

7 ENERGY

ISSUE

High energy consumption and the need for improved energy efficiency and energy conservation.

Explanation

This is both an issue in its own right and in relation to other inter-related issues such as high car usage and transport emissions which have been shown to contaminate other natural systems. International concerns for the more efficient and equitable use of energy resources are now shared by many New Zealanders. Residents in the Timaru District have identified similar concerns in making comments during Plan preparation, including a need for the promotion and implementation of greater energy efficiency in all aspects of domestic and commercial life.

OBJECTIVE

- (1) Improved energy efficiency by conserving energy and reducing current levels of energy used.

Principal Reason

To contribute to extending the life of non-renewable energy resources and to increasing efficiency of use of both renewable and non-renewable resources.

POLICIES

- (1) To promote opportunities for greater energy efficiency and energy conservation throughout the District e.g. Methods such as co-generation of electricity from industrial processes may assist in conserving energy.

Explanation and Principal Reason

Energy efficiency gains may be achieved by increasing public awareness of current patterns of energy consumption, by promoting ways of reducing energy consumption, and by encouraging the use of renewable energy resources. The supply and use of renewable energy resources is preferred over non-renewable energy resources, such as fossil fuels, provided the use and development of these resources avoids, remedies or mitigates adverse effects on the environment.

- (2) To provide for and promote energy efficient settlement patterns.

Explanation and Principal Reason

Energy efficiency gains may be achieved by promoting ways of reducing energy consumption e.g. residential subdivision proposals that consider energy conservation and energy efficiency through building orientation, form, and design within settlements. The arrangement of land uses through zoning provisions can also provide opportunities to reduce travel costs and vehicle effects.

- (3) To take national and regional energy policies into account in policy development and decision making.

Explanation and Principal Reason

To ensure the District Plan policies on energy are consistent with national and regional energy policies where they exist. Currently there are no national energy policies but there is a chapter of the Regional Policy Statement which deals with energy.

- (4) To advocate and promote a transportation system designed and managed to encourage the efficient use of energy.

Explanation and Principal Reason

The Council supports the use of public transport as a means of reducing energy consumption and improving energy efficiency.

METHODS

- (1) Producing public information or guidelines promoting energy efficiency by:
- siting and designing buildings to take advantage of solar energy
 - using insulation and multi-glazing to reduce heat loss
 - promoting public transport, cycling and walking as alternatives to car use
 - discouraging the use of raw materials requiring high energy input, and giving preference to local materials and recycled materials of an acceptable standard
 - advocating energy efficient appliances
 - waste management strategies where they are more energy efficient

- sea and rail transport alternatives where they are more energy efficient
- encourage industries, businesses and households to undertake Energy Audits

Principal Reason

Reduced energy usage will help reduce pressure on non-renewable energy sources. Reduces transportation costs including emissions from long distance transportation of raw material, and reduces the amount of energy (electricity) needed to run appliances.

- (2) Encouraging residential development close to services by provisions in the District Plan for:
- high density residential development
 - home occupations
 - opportunities for services and places of work close to most residential areas

(See Rules for Residential Zones).

Principal Reason

Reduces energy costs to individuals and the community.

- (3) Taking into account energy efficiencies of compact urban settlements in considering the extension of urban areas in the District Plan subject to managing effects satisfactorily.

Principal Reason

Energy efficiency gains may be achieved by taking account of energy conservation and energy efficiency when considering residential zoning proposals. For example by supporting infilling where services are able to accommodate increased demand; concentrating development in settlements already served by public utilities, services, places of work and commercial development.

ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES

- (1) Potential for improved air quality through:
- reduced use of fires
 - reduced transport emissions

Part B

Community Enablement and Physical Resources

- (2) Assist to reduce pressure for the use of indigenous forest (in New Zealand or elsewhere).
- (3) Use of renewable energy resources e.g. hydro, wind, solar energy, which avoid, remedy, or mitigate adverse effects on the environment.

MONITORING

- (1) Review the provisions of this section in 8 years taking into account monitoring carried out by the Regional Council and the following trends:
 - (a) trends in building design and construction to determine application of energy efficient technology;
 - (b) trends in transport methods and patronage;
 - (c) trends in settlement patterns;
 - (d) trends in waste management;
 - (e) trends in energy use within the District.