


Sustainability Policy 2010

Hauraki District Council

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 <p>H A U R A K I D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L</p>	Title: <i>Sustainability Policy</i>	
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Sustainability Policy

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. When drafting its Hauraki Community Plan 2009 – 19 the Hauraki District Council identified that it wished to further develop sustainability principles for the District. At this time Council implemented new mechanisms and strengthened procedures in place through the procedures listed in section 7 of this Policy. A discussion was also held regarding the potential role Council could have in encouraging the District to act more sustainably. Feedback was sought from the community and the results led to the establishment of 'The Right Debate Focus Group' (consisting of elected members).
- 1.2. The Sustainability Policy (hereafter referred to as the Policy) is the result of the submissions received from the community through the Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19 and the 'Right Debate Focus Group's' work progressed since.
- 1.3. This Policy formalises Council's mandate from the Local Government Act 2002 to act in a sustainable manner. It also looks to encourage the community to become more sustainable in environmental, cultural, social and economic ways.
- 1.4. Being a new Policy for Council the action plan aims to focus on small scale achievable actions. Through its improvement process the policy will seek to identify tangible indicators which can be monitored.
- 1.5. It is expected that the policy will be further developed over time as the national framework for sustainability changes.
- 1.6. Additional information on sustainability, well-being and Council's role with regards to it can be found in pages 85 – 92 of the Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19. It is recommended that this Policy be read in conjunction with these pages.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. **Biodiversity** – includes individual species, the genes they comprise and the ecosystems they collectively form.
- 2.2. **Four elements of sustainability** – It is usually accepted that sustainability requires the reconciliation of environmental, social and economic demands, however in Local Government, cultural well-being is split from social well-being, making it necessary to have four elements to sustainability.
- 2.3. **Sustainability** – Is the capacity to endure.
- 2.4. **Sustainable Development** – is a balanced, inclusive approach that seeks to meet the needs of today's generation, without reducing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs¹. In other words we (as in Council) need to understand the effects of our decisions and actions for the future. This is in order to make sure that we do not create a District that is suitable for the current generation, but unable to provide for our children's future.
- 2.5. **'Walk the talk'** – Undertaking an action or activity in the way you wish to see others doing so.

¹ WCED 1987

2.6. **Well-being** – Every Council has a slightly different definition for well-being. Hauraki defines well-being on page 87 of the Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19 as:

Cultural Well-Being	Economic Well-Being
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sharing of beliefs, values, customs, behaviours and identities reflected through our community. ▪ Actively participating in recreational, creative and cultural activities. ▪ An understanding and respect for cultural traditions. ▪ Protecting ways that people can demonstrate their spiritual beliefs (such as religious activities). ▪ Protect, maintain, retain, interpret and express our arts, history and heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generation of employment and wealth that people require to support their needs and those of their family. ▪ Development and use of skills within the community. ▪ Support and provision of appropriate business environment for the District (e.g. professional advice for new businesses). ▪ Promoting the District as a great place to live and do business. ▪ Provisions of infrastructure that supports economic well-being e.g. roads.
Environmental Well-Being	Social Well-Being
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The natural and physical environment can sustainably support the community and its activities. ▪ How well our natural environment can adapt and change to human activities where necessary. ▪ Animal/plant life protected. ▪ Good quality air and water is protected and enhanced. ▪ High quality soils are not compromised for future production. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social well-being covers those aspects of life that society collectively agrees are important for a person's happiness, quality of life and welfare through physical and mental well-being. ▪ Infrastructure that ensures health and well-being (e.g. water, wastewater, solid waste, roading). ▪ Everyone being able to have access to their basic needs such as food, housing, health and education (through affordability or infrastructure). ▪ Personal safety and freedom from fear. ▪ Everyone being able to participate in and use what the District offers.

2.7. **Work-Life Balance** - is about the interaction between paid work and other activities, including unpaid work in families and the community, leisure, and personal development².

2.8. **'Sustainable approaches'** - might be considered to encompass such factors as reducing reliance of fossil fuel based energy, reducing community waste generation and strengthening systems of sustainable agricultures within the District.

