

SENIORS CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK – submission to DCC Annual Plan 2016/17.

Introduction

SCAN (Seniors Climate Action Network) are a group of senior citizens concerned about climate change and its effects on future generations and on the environment

Our Aims are

1. **Raising awareness** of climate change, among senior citizens, and working towards a low-carbon future.
2. **Encouraging** young people, to value resilience and to experience a low-carbon lifestyle, through spending time with them and organising events.
3. **Taking action** (submissions, petitions), to put the planet and future generations ahead of profit.
4. **Changing lifestyles** to new patterns of living, to lower our own carbon footprint at household, community and national levels.
5. **Celebrating** and publicising positive change that is already happening in the world.

SCAN was greatly encouraged by the adoption of 4 positive motions by the Dunedin City Council in late 2015:

"That the Dunedin City Council:

- a) urges the New Zealand Government to commit to a carbon emissions reduction target of 40% by 2030, relative to 1990 levels
- b) expresses a willingness to support the development and implementation of a clear action plan to achieve that target, including interim goals
- c) commits to the international Compact of Mayors

d) calls on the New Zealand Government to place a moratorium on deep sea oil and gas exploration and extraction, in New Zealand waters.

We hope that the Compact of Mayors in particular will lead to actions on Climate emissions at a local level. Local action is particularly important given the present governments unwillingness to act on Climate Change.

Looking After the Environment

This section of the 2016/17 Annual Plan Consultation Document has several climate change related matters: mention of mitigation in Te Ao Turoa - the Environment Strategy and adaptation in planning for groundwater and sea level rise.

We feel that for such a major issue as Climate Change with potential major effects for Dunedin that more money needs to be spent now to transition to a low carbon economy and deal with the difficult adaption issues facing the low lying parts of Dunedin.

As Te Ao Turoa outlines mitigation efforts including transitioning to a low carbon transport infrastructure, energy efficiency and moving to more renewable energy, reducing carbon emissions in Dunedin's infrastructure and supporting agriculture, horticulture and forestry to reduce and mitigate carbon emissions need to be made.

We suggest the following measures be acted on to mitigate Climate Change:

- 1 Requiring the transitioning of the bus fleet to electric vehicles
- 2 Transitioning the DCC vehicle fleet to electric vehicles or if not feasible to hybrid vehicles
- 3 Providing incentives for businesses, schools to transition from fossil fuels e.g. coal burners
- 4 Purchasing from low carbon or carbon neutral suppliers
- 5 Providing information to business to reduce emissions
- 6 Tree planting to absorb emissions either through forestry or urban planting

7 Encouraging market gardening and horticulture on the Taieri, to reduce food miles and particularly organic production to store carbon in the soils. (Note - Taieri soils are high class soils and residential development on them should be a non-complying).

Opportunities

Arts

One of the real challenges in dealing with climate change is communicating with people without people "turning off". We believe that using the arts to communicate allows people to more readily engage. So the arts need to be invited to all engagement around this issue. For example communicating about possible futures for low lying parts of Dunedin, artists could be invited to work on presentations that would evoke better engagement from the public. Arts and culture funding should be used to socialise the impact of Climate Change and build resilience.

Marketing Dunedin

One of the strands of marketing that could be used to market Dunedin is our plan to be a sustainable city as expressed in Te Ao Turoa and Dunedin joining the Compact of Mayors. This may be attractive to New Zealanders returning from overseas. Emphasis on local food would also be a good marketing point to attract new citizens.

Supporting the Community

We would like to ask for a new category of grant to support community projects that are sustainable. We would like the amount of \$100,000 to be made available annually for community sustainability grants.