

World Environment Day 2008

Core events



World Environment Day 2008 Ministry for the Environment – Green Ribbon Awards

Organisers: Ministry for the Environment

The Green Ribbon Awards have been annually presented by the Minister for the Environment to recognise the outstanding contributions of individuals, organisations and businesses to sustaining, protecting and enhancing New Zealand's environment.

This year marks the 18th Green Ribbon Awards. The 2008 nomination categories reflect the many different areas in which New Zealanders contribute to reducing the impacts of climate change and assist us in becoming a sustainable nation. Nominations for the 2008 Green Ribbon Awards opened on 25 February 2008 and closed on 7 April 2008. The Ministry received 104 nominations. Individuals, iwi and hapu, organisations, and businesses were nominated in the following categories:

- Urban sustainability
- Sustainable land use
- Making a difference to household sustainability
- Community action for the environment – young people
- Community action for the environment – volunteers and not-for-profit organisations
- Businesses making a difference
- Innovative solutions for the environment
- Lifetime commitment to the environment
- Environment in the spotlight

Green Ribbon Award recipients were acknowledged and celebrated at a special ceremony at the Wellington Town Hall on Tuesday 3 June 2008. The Prime Minister attended and spoke at the event.

After the Green Ribbon Award ceremony Trade Aid held an art auction to raise money for environmental education and EnviroSchools in New Zealand. 31 Trade Aid shops around New Zealand have run a competition to create a piece of work that converts junk into a piece of art, the winner from each store was auctioned. The artwork was showcased in Trade Aid shops during Fair Trade Fortnight, 3 May – 18 May 2008. The auction raised approximately \$6,000 for environmental education.

Core event

World Environment Day 2008

Photography and Poster exhibition – Towards a Balanced Earth

Organisers: UNEP, Ministry for the Environment, Te Papa

The 24 hour exhibition held from 30 May – 13 June at Waitangi Park in Wellington, consisted of 22 photographs and posters. The photographs were predominantly from UNEP's *Focus on Your World* photographic competitions on the environment. The *Focus on Your World* archive contains hundreds of powerful photographs on environmental issues in all regions, selected from thousands of submissions to the four competitions that have been held approximately once every five years since 1992. Factual posters about climate change used for the Governing Council meeting in Monaco were also exhibited. UNEP's celebrity ambassador pledge posters, including Hamish Carter, were incorporated into the exhibit.

The text that accompanied the posters and photographs was adapted from UNEP's World Environment Day factsheets on climate change, and reflected the World Environment Day slogan: Kick the Carbon Habit: Moving Towards a Low Carbon Economy.

The Ministry for the Environment with support from the Wellington City Council housed the exhibit at Waitangi Park in Wellington (an outdoor exhibit). This allowed the exhibition to have high visibility and increase the awareness and message of World Environment Day.

Core event

World Environment Day 2008

An Art for the Environment Exhibition – *Moving Towards a Balanced Earth*

Organisers: UNEP, Ministry for the Environment, Te Papa, Natural World Museum

The Natural World Museum (NWM) in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Ministry for the Environment present *Moving Towards a Balanced Earth*, a museum quality exhibition featuring works of art from 27 artists representing 20 countries. The exhibition will be housed at Te Papa in Wellington from 4 June – 7 September 2008. The exhibition will travel from Wellington to major cities after September 2008, including Chicago and Monaco.

Each year for World Environment Day, as part of the ongoing *Art for the Environment* initiative, NWM and UNEP presented an exhibit designed to utilise the universal language of art as a catalyst to unite people in action and thought, and to empower individuals, communities, and leaders to focus on environmental values across social, economic and political realms. The exhibited art has an over-arching climate change theme.

The opening of the exhibition featured a reception for *Moving Towards a Balanced Earth* and NWM *Green Leaf Award* Ceremony where five exhibiting artists were awarded for their environmental efforts in the field of art.

Core event

World Environment Day 2008 Children's Painting Competition exhibition

Organisers: UNEP, Ministry for the Environment, Te Papa

The International Children's Painting Competition on the Environment is organised annually by the United Nations Environment Programme, and the Japan-based Foundation for Global Peace and Environment, Bayer and Nikon Corporations. The competition has been held since 1991 and has received over 190,000 entries from children in over 100 countries. The 2007/08 competition was open from 24 September 2007 to 15 January 2008.