3. OBJECTIVE

3.1. The Hauraki District Council has a clear responsibility to act, operate and develop in the most sustainable way possible. It recognises the critical importance of its impacts on cultural, economic, environmental and social well-being. The objective of this policy is therefore is to improve Council's mechanisms for sustainable management on a continual basis and encourage the community to do so also.

² State Services Commission 2009

4. INTERNAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

- 4.1. Council will consider the impacts of key decisions on the four elements of sustainability and find a reasonable balance between conflicting demands. Council will 'walk the talk' by striving to make the most sustainable decisions possible in the work it does.
- 4.2. Council through the development of a staff working party will help staff members reduce their own environmental footprint at work and encourage sustainability in their homes.
- 4.3. Council will continually improve the working environment in order to create a safe, healthy and happy work-place which supports individual development, team-work and a positive work-life balance.

5. EXTERNAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

- 5.1. Council will honour the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and encourage Maori participation through active engagement. Council will also actively seek guidance with kaitiakitanga from tangata whenua as it considers this method of sustainability to be culturally appropriate and significant for the protection of all taonga.
- 5.2. Council will work with relevant stakeholders, community groups and the community to foster improved sustainable practises for Hauraki.
- 5.3. Council in part through its District Plan will seek to safeguard the heritage, biodiversity and culture of the District to ensure its preservation for future generations.
- 5.4. Council will provide for the successful application of sustainable approaches through policy, planning and development.

6. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

- 6.1. The Local Government Act 2002 requires Council to adopt a "sustainability approach". This is expressed when the Act defines the purpose of local government (Part 2, Section 10), the principles that relate to local authorities (Part 2, Section 14), and in the requirements for decision-making (Part 6, Section 77).
- 6.2. The Act identifies four areas (well-beings) that the Council must take into account being the social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being of present and future generations. The relationships between these "well-beings" for council are considered using a tool called the 'sustainability tuner'. This is an internal process used when decision-making.

7. RELATED POLICIES/STRATEGIES OR GUIDELINES

- 7.1. Council has a number of procedures which are used to enable it to consider sustainable approaches when decision-making. Both the legislated policies and internal procedures are listed below:

- Significance Policy
- Decision-making flowchart
- Sustainability Tuner
- Asset Management Plans
- Asset Management Policy
- Climate Change Policy
- Decision-making report templates
- Consultation Policy
- Community Outcomes

8. AUDIENCE:

- 8.1. This Policy forms an important part of the Council commitment to sustainability, and reflects its desire to see this commitment reflected in the community. Therefore this Policy is for the Mayor and Elected Members, Council staff, and for the community of the Hauraki District.

9. IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURE:

- 9.1. Council plans to implement the Policy through the actions points referred to in section ten. The amount Council can achieve alongside the community will be highly dependent on developing partnerships and finding organisations willing to provide resources themselves.
- 9.2. Due to the nature of the actions there is not a set budget for the Policy in its first year, however Council staff will be available as a resource to implement actions. This will be reviewed in the second year of the Policy with an amendment made if required.

10. ACTION PLAN TO IMPLEMENT POLICY

- 10.1. There are a number of actions Council has already taken in anticipation of this Policy. These actions have been to introduce or improve internal procedures to increase Councils consideration of the four well-beings and future generations. The projects listed below are options for Council to consider in the future.
- 10.2. Resources will weigh heavily on the number of actions that can be achieved at this early stage of the Policy development.
- 10.3. Council plans to complete at least three actions, per year, alongside those actions which will run continuously. A review of the policy will then establish the effectiveness of the implementation and identify new actions where necessary.
- 10.4. Due to its nature not one person will have responsibility for the actions; however the Policy Analyst will be responsible for co-ordination and reporting back to Council and the community on a three yearly basis.

