



Taking responsibility for a sustainable future



## **Lincoln Envirotown:**

### **A model for community-managed, sustainable development**

**Final Report**

**2006- 2007**

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**Lincoln Envirotown Trust**



*Ministry for the*  
**Environment**  
*Manatū Mō Te Taiao*

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## **The Lincoln Envirotown Trust:**

### **Taking responsibility for a sustainable future**

The Lincoln Envirotown Trust has come a long way since it started as a sub-committee of the Lincoln Community committee in June 2005, becoming a Charitable Trust in April 2006. The great progress we have made would not have happened without the support of the Lincoln community including Lincoln University, Landcare Research as well the Selwyn District Council and the Sustainable Management Fund. The main objectives of our Trust are:

- To promote the long term environmental sustainability of Lincoln Township with the understanding that this is also the basis for social, cultural and economic sustainability in the future.
- To educate about and raise awareness of environmental sustainability issues and to provide information about how to achieve environmental sustainability.
- To provide appropriate opportunities for personal and community decision making to ensure that the environmental, social, cultural and economic sustainability of the Lincoln Township is promoted.

We also aim to act as a model for other communities wanting to progress towards environmental sustainability.

We have achieved in all these areas and in all the areas of our smf contract and more.

## **Work Completed for SMF Contract**

### **Milestone 1**

Project launch  
Setting up working party  
Select students to undertake research

### **Milestone 2**

Survey/ questionnaire 2006 – carried out and reported on  
Setting up a sustainability centre  
Web site

### **Milestone 3**

Liaise with urban designers, landscape architects, energy efficiency experts, Selwyn district Council  
Community consultation  
Draft Community-owned action plan

### **Milestone 4**

Final community-owned action plan  
Hold Sustainable Living Courses  
Hold seminars, workshops, and practical courses  
Carry out activities such as native planting, waste reduction  
Involved school and kindergarten centre students

### **Milestone 5**

Developed an Environmental Management system  
Developed long term strategy for sustainability in Lincoln

### **Milestone 6**

Carried out a follow up survey of residents  
Developed and disseminate a model for transferring learning from the project to similar communities.

The details are in our milestone reports and other reports which can be accessed through our web site: [www.lincolnenvironment.org.nz](http://www.lincolnenvironment.org.nz)

## Key successes:

### 1. Education - raising awareness of environmental sustainability issues and providing information about how to achieve environmental sustainability.

Launch 8<sup>th</sup> July 2006: opened by the Minister for the Environment, approximately 30 displays, talks on environmental sustainability issues, every 20 minutes all day. About 100 people were present all through the day.



Kids Enviro club/ holiday activity programme: Each of these has provided stories and hands-on activities on various environmental sustainability themes. They have become more and more popular with children and their caregivers coming from various neighbouring communities as well as from Lincoln. These are a great opportunity to educate and raise the awareness of whole families.

Story writing competitions: Two story-writing competitions have been held for children – Lincoln in 100 years, Transport of the future.

Seminars: Two large seminars were held with invited experts as speakers on: –  
1. Water Quality. 2. Green design/Low impact urban design. Approximately 150 people attended each of these.

Sustainability Centre: This is a place for us to be visible, so we can answer questions and provide information. Our centre has taken many forms – we started in the Lincoln community centre, one morning a week, then we were loaned a house in Lincoln, when this was eventually demolished, we set up in a caravan loaned to us by Lady Isaac. This has been painted with our logo and we had it set up at the Lincoln Farmers' Market until it closed when winter set in. The caravan is now in the centre of Lincoln next door to the community Centre. A third of respondents to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Survey had visited our caravan.

Research documents: Native Plants in Lincoln Township: Ecological Baseline Survey of Residential Properties prepared for the Lincoln Envirotown Trust by Clowance Nolan; Communities Journeying Towards Sustainability: Case studies from New Zealand, Canada and Ireland, prepared for the Lincoln Envirotown Trust by Emily Arthur (available from our web site)

Lecture: Biodiversity

Workshops/tours: Composting, native plant garden tour

Sustainable Living Courses: Two have been held so far, another is planned.

Small discussion groups: using trial version of the Sustainability “game”

Web site: Our web site has documented our progress, research, and activities and provides a source of information.

## 2. Providing appropriate opportunities for personal and community decision making to ensure that the environmental, social, cultural and economic sustainability of the Lincoln Township is promoted.

### (a) Consultation

Survey 1: of attitudes, behaviour, and knowledge of Lincoln residents relating to sustainability: The survey also collected other information that would be useful such as how people normally sourced their information.

Collection of individual comments

Consultation workshops and meetings

The draft plan ideas were distributed to all residents ready for their feedback

### (b) Action planning

Action planning meeting was held, facilitated by an international expert in community planning, Bliss Browne. (see Milestone 6). This meeting came up with a number of actions that could be carried out. Some were chosen by groups at the meeting for adoption and actions were planned.

The process was recorded by each possible action being represented by a large cardboard “seed”. On one side of the seed was written the idea for action, on the other side the names of people who were “adopting” that seed. The seeds are kept in a book.



We have also made a large wooden tree representing our action plan, with the actions as apples. Those actions that are happening have large leaves attached to the apples, those that are beginning to happen have smaller leaves, and those that are waiting to be adopted and nurtured have no leaves.

The tree and book of beans has been displayed in the Lincoln Library.

### **(c) Actions**

Sustainable business award – has been trialled  
Zero waste street challenges (2006 and 2007)  
Reusable bags – will be given to every resident  
Native tree planting: about 1400 have been planted since July 2006  
Providing sustainability education to children  
Working with Primary school (Put in contact with Enviroschools facilitator; Rotary funding energy audit?)  
Working with developers, building companies, architects, LIUDD team etc to encourage eco sub-divisions. An Eco Show Home is in the planning process, where we will show case sustainability  
Setting up a sustainability information centre  
Production of a native planting guide for Lincoln (Final version should be finished by November 2007)  
Facilitating the cooperation between Lincoln University, Landcare Research, Selwyn District Council and the Lincoln community

### **(d) Monitoring**

Monitoring water quality of Liffey stream  
Survey of native plants  
Survey 2  
An Environmental Management System has been developed for Lincoln by consultant Paul Barrett

## **3. Role model for other communities**

We have provided information about our process on our web site.

([www.lincolnenvirotown.org.nz](http://www.lincolnenvirotown.org.nz) )

We have invited representatives from other communities to our workshops and other activities. We have been available to speak to local residents groups and have given information via phone and email.

We have a scrapbook of the year's events and a large tree showing the actions that have been adopted by the community and are underway, the ideas that are underway and the ideas in the action plan that still need adoption. The scrapbook and tree can be taken around other communities.

## **Things we have learnt:**

That advertising and promoting our events is really important. If we don't advertise widely in many different ways then we get fewer people.

People really like workshops that share skills and information of other people in the community

That providing educational activities for children in the school holidays is a great way to reach whole families. Our numbers have nearly doubled over the year.

That it is really important to keep talking to as many people as possible about sustainability .

That it is really hard work to keep a project like this moving along, especially when we miss out on smf funding and lose our project manager. We just have to keep positive despite setbacks and think of what we have achieved.

That the most important thing is to be a catalyst and to encourage others to do what they can, however big or small.