

HUMAN SETTLEMENT COUNTRY PROFILE

NEW ZEALAND

Decision-Making

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- B. Improving Human Settlement Management
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Decision-Making: The local government of New Zealand is responsible for implementing the Resource Management Act. This legislation aims to promote sustainable management of natural and physical resources. Both regional councils and territorial authorities are directly elected and set their own rates. There are several strategies and policies, and legislation, that promote sustainable consumption and production patterns including: Environment 2010 Strategy, Resource Management Act 1991 and its amendments, Energy Efficiency Strategy, Sustainable Land Management Strategy, as well as others. Recent legislative changes have addressed issues of infrastructure and planning that relate to housing. The Resource Management Act put in place a new planning system, with decision making guided by criteria emphasizing impacts on the immediate environment. The Act allows the adoption of a more flexible, integrated and less centralized planning approach. Local authorities are obliged to consult with local communities in preparing their District Plans and these plans play a key role in resource utilization decisions. Regional Councils are working to develop policies and plans to address sustainable land use issues identified through the Regional Policy Statements that they are required to produce under the Resource Management Act 1991.

The principal government bodies charged with energy policy are the Ministry of Economic Development (formerly the Ministry of Commerce) and the Ministry for the Environment, which has policy oversight of energy efficiency and renewable energy policy. The Treasury advises on taxation policy, which affects energy use. Transportation policy advice is provided by the Ministry of Transport (MoT), which is undertaking work on measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector. A formal interdepartmental committee, the Officials Committee on Energy Policy, comprising the Ministries of Economic Development, Environment, the Treasury and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, co-ordinates advice on all major energy policy matters. The Resource Management Act 1991 provides the legislative framework to control the environmental effects of all activities, including energy. The local government primarily implements the Act.

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA), established in 1992, underwent major changes in line with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act 2000. The Act was based on principles of sustainable development. It provided a legislative basis for the EECA to promote energy efficiency, energy conservation, and renewable energy. It also required the EECA to prepare and implement a National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy, which was publicly released in 2001. The Strategy seeks to improve nation-wide energy efficiency by 20 per cent by 2012. It also targets a 30 PJ increase in the supply of renewable energy by 2012.

The New Zealand government has recently agreed a New Zealand Transport Strategy to encourage the use of more energy efficient modes of transport further detail can be found in the New Zealand response to the reformed CSD, available as background document 1 to CSD 12 at <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/Background1.pdf>. Details of the New Zealand Transport Strategy can be found at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/nzts/introduction.cfm>. The major legislative instruments are: Land Transport Act 1998, Transport Act 1986, Transit New Zealand Act 1989 and Road User Charges Act 1977, as well as other acts.

New Zealand offers a variety of opportunities for the participation of major groups in the formulation of policy and the development and operation of legislation. These include the use of public discussion documents, public meetings, hui, and other forms of consultation during the formulation of policies, strategies, and plans; and written and oral submissions to parliamentary committees and members of parliament during the formulation of legislation. Maori have lost control over much of their ancestral land and hence parts of new legislation and policy directives increased engagement of central government in Maori interests and concerns.

The Landcare Trust (jointly funded by the Ministry for the Environment and an electricity company Transpower) is an NGO that facilitates sustainable land management and biodiversity initiatives with rural communities

The Ministry of Education (MOE) is primarily responsible for developing national guidelines on all aspects of education, including national curriculum development objectives. Several other agencies, including the Ministry for the Environment, the Department of Conservation, and the Ministry of Agriculture are also involved to some extent in giving specialist advice

Programmes and Projects :

A. Providing Adequate Shelter for All: The government plays several roles in the housing market: it sets quality standards and ensures basic design standards and building adequacy; it protects tenants against unfair eviction; and it provides housing for those on low incomes. As part of this Housing New Zealand, a crown owned company, owns some 59,000 rental properties and manages assets valued at approximately \$5 billion

New Zealand provides a comprehensive set of targeted income support programmes with many supplementary programmes to meet individual and family needs. The government has in place a tax reduction scheme and family assistance measures, designed to increase the net income of all low-income families with dependent children. This set of policies and strategies is geared to reduce economic hardship for individuals and families in a sustainable way within the context of an overall growth strategy for New Zealand. An element of the New Zealand Sustainable Development Plan of Action called Investing in Child and Youth Development is addressing improving outcomes for disadvantaged young people. Further detail can be found in the New Zealand response to the reformed CSD, available as background document 1 to CSD 12 at <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/Background1.pdf>, and in particular the section referring to Paragraph 7 of the JPOI.

The Building Act 1991, established a single National Building Code, replacing a number of Acts and regulations and a multitude of individual codes create by local authorities. This helps to reduce building and compliance costs and hence the cost of housing. Guidance on ensuring that buildings are safe, durable, accessible, and energy efficient is provided by 23 documents released in August 1992, which are to be updated on a rolling 5-year review cycle.