Actions: 2010-2013

Policy Statement	Project	How	Who
4.1	Decision-making Framework	Improve the use of this tool, by encouraging and helping asset managers.	AM Team meeting, Policy Analyst
	Procurement Policy	Work towards improving the consideration of sustainability in Council's procurement Policy	Policy Analyst, Management Team, Human Resources,
	Sustainability Tuner	Use this procedure whenever possible during the decision-making process and improve the tool as this happens.	Policy Analyst, Asset and Activity Managers
	Staff performance measures	Discuss with HR the possibility of including sustainability into recruitment and performance appraisals. Scope and scale yet to be determined.	Human Resources, Management Team, Staff, Unions
4.2	Develop a 'Sustainability Team' who will create initiatives for Council staff	It is anticipated that a team would develop sustainable practices within Council at an informal level, encourage recycling, implement car pooling schemes and/or active modes of getting to work (walking/cycling), and generally provide some energy to interest the rest of the staff members.	Council staff – a group to be selected from volunteers
	Share information	Encourage information sharing on sustainable principles amongst staff. Use pin boards, intranet and incentives.	'Sustainability Team'
	Energy Audit	Undertake an energy audit of Council buildings to identify where efficiencies can be made.	Property Manager, Policy Analyst
4.3	Social Club	Continue to provide social club activities, to encourage staff morale.	Social Club
	Health and Safety	Ensure Health and Safety procedures are up to date and operational	Health and Safety Officer
	Work-Life balance	Promote the ethics of work-life balance through human resource policies, and social club antics.	Human Resources Social Club Health and Safety Officer
5.1	Maori Consultation	Council will continue to ensure that local Maori/Iwi are on their list of targeted stakeholders for policy work	Corporate Planning, Local iwi
	Treaty Training	Council staff will receive Treaty of Waitangi training as part of employment conditions.	Human Resources
	Kaitiakitanga	Council staff will work with local Iwi to become better informed about the principles of kaitiakitanga. Options for doing this and permission from Tangata Whenua to be sought as part of this action.	Strategic Planning, Planners

Policy Statement	Project	How	Who
5.2	▪ Collaborative approaches	Identify stakeholders and incorporate them into a list which is contacted to disseminate information Council receives and/or Council works with to develop programmes for the District.	Policy Analyst, Councillors
	▪ Email list	Create an email list which can be used to foster improved sustainable practices and disseminate information to the District.	Policy Analyst
	▪ Web page	Council will develop a webpage to act as a portal for innovative sustainable information. This will be locally based information relevant to the District so as not to duplicate information on other websites.	Policy Analyst, Web administrator
	▪ Key speakers	Invite key speakers to present to the District on sustainable initiatives. Where sponsorship is needed work collaboratively with the stakeholder group to acquire it.	Policy Analyst; Stakeholder Group
	▪ Funding Applications	Council will support local community groups when applying for funding from relevant bodies for sustainable initiatives.	Policy Analyst and/or Councillors
	▪ Public Transport	Council is aware that there are public transport issues within Hauraki. Although Council does not have a budget for the provision of public transport it can advocate for the area in the National arena and will do so.	Elected Members, Mayor
5.3	▪ District Plan	The District Plan will identify heritage buildings and safeguard their future through protective measures. It will also endeavour to create corridors for flora and fauna to be able to live successfully in the District through zoning.	Planning Department
	▪ Working Bees	Council will advocate on behalf of working parties to identify, develop and enhance areas of indigenous vegetation, biodiversity and habitat and provide support where possible for those groups doing so.	Council, Other community groups, Larger Organisations
	▪ Environmental Organisations	<p>Council will support environmental organisations with due consideration in order to develop and enhance the biodiversity of the District now and into the future. This may include campaign awareness, monetary support or grants and staff resources.</p> <p>Council will acknowledge and assist in the promotion the services that healthy biodiversity/ecosystems provide for the community</p>	Council, Biodiversity Forum, Environmental Groups

Policy Statement	Project	How	Who
5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Renewable energy incentives 	Provide planning incentives to favour the installation of renewable energy over conventional methods when retrofitting homes or constructing new housing. This may include subsidised building consents or District Plan policies.	Planning Department
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Climate change Policy 	Continue with the implementation of Council's Climate Change Policy, which ensures that infrastructure is managed in a way that protects the District taking into consideration the possible future climatic conditions.	Planning Department
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainability Policy 	Continually improve and update the sustainability policy to encourage the District to act sustainably. Also Improve the policy to include monitoring measures and report back to Council on achievements.	Policy Analyst
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ University projects 	Work with universities to determine if possible research initiatives could be conducted in Hauraki. This for example could include carbon footprint analysis, agricultural emission monitoring, climate analysis, soil fertility assessment and the like.	Councillors, Management Team, NZ Universities.