



# SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS

## GROUP ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Sustainable Neighbourhoods programme is a non-regulatory partnership programme that aims to support and encourage voluntary action by landowners. The following is the criteria for groups who are considering applying for assistance to undertake weed control, planting, restoration, energy and water efficiency, and neighbourhood transport initiatives.

**Please note: The Sustainable Neighbourhoods programme is not available to all people.** Where a group is not eligible for assistance, Council officers can provide advice.

- Where a landowner is required to undertake planting/ weed control as a Resource Consent condition.
- Where a landowner has been served an Enforcement Notice by Council to remove weeds.
- Individual landowners.
- Sustainable Neighbourhood groups which have previously received assistance through the Sustainable Neighbourhoods programme.

### The Application Process

Groups of landowners within a community can form a Sustainable Neighbourhoods group and apply to Council for funding if you have at least 3 landowners committed to seeing the project through.

Send in a completed application form to Council providing details about your neighbourhood and your group. Application forms can be downloaded from the Waitakere City Council website.

Groups will be assessed depending on a number of criteria as set out below, and depending on the level of assistance which has already been committed in a given year.

### Assessment Criteria

Groups will be assessed using the following priorities:

- The total number of landowners adjoining
- The degree of severity of issues groups are facing
- The number of issues groups are facing
- The proximity of the group to local parks
- The number of local parks within the neighbourhood
- The degree of commitment from the group

For further information contact the Waitakere City Council Call Centre, Ph 839 0400, Private Bag 93 109, Henderson, Waitakere City or visit the Council's website on [www.waitakere.govt.nz](http://www.waitakere.govt.nz)

### **Groups that are Approved for Assistance**

Once groups are approved for assistance they will receive confirmation back from the Green Network team.

We will then coordinate to meet with the neighbourhoods group and start discussing the issues you are facing, your vision for the neighbourhood, and what ways that Council can assist you to meet your vision.

A Sustainable Neighbourhoods Management Plan can be drawn up with the group input, that can help you to develop a restoration programme; drawing up a weeding plan, a planting plan, and a methodology for maintaining the areas until they are mature.

Council can bring in assistance from other sustainability networks such as Ecomatters Environment Trust to help with issues such as water and energy efficiency.

Groups will be offered mentoring to help them apply for other long term funding to help them achieve their goals, and council can provide a range of education and training to groups to help the group become sustainable in the long term.

Groups will be eligible for up to three years of funding assistance, however Council staff will always be available to offer advice in the long term.

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### **This is a Green Network Project**

The Green Network joins natural areas to create a network of gardens, parks, streams, roadside plantings and coastlines. The Green Network gives you more places to play, connects you with the countryside and encourages birds and other wildlife to make their home here in Waitakere.