



WAITEMATĀ LOCAL BOARD LOW CARBON NETWORK

SUMMARY REPORT 2017/2018

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LOW CARBON NETWORK 2017 - 2018

Below is a summary of all activities undertaken by EcoMatters to administer and support the Network in the past year.

Low Carbon Network meetings

The Low Carbon Network meetings were being facilitated by EcoMatters CEO Damon Birchfield. Seven meetings around various topics were held in 2017/2018 as below:

- August 9 – workshop and planning meeting
- September 12 – Meet the Candidates
- October 12 – workshop meeting
- November 29 – A Low Carbon Christmas party
- March 1 – workshop meeting
- May 3 – Urban Resilience speaker night
- June 21 – wrap up and evaluation meeting

Across these seven meetings, we have had approximately 185 people come along, with our most popular events being the Meet the Candidates political debate and our Low Carbon Christmas Party.

Speakers that came along to present at the various meetings include Roseline Klein (Watercare Services), Andy Boor (Kelmarna Gardens), Brigitte Sistig (Grey Lynn 2030), Kristy Lorson (Zero Waste Warrior blogger), Bernie Cotter (ICLEI Oceania) and more.

Low Carbon Network database and newsletters

At the beginning of the year, the Low Carbon Network database held 170 contacts. During the 2017/2018 financial year, the database has expanded to 230 contacts. The database is accessed via an online supporter management tool, which provides a low maintenance database to easily keep track of Network members as well as a quick way to send out regular newsletters. Newsletters are sent out monthly with summaries of past meetings, reminders of upcoming meetings as well as alerts of other low carbon-related events happening.



Meet the candidates political debate, with a focus on climate change

Website and social media

The Low Carbon Network uses a Facebook group which allows each member to contribute to content and share events, updates and images. The hope is that this will help the Network to evolve into more of a community-led group. The Facebook group has grown from 50 to 109 members in the past 12 months.

Website and social media platforms require significant resource to actively manage and build audiences, resources the Network does not currently have. As such, we are taking a pragmatic approach to building an online presence that will support the Network to fulfill its purpose and communicate whilst being realistic in terms of how much management is required.

Climate change advocacy

Advocacy is one of the main areas the Low Carbon Network has been growing in the past year, especially around climate change. Some of the Network's active members, including lawyers Grant Hewison, Sarah Thomson and Frances Palmer, have been involved in drafting several feedback submissions on behalf of the Low Carbon Network. Submissions were made to the Auckland Council Environment and Community Committee, Council's Long-Term Plan, the Waitemata Local Board and Auckland Transport, often followed by a presentation by one of more of the people as mentioned above.

Offering support to other local initiatives

Low Carbon Lifestyles/Home Energy Advice Project - Waitematā Local Board

The Network has also offered support to Bill Smith (Ecological Associates), who is coordinating the Waitematā Local Board's Low Carbon Lifestyles/Home Energy Advice Project, by putting on a workshop to gather feedback around the project as well as including his project in the Low Carbon Network newsletters.

Summary and recommendations

Overall, we feel it has been a successful third year for the Low Carbon Network. With a total of seven meetings and networking events and more than 230 people in the database, the Network is gradually growing and building relationships with more and more people. Particularly the social networking events and our Meet the Candidates political debate proved to be popular events.

EcoMatters has been facilitating meetings, coordinating the database and sending out regular newsletters with additional promotion being done via the Network's Facebook group. Members of the Network have been submitting joint feedback to several organisations, including Auckland Council, The Waitematā Local Board and Auckland Transport.

In our last meeting of this financial year, which will be held on June 21st, we will discuss what the focus of the Network in the coming year should be. We will ask members whether they think we are on the right track with the current focus of the Network, whether there are any specific goals the Network should be aiming for, issues we should be tackling or projects and events they would like to see the Network undertake. The outcomes of this meeting will be used to make a plan for the upcoming twelve months.

Other recommendations we would like to suggest are to invest some resources in creating collateral which can be used to promote the Network, for example a flyer to introduce the Network. We also feel it might be worthwhile planning all meetings at the beginning of the year, and include the dates in the collateral, for example by having a monthly advertisement in the Ponsonby News Magazine. This might help with engaging more people and continuing to grow the Network in 2018/2019.