

News from Sustainable Living Education Trust

June 2018



Our website content is up to date and very topical – we provide information and ideas on practical aspects of sustainability at home and work. Lower carbon choices in travel and home design are two of the eight topics on which we publish learning guides and additional resources designed for community education. They are used in secondary school projects and adult education classes, by workplace study groups and tertiary student researchers. They are independent of commerce and carry no advertising, being funded by the 14 current member Councils (listed below).



Waste minimisation and moves towards a *cyclic economy* are strong themes, where we think 'upstream' to consumer choices and habits which influence how much waste a household generates not just show techniques to landfill or recycle more efficiently. We tackle water in similar style, looking at demand reduction for clean water, minimising pollution to streams and ocean and supporting science literacy. Power use at home is tackled similarly – we aim to reduce power bills and make healthier homes.



Home food growing is increasingly popular and possible at low cost with few chemicals, when combined with home composting and basic organic gardening techniques.

Our learning guides explain how and why. We also publish a guide to food shopping and another on community resilience, which connects sustainability with emergency management. This one shows how dependent we all are on each-other and how being prepared makes us more efficient and planet-friendly as well as less vulnerable to natural hazards or utility disruptions.

The set of eight learning guides supports a 16-hour course or can be used topic by topic in separate workshops. Community groups, environment centres and churches have used them, as well as high school community education, without charge from the Trust, provided their local Council is a subscriber. The council subscription is base fee, currently less than \$1,000 plus \$0.005 per resident, adding a few hundred dollars for a rural district or a few thousand for the largest NZ city councils. This is very cost-effective, as it would be hugely more expensive to create local materials covering the same scope.



At June 2018, the current subscribing (member) councils, offering free access to the Trust's learning guides for their ratepayers and local educators, are:

- Hutt City
- Upper Hutt
- Kapiti Coast
- Matamata Piako
- Masterton (with Carterton & South Wairarapa)
- Marlborough
- Nelson & Tasman
- Kaikoura
- Waimakariri
- Christchurch
- Timaru
- Dunedin
- Central Otago

The Trust is also registering interest from people living in Auckland, Wellington, Hamilton, New Plymouth and Invercargill, and is inviting Council subscriptions for 2018-2019.

Our National Coordinator is Rhys Taylor 036938726 rhys@sustainableliving.org.nz