

Envirofund

FUNDING YOUR SCHEME, SUPPORTING YOUR DREAM

IT'S BEEN ANOTHER GREAT YEAR for Hamilton City Council's Envirofund. Council has been supporting environmental projects through the Envirofund for more than 10 years. During this time some fantastic achievements have been made, and we'd like to profile a selection from the many successful projects that are helping to deliver on the city's Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

THE ENVIROFUND IS PROUD to support a wide range of projects that are helping to make Hamilton a more environmentally sustainable city. They include:

- Sustainable transport • Urban design • Energy efficiency • Waste minimisation • Water conservation
- Sustainable gardening and composting • Planting and restoration • Pest control
- Environmental education • Greening the city

ECOBUILDING AT HUKANUI SCHOOL

Students at **Hukanui School** have been busy planning and designing their eco-classroom - the Living Room. And with help from the Envirofund and some shrewd fundraising, hundreds of students have now had the unique opportunity to watch their project come to life. The project began in 2004 and adopts a lifelong learning approach where students are involved in decision making and planning processes. By creating



Students helping to make the mud bricks for their eco-classroom.

and using activities based on the Enviroschools principles and 'Action Planning' and through the support of community experts and the School's Board of Trustees, the students are busily taking the project from concept to reality. In August this year, the Living Room made the Waikato Times and Radio NZ for the project's unique, hand constructed, recycled glass bottle underfloor heating system. Even more recently, TVNZ ran an article featuring Hukanui students and community as they mucked in to create - 'from scratch' - the red mud-bricks which will help regulate the building's temperature for years to come.



The Living Room starting to take shape, 2009

SWIMMING IN SUNSHINE

For the last 4 years **Hillcrest Normal School's** 500 students have been swimming in warm water in their pool due to the Solar panels that Envirofund help fund.

The school pool is an asset to the school, the Hillcrest Swimming Club, and the community, being used throughout the year by the swimming club. Uses include learn to swim programmes, recreational swimming as well as training of elite swimmers.

In 2005 the school applied for Envirofund support, receiving \$5000 towards the installation of a solar heating system. The system, which has now been installed, provides approximately 30% of the energy required to keep the pool at a pleasant 25°C all year round.

As seen in the picture the system uses existing roof area, and is split into two water systems for optimal pumping efficiency.

As well as the Envirofund funding, a significant amount of the money required was fundraised by the school community and PTA. The project is expected to cover its initial costs through ongoing energy savings in approximately 10 years, as well as supporting energy use education in keeping with the 'Precious Energy' theme of the Enviroschools programme. Hillcrest Normal is actively participating in the Enviroschools Programme.



Hillcrest Normal School Pool, with the solar heating system visible on the roof in the background

WATERY SOLUTION FOR A WASTEFUL PROBLEM

As Anne Bennett from **Hamilton's YWCA** ironically points out "We must be the only people in Hamilton who want it to rain this weekend!".

By world standards and even national standards, the Waikato is blessed with a relatively even and abundant rainfall pattern, which in part explains why Hamiltonians are among some of the highest per-capita water users in the OECD. Yet if the summer 2008 drought taught us anything, it is that we cannot take this precious resource for granted - especially with climate change predicted to cause more frequent dry periods for the region.

Hamilton's YWCA are doing their bit to reduce the city's water demand and their water bill by capturing rooftop stormwater for use in toilets.



Water tanks at the YWCA supply bathrooms whilst reducing storm water runoff.

Prior to installing six new water tanks, every time it rained water would run-off and pool outside the 1927 Bishops Court building creating a nuisance for staff and pedestrians as well as collapsing umbrellas under the gushing rooftops. In 2008, the YWCA finally decided enough was enough and with the help of the Envirofund resolved to convert this 'nuisance' into a resource.

Now with dry feet and a reduced water bill, the YWCA aims to be an example to other city dwellers by demonstrating how simply water conservation can be done within the urban setting.

To view application details, fund criteria and to **Apply Online** visit www.hamilton.co.nz/Envirofund

Applications for the next Envirofund round close 31st March 2010.

*Got an idea to make Hamilton more sustainable?
Need financial support for a community focused project?
Apply now! Applications are easy and Council's Sustainable Environment Team staff can help with the process of applying.*

GREENING THE AIRWAVES

Community Radio Hamilton is a not-for-profit Access radio station, partly funded by NZ On Air. More than 150 volunteers broadcast 100+ local radio shows every week representing a diverse range of special interests, cultures, and beliefs.



Dr Megan Balks and PhD University of Waikato student Charlie Lee talk about the bottom of the deep blue sea on 'Environment Matters.'

Through Envirofund support, Community Radio Hamilton has been able to further promote their weekly 'Environment Matters' radio show which is coordinated by the Environment Centre Hamilton. Environment Matters is an hour long show providing information to the community on environmental issues and projects, and profiling local organisations. The show provides an educational forum for individuals and groups to discuss and promote their work, and facilitates understanding and support of environmental issues among a wide audience. The programme addresses Hamilton's Community Plan well by aiming to "increase community knowledge and awareness of environmental issues and empower people to take environmental action in their daily lives".

For further information please contact:

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