

Purpose

The purpose of this Partnering Statement is to acknowledge the relationship between the EcoMatters Environment Trust (EcoMatters) and the Waitakere City Council (Council).

The Statement recognises that both organisations are committed to the creation of an environmentally sustainable city and that both organisations are committed to working together to achieve this objective.

Background

EcoMatters plays a key role in engaging with the community of Waitakere on urban environmental issues. As a community organisation with significant community and strategic alliances, EcoMatters is able to assist the Council in the conceptualisation and implementation of environmental programmes and projects that help to achieve a range of strategic objectives in the area of environmental sustainability.

As New Zealand's first eco city, Waitakere adopted the principles of Agenda 21 in 1993. Since then the Council has worked with the Waitakere community to improve the sustainability of the city, making a firm commitment to sustainable development. The Council's goals include significantly reducing waste, greenhouse gas emissions and water use in the city.

EcoMatters was established in 2002 and is recognised as a leader in the development of community based environmental initiatives that encourage our community to commit to act sustainably through behaviour change. The Council is recognised as leader in sustainable development nationally and internationally. By working together the two organisations will be able to build on each other's strengths and work towards a more sustainable future for our community.

Over the past five years, EcoMatters and the Council have worked jointly on many projects and have drawn on each other's expertise in furthering both organisations' objectives. The purpose of this Statement is to formalise this relationship to ensure its long term sustainability.

Our Shared Vision and Objectives

EcoMatters and the Council commit to working together towards a more sustainable future for the Waitakere community by

- Fostering community empowerment and engagement on key environmental issues facing our city and the globe;
- Facilitating and supporting practical action in the community to ensure environmental sustainability;
- Encouraging community leadership on environmental issues.

Each organisation agrees also to value and respect each other's individual vision and objectives (Annex 1).

Working Together

The two organisations will work together in an open and honest way with particular emphasis on

- A constructive and cooperative approach to the achievement of the shared vision and objectives;
- Respect and acknowledgement of each other's independence, organisational cultures and policies, including the Council's procurement policies;
- Acknowledgement that this Partnering Statement does not give "exclusive supplier" status from the Council;
- Communicating joint initiatives in a co-ordinated fashion and respecting each other's communications and public relations needs;
- Acknowledging and celebrating success.

Roles and Responsibilities

EcoMatters and the Council both play roles in furthering our community's eco city vision.

EcoMatters

- Undertakes practical, community education and engagement around environmental sustainability issues;
- Delivers practical projects aimed at increasing the sustainability of households, schools and businesses.

The Council

- Works with its community in developing Community Outcomes and a strategic vision for the city;
- Develops strategies on how to best further the city's Community Outcomes and strategic vision;
- Sets budgets to support its vision through the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) process;
- Delivers sustainability projects for its community.

Together the Council and EcoMatters work to deliver practical projects that allow people to live more sustainably. While each project is different, the Council generally plays a more "hands off" role, assisting with planning and funding, while EcoMatters delivers the practical components of the project and liaises with co-funders. Detailed roles and responsibilities for various projects are described in Annex 2.

Managing the Relationship

The relationship partners will

- Meet bi-monthly to update each other on relevant matters and to raise any concerns they may have;
- Frequently communicate informally to ensure that there are no surprises;
- Develop a joint work programme;
- Discuss resourcing in an open and honest way;
- Jointly report on the shared work programme to an appropriate council committee at least yearly;
- Attempt to resolve any issues and conflicts at an officer level;
- Nominate one point of contact to manage the relationship.

Dispute Resolution

The parties agree to attempt to resolve any conflict or relationship issues that cannot be resolved at officer level by dialogue at management level initially and by independent mediation, using a mutually acceptable independent mediator, if this fails.

Resourcing

Both organisations contribute financial and non-financial resources to the achievement of their shared vision. The Council provides some base funding for EcoMatters because it acknowledges that EcoMatters plays a key role in achieving Waitakere's Community Outcomes and eco city vision. Details of this and other council funding are outlined in Annex 2.

Because of its status as a charitable trust, EcoMatters is able to access third party funding, bringing additional resources to joint projects.

Both organisations also commit to share staff expertise and experiences to further each other's objectives as appropriate.

Relationship Review

This partnering statement will be reviewed triennially to coincide with the LTCCP planning cycle. The first review will commence in late 2008 and will be completed before July 2009.

Annexes

1. Background to EcoMatters and the Waitakere City Council
2. Funding and Work Programme 2007-2009
3. Implementation