B. Improving Human Settlement Management: The Maori indicators strand of the Environmental Performance Indicators Programme has developed a 3-tier approach to accommodate Maori input into environmental reporting, including an umbrella discussion group of Maori individuals known as MEMG (Maori Environmental Monitoring Group); strand by strand contracts; and Maori ecosystem case studies. The indicators created within this framework will meet the expressed needs of whanau, hapu, iwi to retain their cultural integrity of culture and lifestyle; Kia manaaki te taiao (expressing a wish to care for the environment), educate the rangatahi (younger generations), and retain linkages; Manaaki te whanau – kai, care for the family; and, Sustain the mauri o te Taiao (the life force of Maori, and their relationships to the environment, for younger generations)

New Zealand has made legislative changes aimed at strengthening the rights and protection provided to low paid and vulnerable workers.

C. Promoting Sustainable Land-Use Planning and Management: The NZ government is developing an Urban Design Protocol. It is a way of promoting discussion and achieving agreement at a national level about ways to improve the urban design of our cities and towns. It is anticipated that the Protocol will lead to a series of actions by government and other stakeholders to achieve practical outcomes and

positive change in the way we approach the design of our urban areas. The following website provides more details on this programme <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/urban/work-programme/protocol.html>

The Ministry of Agriculture has a Sustainable Agriculture Programme, which aims to raise the awareness of the farming community of sustainable agriculture and related issues. MAF also produces school education kits on sustainable agriculture, which seek to educate young people about New Zealand's agriculture and to survey changes in land management and planning. Aside from this programme there are other innovative education activities related to sustainable development such as the "Land care Trust" initiative, administered by the Ministry for the Environment which provides information and training to people interested in establishing land-care groups.

The Sustainable Cities Programme of Action, part of New Zealand's Sustainable Development Programme of Action has two major elements which address sustainable land use management; the development of an Urban Design Protocol and of an Urban Affairs Strategy. Further detail can be found in section 2.3 of the New Zealand response to the reformed CSD, available as background document 1 to CSD 12 at <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/Background1.pdf>.

D. Promoting the Integrated Provision of Environmental Infrastructure: water, sanitation, drainage and solid waste management: See Freshwater & Sanitation Profiles.

E. Promoting Sustainable Energy and Transport Systems in Human Settlements: A project related to this area called the Government Energy Efficiency Leadership Programme (GEELP), has now evolved into a broader initiative called *govt*³. This programme seeks to move government agencies, through pilot programmes in specific agencies, towards more sustainable practices in their daily operations. The programme contains 3 elements; procurement with environmental impacts in mind, impact assessment including materials and energy use and minimising waste and emissions, and reporting on performance.

Incentive measures to induce public participation in environmentally friendly transport are also being undertaken by a number of government agencies. An example of this is the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority's Rideshare Software, which facilitates carpooling and efforts by Regional Council's to encourage the use of public transport. Foundation for Research Science and Technology transport related research initiatives include projects to Identify Factors to Change People's Transport Use and Sustainable Transportation

One of the 4 key themes of the NZ Sustainable Development Plan of Action is Sustainable Cities, with sustainable transport playing a vital part in this. Currently, central government is developing an explanatory booklet with the Auckland regional authority to raise awareness of Travel Demand Management (TDM) approaches to reducing roading congestion. Some local authorities are already implementing TDM measures, such as Walking School Buses, while central government is developing a project to accelerate the implementation of School Travel Plans (STPs) in the Auckland region. The aim of this project is for 50% of schools in the Auckland region to have STPs by 2010, resulting in 6,000 fewer car trips to targeted schools. For further details see: <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/urban/work-programme/regional.html>

F. Promoting Human Settlement Planning and Management in Disaster-Prone Areas: Consistent with the government's economic policies, individual landholders accept that they must manage climatic risks. It is now recognized that disaster relief programmes can contribute to environmental degradation by distorting risk perceptions of land users and thereby encouraging unsustainable use of land and other resources. Where support is provided, it is in a manner that does not reduce individual responsibility for managing risk. Recent severe flooding in the lower half of the North Island has prompted some further consideration of both land use and disaster management policies.

Central government has responsibility for human settlement planning and management in disaster-prone areas. The Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management was established in 2001 to provide emergency management policy advice and response and recovery programmes beyond the scope of local authorities. The long established Earthquake Commission provides insurance to help homeowners recover from the effects of natural disasters including earthquake, volcanic eruption, and tsunamis. Government research institutes investigate the nature and occurrence of natural disasters, and provide natural hazard planning services.

G. Promoting Sustainable Construction Activities: A recent proposed amendment to the Building Act (tabled in August 2003 and currently before a Parliamentary Select Committee) is proposed to ensure construction of, and use of, buildings promotes sustainable development.

