



**Verbal Submission on the  
Christchurch City Council  
Climate Smart Strategy Draft**

from:

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## Thanks for the opportunity to submit on the City Council Climate Smart Strategy Draft

I am representing Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch (SOC).

In the audience are other members of SOC

SOC is a registered charity that advocates for long term, strong sustainability. We have the vision of Christchurch people "practising, living and demonstrating sustainability in all that they do." Our members seek to ensure that all people can live in dignity, in healthy communities, while having the minimum adverse impact on natural systems, both now and in the future.

Many of our objectives are similar in sentiment to this city's community outcomes.

1. Today I wish to share our responses to this draft Climate Smart Strategy.
2. Firstly, we wish to congratulate the Council on the development of this Strategy. We see it as a proactive step in response to the imperatives of climate change; the community needs to prepare for the impacts now rather than later. In this respect we endorse the Council's desire to be fully informed about possible impacts of climate change through accessing current science and collaborating with partner groups to research further and plan mitigation projects together.
3. We do however urge the Council to continue to improve and develop the synergies between policies so that the objectives of this Strategy can be more readily met. There are 3 opportunities we see for improving this draft Strategy:
  - **Partnerships** – we applaud the range of partner groups listed in the Strategy but would urge the Council to broaden the scope to include local organisations such as Transition Community initiatives, Residents' Associations, marae committees or civil defence groups. Tapping into the depth and breadth of competencies and knowledge with respect to climate change mitigations held within these groups is essential for citizenship buy in and engagement. Further to this we commend the Council's continued support for such programmes as the Sustainable Living adult education and Enviroschools. Both are good starting points

for behaviour and attitudinal change needed for a sustainable future.

- **Promotion** – we would like to see the City position itself as a Climate Smart city; for that concept to be out front on Council information & promotional material such as the webpage. On looking at the Council's webpage it is unclear what type of city we want to be or promote ourselves as. Through emedia and traditional media, Council could regularly highlight positive Climate Smart actions it has taken to say minimise carbon footprint or support sustainability initiatives. To support such initiatives Councillors could also share how they are being 'Climate Smart' in their daily lives – in this way our elected representatives can be seen to 'walk the talk', to take leadership in preparing now for a climate smart future and sharing their vision of a sustainable future. Our Council could be proud to be a leader in sustainability initiatives around climate change.
- **Promulgation** – it is clear that through this Strategy the Council intends to build community resilience in the face of climate change but SOC feels the ideals of this Strategy have been compromised by the proposed expenditure cuts to walking and cycling projects, and to funding for travel demand management and suburban bus exchanges in the Annual Plan. We urge the Council to reconsider these funding cuts and reinvest in these initiatives. We ask that the development of Council policies in all areas be developed within a strong sustainability framework so strategies that have long term outcomes are no longer compromised by short-term thinking. Three ideas that the Council could introduce are

carbon foot-printing & life-cycle analysis of products purchased by Council

continued and greater support for community initiatives such as community gardens or localised energy resilience.

exploration of the use of genuine Smart Meters to further engage people with energy efficiency within the home. As we outline in our written submission, the Council in partnership with Orion could introduce smart metering & so reduce our city's drain on limited energy resources.



<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/may/11/smart-meters>

4. Finally, we again commend the Council on this Strategy and urge you to be bold in adopting it and consequently supporting its vision. This document should be a flagship for Christchurch as a leader in Climate Smart engagement, community solutions and actions.

Kia kaha.