation of biochar to lock in carbon from timber. They were also researching turning boron-treated framing timber into mulch. The technology involved in these and other projects would divert materials from the landfill. Contaminated soil and treated wood could not be disposed of in the landfill.
- Council included its information technology (IT) emissions footprint in its emissions analysis. In the future, Council would prioritise the procurement of IT equipment and services with the lowest emission options. Council would be sending electronic waste to Earthlink for refurbishment or component recovery.
- the inadequate gas extraction from the landfill was due to two reasons: old wells becoming unproductive and methane no longer being extracted from them, as well as the limited capacity of the old engines to destroy the methane. New engines with greater capacity for methane extraction were expected soon.
- legal reviews on removing the option of using gas for new developments would be shared with the Committee. The authority to regulate gas was held by Greater Wellington Regional Council. Hutt City Council officers would take an educational approach by contacting developers when consent applications were received, and offering alternatives.
- officers would report back to the Committee in 2025 on the percentage of Lower Hutt buildings that had added gas installations or connections.

The Chair asked that officers report to the Committee on Council's IT procurement methodology. This report should specifically address how the methodology considered the carbon impact and the full life cost of equipment and services.

RESOLVED: (Cr Briggs/Cr Edwards)

Minute No. CCASC 24202

"That the Committee:

- (1) *notes the update on climate change work streams currently underway; and*
- (2) *notes that some work streams are new or are not explicitly covered in Council's Carbon Reduction and Resilience Plan 2021-31 or the Lower Hutt Climate Action Pathway."*

7. **UPDATE ON SOLID WASTE AND WASTE MINIMISATION MATTERS**

Report No. CCASC2024/2/81 by the Senior Advisor - Climate and Solid Waste

The Waste and Resource Recovery Manager elaborated on the report.

In response to questions from members, the Waste and Resource Recovery Manager advised that Council's main strategy to reduce bin contamination was through its contamination campaign. He highlighted the contamination campaign contract would be up for renewal in mid-2024. He assured officers that he would ensure Council procured an agency with the best expertise to work with the community to reduce bin contamination. He noted contamination was still high, and currently sat at 16.6%. He expressed concern that if the Food and Green Organics Waste proposal was not approved as part of Council's Long Term Plan, the Silverstream Landfill's life would likely be reduced by 2.5 years, and methane emissions would continue to rise. He agreed to report back to the 2 July 2024 meeting of the Committee on how Council benchmarked against other councils in terms of contamination rates.

RESOLVED: (Cr Briggs/Cr Shaw)

Minute No. CCASC 24203

"That the Committee receives and notes the update on various solid waste management and minimisation matters."

8. **CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME 2024**

Report No. CCASC2024/2/82 by the Democracy Advisor

RESOLVED: (Cr Briggs/Cr Brown)

Minute No. CCASC 24204

"That the Committee receives and notes the Forward Programme for 2024 attached as Appendix 1 to the report."

9. **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

10. **CLOSING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA**

Unuhia!	<i>Release us from the supreme sacredness of our tasks</i>
Unuhia!	<i>To be clear and free</i>
Unuhia i te uru-tapu-nui	<i>in heart, body and soul in our continuing journey</i>
Kia wātea, kia māmā	<i>Oh Rongo, raise these words up high</i>
Te ngākau, te tinana, te wairua i te ara	<i>so that we be cleansed and be free,</i>
takatū	<i>Yes indeed, we are free!</i>
Koia rā e Rongo whakairihia ake ki	<i>Good and peaceful</i>
runga	
Kia wātea, kia wātea!	
Ae rā, kua wātea!	
Hau, pai mārire.	

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 2.35pm.

J Briggs
CHAIR

CONFIRMED as a true and correct record
Dated this 28th day of May 2024