



## Responding to Climate Change: The Role of Cities

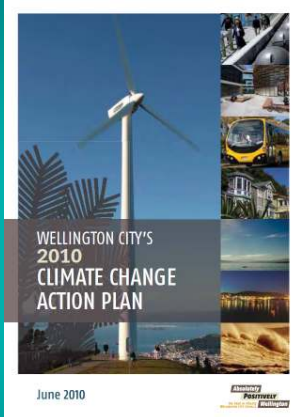


Climate Change and Business Conference - August 2011  
Zach Rissel, Senior Advisor - Wellington City Council

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## Overview

- Legislative context
- Local government services
- Positioning NZ and NZ cities
- Wellington response
- Wellington 2040



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## Context

- 50% of world's population live in cities
- 80+% of NZ's population live in cities
- 75% of global greenhouse emissions from cities\*
- Cities crucial to solving key global issues
  - Climate change; energy security; water security; social equality
- Horse has bolted – competitive international cities leading on climate change

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## Legislative context for NZ cities (adaptation)

- Climate change risks
- Local Government Act 2002
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Emergency Management Act 2002
- Building Act 2004



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## Legislative context for NZ cities (mitigation)

- Emissions Trading Scheme
  - Landfill
  - Forestry
  - Council operations (fuel, gas, electricity)
- Local Government Act 2002
- Resource Management Act 1991
  - Renewable energy
  - Residential/commercial development
  - District planning



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## Local Government Services

Mandatory functions	Mitigation	Adaption	ETS	Energy Security
Water supply	√	√		√
Wastewater management	√	√		√
Rubbish and recycling	√			√
Landfill	√		√	√
District planning and consenting	√	√		√
Forestry reserves/plantation	√		√	
Roads	√			√
Emergency services		√		√
Parking	√			√
Stormwater management		√		√
Coastal defence/sea wall		√		√
Public transport	√			√

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## Positioning NZ (100% Pure....right?)

- NZ 0.2%, Aus 1.4% of global emissions (MFE 2007) – why would NZ/Aus cities bother?
- Positioning, reputation, leadership, credibility, revenue, **attracting skilled workers** and **economic development**
- Wellington – capital city of 100% Pure NZ



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## Positioning NZ

“We simply can’t afford to let our reputation, and...exporters, suffer because of a lack of environmental leadership, nor should we miss the opportunity that the global shift to green growth represents for a country like New Zealand...The linkage is important because we have to succeed here in New Zealand to be successful internationally.”

*Rob Morrison, Chairman - KiwiBank (Pure Advantage launch) - July 2011*



OR?



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# Positioning NZ

“If we don’t understand the importance of the environment, social justice, liveable communities and good transport... education...health system..., we don’t get it...fundamentally, creative, intelligent people have a choice of where they live...(NZ’s) mission statement needs to be: a country where talent wants to live.”

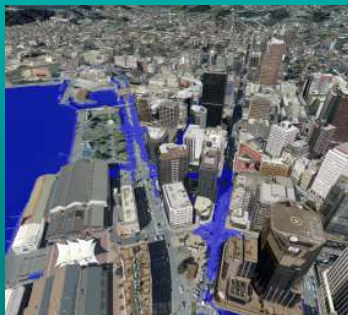
*Sir Paul Callaghan, May 2011*



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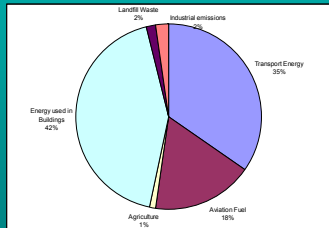
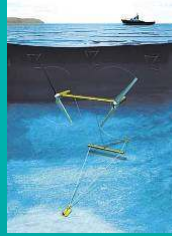
# Wellington response – adaptation

- Asset management (e.g. 0.8m sea level rise built into plans)
- Risk identification and planning



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## Wellington response – energy/buildings



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## Wellington response - forestry

- Permanent Forest Sink Initiative (1300 ha)
- Private rural areas (~10,000+ ha)
- Nursery crops stimulating growth?



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## Wellington response - transport

- 34% of commuting trips PT or active modes
- Rise of inner-city living
- EV pilot
- Some significant decisions needed for step-changes



	Car, truck or van	Public bus	Train	Walked or jogged	Bicycle
Wellington	45.1%	14%	3.1%	15.3%	2.1%
Auckland	61.5%	7.3%	1%	6.6%	1.2%
Waitakere	70.9%	3.3%	3.3%	2.3%	0.8%
Christchurch	63.8%	4.1%	0%	4.5%	5.1%
Dunedin	64.6%	2.7%	0%	8.7%	1.5%

\*source: 2006 census

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## Wellington response - landfill



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**GLOBAL TRENDS FACING WELLINGTON**

- Big cities get the most attention
- Harnessing new technologies
- Responding to climate change and resource scarcity
- Populations older and more diverse

**ECO CITY**  
Our city will take an environmental leadership role as the Capital of Clean and Green New Zealand.

**CONNECTED CITY**  
Our people, places and places will link to networks across physical, virtual and social connections.

**PEOPLE CENTRED CITY**  
Our city will be healthy, vibrant, affordable and resilient, with a strong sense of identity and 'place'.

**DYNAMIC CENTRAL CITY**  
The central city will be a place of creativity, exploration and innovation, attracting the lifestyle of a much larger city.

**THE CAPITAL CITY IS ALREADY A CREATIVE, HIGHLY SKILLED, CONNECTED POPULATION WITH OUTSTANDING ECOLOGICAL ASSETS. THESE ARE OUR STRENGTHS.**

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## SMART & GREEN

- Where 'creative' cities are headed
- Wellington's economic future - not a commodity City
- Building on our natural competitive advantages (renewables; access to outdoors)
  - Capital of "Clean/Green" Aotearoa
- A place where 'talent wants to live'
  - Part of the story of why people come to live and stay in Wellington
- Building resilience
  - To natural events - climate, flooding, earthquakes
- Feed into 2012-22 Long Term Plan



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## Summary

- Legislative requirements and overlaps with mandatory functions
- Adaptation – core business, some urgency
- Mitigation\* – positioning, energy security, attracting talent
- Wellington – responding to climate change key theme of city vision