H. Promoting Human Resource Development and Capacity-Building for Human Settlement Development: In rural areas the New Zealand Federation of Young Farmers Clubs (YFC) and the Women's Division of Federated Farmers are examples of groups involved in sustainable agriculture and rural development programmes. Landcare groups, of which there are 90, have operated in New Zealand for many years in order to bring groups in a community together to tackle a common problem such as animal pests, erosion, or any other problem that may affect a rural community. Women's Division Federated Farmers has 410 branches throughout New Zealand, which provide opportunities for fellowship, education, community service and action according to local needs. It aims to strengthen rural communities and promote the welfare of rural families.

Fifty-five Landcare, community-based groups have been established throughout the country to collaboratively address local problems; Federated Farmers of New Zealand is involved in several projects directed towards establishing farm-based indicators of sustainable land management; Women's Division of Federated Farmers is preparing a resource kit aimed at assisting the establishment of community-based groups; and the Rural Futures Trust is promoting the adoption of Decision Support Systems and sponsoring the development of ecologically-based condition assessment models as tools for better farm management decisions.

Status: New Zealand is fortunate that absolute poverty, as defined in the Programme of Action of the Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development, 1995 is not part of its economic and social environment. Consequently, the Government has stated that there has been no need to develop a plan and a target date for the eradication of absolute poverty. The Government believes that sustained and sustainable economic growth and development is the best way to address poverty in general, stressing the importance of productive employment in developing a dynamic approach to individual and family income, and the efficiency of the "safety net" provided by income support systems. The economic reforms of the past decade have provided a sound framework for economic growth and development. During the past two years a Task Force has recommended, and the government has adopted, policies to improve employment outcomes for New Zealanders, in particular for the young unemployed and for the long-term unemployed.

New Zealand is a predominantly urban society with 85% of the population residing in urban areas and towns. The majority of New Zealanders are physically well-housed, and the adequacy of New Zealand's housing stock is illustrated by statistics which show that in 2001, there were just over 1.3million permanent dwellings for a population of 3.8million, or approximately three persons per occupied dwelling. A characteristic of housing stock in New Zealand is the high level of home ownership: 70% of all permanent dwellings were owner-occupied in 2001. Problems of inadequate or insufficient housing are infrequent and isolated, although it is accepted that some groups, particularly those on low incomes, are disadvantaged in finding affordable housing of a suitable standard. Funding to assist the provision of

housing for those with special needs is provided through the Community Funding Agency of the Ministry of Social Development

A number of local authorities in New Zealand have adopted the principles of Agenda 21 in their strategic planning processes, and at least three local authorities (Waitakere, Hamilton and Wellington) have joined the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). Hamilton City is one of 21 cities worldwide in ICLEI's Agenda 21 Model Communities Programme. Several local authorities within New Zealand have been active participants in the Healthy Cities-Healthy Communities programme of WHO since 1988. There is considerable potential for the Healthy Cities programme, with its inter-sectoral and collaborative approach, to complement and enhance the development and success of Local Agenda 21s. Some local authorities, for example, Hamilton and Christchurch, are actively promoting sustainable transport systems and have programmes to develop cycle ways and to encourage cycling and walking for shorter journeys – e.g. 'walking school bus' programmes in several cities.

Maori are significant players in the New Zealand forestry sector. There are approximately 7,000 hectares of Maori-controlled forest, and a further 140,000 hectares of forestry on Maori-owned land. In some regions of New Zealand, this involvement is more significant, for example in Northland, where Maori forestry holdings make up more than 25% of the planted estate. Increasingly, Maori see forestry as a significant vehicle for sustainable capital development to benefit both current and future generations and, in some of the Maori areas, new tribal-based forest companies are emerging. The Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993, emphasizes retention of Maori land by the Maori owners

Electricity generation relies heavily on renewable (hydro, geothermal and a small amount of wind) and is therefore largely already sustainable. New Zealand's electricity generation is dominated by renewable resources with hydropower producing around 70-75% of annual electricity needs, depending on rainfall. Geothermal power contributes another 7%. Current government policies and those measures arising out of the Strategy are expected to significantly address various barriers, including: fixed price charging; unclear market signals regarding the cost of CO₂ emissions; lack of investment in renewable R&D; lack of proven market value associated with environmentally friendly renewable energy; and lack of information about renewable energy and government policy options. The current New Zealand transport system has gone through a substantial period of reform over the last 20 years, which has made major improvements to the efficiency of the system

