

ONE-DAY COURSE OVERVIEW AND PROGRAMME

Sustainability Indicators Workshop

Friday 5 October 2007

Garden Room, Auckland Conference Centre
AUT Park, Great South Road, Penrose.

Introduction

There is a growing awareness of the need to measure and monitor our 'quality of life', both in the present and into the future. The use of indicators is growing as their benefits are becoming clearer as:

1. *A **democratic tool** for engaging citizens and communities in informed discussions about shared goals and priorities.*
2. *A **policy tool**, guiding evidence-based planning and action to address the issues identified as important by communities.*
3. *A **reporting tool**, tracking and communicating progress towards agreed goals and outcomes.*

Several countries (such as Australia, Canada and the UK) have developed a set of national/regionally agreed sustainability indicators through extensive community engagement programmes over 2004 to 2007. Unlike other countries that have had to start from scratch to engage communities to identify a set of sustainability indicators, NZ has the advantage of building on the work already carried out throughout the country on engaging communities in the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) community outcomes project.

In 2006 Regional and Local Councils throughout New Zealand produced their first 'full set' of community outcomes to identify the social, economic, environmental and cultural outcomes that communities want for their well-being in the future. These community outcomes are published in each councils long-term council community plan (LTCCP).

Along with existing indicators work carried out by government departments and others (such as the 12 cities 'Quality of Life Indicators'), this provides a good basis for a critical review of the councils indicators gathered to date and how these compare to other international indicator sets.

Overview

This course is about sustainability indicators and frameworks. Participants are given a brief overview and then through small group discussions critically review recent (2006/07) indicators developed by national, regional, local and other groups within New Zealand against respected international indicator frameworks. The council community outcomes presented in their long-term council community plans are used as a starting point.

Audience

Practising engineers, planners, architects, councils, developers, business and community groups.

Aim and Objective:

The aim of the course is to provide participants a good working knowledge of the current state of indicators work throughout New Zealand and how this compares to other international work. Participants will debate their own views on indicator measures against the existing council's community outcomes and other national and international indicator programmes.

Course Content

This one-day course will cover:

- Background to Sustainability Indicators and Frameworks
- What makes a good indicator?
- What are the existing indicators that have been developed through the community outcomes/LTCCP Local Government Act process throughout New Zealand's 12 regions?
- How do these indicators compare against:
 - The most recent '*four wellbeings*' (Social, Environment, Economy and Cultural) government indicator programmes developed by the Ministry of Social Development, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Economic Development and Ministry for Culture and Heritage.
 - The most recent 2006 NZ 'Quality of Life Indicators'
 - Other surveys of NZ citizen priorities ('*Things of personal importance to Kiwi's*', Growth & Innovation Advisory Council 2004 and the NZ Post "*Road Ahead*" competition from 7,500 entries writing about their ideal future)
 - Internationally respected indicator sets such as Community Indicators Victoria (www.communityindicators.net.au), UK Government Sustainable Development Framework (www.sustainable-development.govt.uk) and the Canadian Index of Wellbeing (www.atkinsonfoundation.ca/ciw)

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course participants will have a clear understanding of:

- Background to sustainability frameworks and indicators
- Existing national, regional, and local frameworks and indicators in practice
- Relevance of existing community outcomes to other indicator sets
- International frameworks and indicators

Course Outcomes Linked to Competence Standards

Eg:

IPENZ Competence Standards for Professional Engineers, TIPENZ, AIPENZ:
Elements 2, 9, 11.

NZIA Continuing Professional Development Standards

Programme

Time	Activity	Description
0:30 hr 9:00 - 9:30	Introduction	Introduction of Dave Breuer and David Kettle. Each participant introduces themselves (1 min max) Brief outline of the day.
0:45 hr 9:30 – 10:15	Background Presentation 1	Overview of Sustainability Frameworks and Indicators. Overview of three international sets: - Community Indicators Victoria - UK Government Sus. Dev. Framework - Canadian Index of Wellbeing
10:15 – 10:30	Coffee	
1:30 hr 10:30 – 12:00	Small Group Discussion	Divide up 12 regional councils and participants local councils amongst three groups and each group assess: - indicators against ‘what makes a good indicator’ - common indicators between regions - locally driven indicators - enabling, behaviour changing or outcome focussed - versus Victoria, UK and Canadian sets
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
0:30 hr 13:00 – 13:30	Report Back	
1:30 hr 13:30 – 15:00	Small Group Discussion	Divide four NZ wellbeings reports amongst three groups and then each group assess their regional councils against: - MSD NZ Social Report 2006 - MFE OECD Env. Performance Review - MED Economic Indicators - MCH Cultural Indicators And 2006 ‘Quality of Life Indicators’
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee	
1 hr 15:30 – 16:30	Report back and Discussion	
0:30 hr 16:30 – 17:00	Wrap Up	Summary on the context of the workshop.

Facilitators

David Kettle, PhD, MIPENZ, CPEng

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Dr. David Kettle is an environmental engineer with 25 years of experience in New Zealand, Canada and USA. He has a BE in civil engineering, a ME in geotechnical engineering and a PhD in Architecture and Planning. His doctorate work developed a 'Sustainability Framework' which can be used to include community-desired sustainability outcomes in the decision-making process.

Dave Breuer,

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Mr. David Breuer, MS in Engineering in US and NZ, Founding Director of Anew NZ, a charitable trust dedicated to public engagement in the development of wellbeing and sustainability indicators and a shared vision for New Zealand.

Material Sources and references

An initial preview of the information on the following websites will be of an advantage to get the most out of the limited time that is available in the 1 day workshop (summaries of all these references will be provided as workshop materials).

- 2006 NZ 'Quality of Life Indicators' (www.bigcities.govt.nz)
- Ministry of Social Development, NZ Social Report 2006 (www.socialreport.msd.govt.nz)
- Ministry for the Environment, OECD Environmental Performance Review 2005/06 (www.mfe.govt.nz/state)
- Ministry of Economic Development & Treasury, Growth through Innovation: Economic Development Indicators 2005 and NZIER (NZ Institute of Economic Research) Regional Economic Performance report covering economic growth data for 12 New Zealand regions for the 2000-2004 time period and various other economic and demographic since 1998. (www.med.govt.nz)
- Ministry for Culture and Heritage and Statistics NZ, Cultural Indicators for New Zealand:2006 (www.stats.govt.nz)
- Community Indicators Victoria, set of 80 indicators developed through a broad stakeholder consultation process through 2005/06 (www.communityindicators.net.au)
- UK Government Sustainable Development Framework Indicator set of 20 core agreed indicators out of a set of 68 national indicators (www.sustainable-development.govt.uk)
- Canadian Index of Wellbeing core themes and supporting indicators developed through 2004/07 (www.atkinsonfoundation.ca/ciw)

Participants are encouraged to look at their own council area community outcomes on the council web site and comment on:

- Do you agree with them and are they appropriate?
- Were you aware of, or know of anyone who had been a part of the community exercise to develop them?
- How do you want to see the next set of community indicators for your area developed?

Costs:

\$295.00 including gst for members of NZSSES, IPENZ, and RSNZ

\$375.00 for non-members

Special full-time student rates apply on application

25% late cancellation fee applies should you cancel within 5 working days prior to the course