Capacity Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The Ministry for the Environment has a Sustainable Industries group that focuses on encouraging and awarding businesses with sustainable practices. The Ministry provides information and resources on sustainable industry, support and encouragement for sustainable industry initiatives, sustainability tools and services and help for government to be a sustainable sector. Much of the promotional effort is channelled through industry associations, targeted presentations and publications designed to foster particular investments in new technology and specific energy efficient behaviours. For example an "Energy-Wise Companies Campaign" was launched in August 1994 and now has membership of over 600 of the largest companies in New Zealand. It promotes commitment to energy efficiency at the top management level of companies, and to establish effective partnership between the Government and the private sector to direct management attention to implementation of cost effective energy efficient practices and technologies. These Initiative have recently been extended to include more general sustainable practices promotions, for example the Wellington Regional Council 'Be the difference' programmes more details of which can be found at www.bethedifference.gw.govt.nz

Information: The Ministry for the Environment monitors implementation of the Resource Management Act using a variety of methods, including case studies and an Annual Survey of Local Authorities. The Energy Modelling and Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Economic Development compiles statistical

information on, and prepares projections of, energy supply and demand and greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector. Scientific data on vehicle emissions is also available from the Ministry of Transport through the New Zealand Traffic Emissions Rates (NZTER) database, which is available on CD-ROM for a nominal price from the Ministry.

Updates on the status of human settlements (particularly cities) have been undertaken through survey work aimed specifically at gauging quality of life, for example see the survey of quality of life in New Zealand's largest cities available at www.bigcities.govt.nz

Research and Technologies: The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority were established in 1992 to encourage adoption of technologies that are energy-efficient and use renewable energy resources. Priority has been ascribed to technologies proven overseas and having particular cost effective application in mass markets, such as energy efficient motors and lighting systems. The Ministry of Transport is proposing to investigate the introduction of average vehicle efficiency standards. The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority have a broad mandate to promote the deployment of energy efficient technologies. New initiatives include the development of criteria for the possible development of a new contestable fund that could be used to promote the early introduction of energy efficient vehicles by fleet owners and operators, which could include technologies using alternative energy sources. Vehicle Fleet Control Strategy (VFECS) measures to Improve Traffic Conditions: Provide information to territorial local authorities and other roading agencies on actual vehicle emission rates and Promote the use of Environmental Capacity Analysis to measure the effect of different traffic management techniques (such as bus lanes and improved flow), on traffic emissions from busy roads.

MORST's Strategic Consultative Group on Sustainable Land Management Research is working to establish priorities for research and science that will contribute to the achievement of sustainable land management. Key national priorities for sustainable land management research, have been identified in Science for Sustainable Land Management - Towards a New Agenda. The Public Good Science Fund will continue to make a significant investment in sustainable land management research. Research on sustainable management of land resources is provided by other Crown Research Institutes, including Landcare Research Limited. The National Science Strategy for Sustainable Land Management (NSS), established by the Government in 1996, is an integral part of the overall Sustainable Land Management Strategy announced by the Government and coordinated by the Ministry for the Environment. The NSS is developed and implemented by a central and three regional committees. A task of the committees will be to improve the still-poor understanding on the part of many New Zealanders of their land resources and how human activities affect them, and the long-term monitoring and assessment of environmental trends, through coordinated science. The committees will also have the key roles of monitoring, coordinating, and advocating science, which enhances sustainable land management.

Financing: The Ministry for the Environment administers a Sustainable Management Fund (SMF) to pay for research needs in the area of sustainable management. The SMF has an annual budget of approximately NZ\$5.0 million to support community initiatives that help achieve the Government's environmental management priorities. The SMF is providing project support for a broad range of resource management activity, including farmer-based sustainable land management initiatives. In addition the Sustainable Farming Fund (administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry) provides support to community-driven projects aimed at improving the financial and environmental performance of the land-based sectors. Almost \$10-million worth of funding is available in FY 2004/05 to rural sector community groups under this programme.

The vehicles (e.g. trucks, rail vehicles aircraft etc) for all modes of transport are generally privately owned and generally privately funded. The underlying infrastructure (roads, railways etc) generally remains publicly owned although many air and seaports are run as commercial entities with some public

ownership. However public transport (such as urban rail, bus, ferries) receive some public funding. Local road infrastructure funding sources include approximately 50% from the National Road Fund and 50% from rates (a levy on land owners); State highway funding sources are 100% funded through the National Road Fund

Cooperation: New Zealand's development assistance agency NZAID sponsors a number of regional initiatives such as: the Agricultural Institutional Strengthening Project: Papua New Guinea - to increase the teaching and training capabilities of two PNG colleges and enable them to produce quality graduates, especially female, who will assist in increasing agricultural expertise and production. Project is targeted towards improvement of the welfare of rural people through curriculum development, staff training, farm development and management, and gender training and support at the two colleges. See also under programmes and projects. For other examples of NZAID work with development partners in the human settlements area see section 2.3 of the New Zealand response to the reformed CSD, available as background document 1 to CSD 12 at <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/Background1.pdf>

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