The 2007/2008 competition focussed on '*Climate Change: actions we can take now to reduce our negative impact*' and attracted entries worldwide, including 49 entries from New Zealand. The children's paintings focus on actions to reduce climate change such as using renewable energy, introducing energy saving light bulbs at home, sharing vehicles, using public transport, and planting trees.

In celebration of World Environment Day an exhibition at Te Papa displays 64 of these international and regional paintings. The exhibition will be housed at Te Papa's 'Inspiration Station' from Friday 6 June – Sunday 31 August and is free to all members of the public.

The top global and regional winners were invited to Wellington to receive their prizes (provided by UNEP) at an award ceremony on Thursday 5 June and took part in World Environment Day celebrations in New Zealand.

Core event

World Environment Day 2008 Climate Neutral Network Meeting

Organisers: Meridian Energy and Landcare Research

The United Nations Environment Programme's Climate Neutral Network (<http://www.unep.org/climateneutral>) was launched in February 2008 as a tool for outreach, communication and awareness-raising on climate change around the globe. The website essentially encourages widespread international, national and regional 'buy in' to carbon neutrality at various levels of society. It is a platform to funnel initiatives and source information on carbon neutrality from around the world. It engages the interest of developing countries by providing a forum for linking with developed countries and accessing expertise. Any participation to the Carbon Neutral Network is free of charge and does not involve any financial contribution from the parties involved.

The 2008 World Environment Day initiative was a meeting of the New Zealand businesses who have become members of the Climate Neutral Network or are potential members. The event on Wednesday 4 June at Meridian headquarters

included presentations from UNEP Communications Director, the carbonZero programme, and a number of best practice New Zealand businesses who have achieved, or are working towards, carbonZero certification. Participating businesses included Meridian Energy, Christchurch International Airport, Kaimira Ventures, Urgent Couriers, Quakebake, Footprint Adventures and Sempre Avanti Consulting, Warren and Mahoney, Trade Me, and the New Zealand Wine Company (Grove Mill wines).

Core event

World Environment Day 2008

Hillary Institute Symposium

Organisers: Hillary Institute

The Hillary Institute's work is focused globally, with the Hillary Laureate Programme recognising emerging leaders through honouring one Laureate annually, and every fourth year, with the premiere award of the Hillary Step. Every four years, the Hillary Step will be an active means to make critical investments that provide resources and effectively connect recipients to essential knowledge and vital social networks. Named after the final, almost vertical 40-foot cliff that Hillary and Tenzing Norgay scaled in reaching the summit of Everest, The Hillary Step is a metaphor for the challenges innovative leaders face.

In addition to its Laureate Programme, the Institute is holding annual Hillary Symposia both in New Zealand and internationally, developing ongoing partnerships to explore achievement and create integrated linkages between people and organizations, representing the latest thinking on the chosen focus area. In doing so, the Institute will also find its emergent leaders through building a 'watch-list' and providing a trailblazing route that will significantly increase the ability of others to follow. The annual Hillary Laureates contribute the key address to these symposia.

On World Environment Day, Thursday 5 June 2008, the Institute held its first symposium at the Christchurch Art Gallery, officially launching their theme for the next four years – Climate Change. The Prime Minister opened the evening and the keynote address was given by Dr Rajendra Pachauri, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Brief presentations were also given by Symposium associates and President Anote Tong of Kiribati.

Core event

World Environment Day 2008

Te Papa – Science Express: Energy Solutions to Halt Global Warming – or is it too Late?

Organisers: Te Papa

The format of this event held on Thursday 5 June, was a ten minute presentation by Professor Ralph Sims followed by questions and answers from the audience in an informal café setting.

Ralph Sims is a Professor of Sustainable Energy at Massey University who is currently based at the Renewable Energy Unit of the International Energy Agency in Paris. Professor Sims discussed New Zealand's role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The event was supported by GNS Science and the Royal Society of New Zealand. The Science Express events, held regularly at Te Papa, are free and open to all members of the public.

Core event

World Environment Day 2008

Climate Change Business Breakfast

Organisers: The New Zealand Business Council for Sustainable Development

The New Zealand Business Council for Sustainable Development co-ordinated a meeting for the Auckland business community to discuss climate change issues to recognise World Environment Day.

The World Environment Day Business Breakfast held on 4 June in Auckland provided an opportunity for business leaders to discuss the issues posed by the global shift to a low carbon economy, explore the challenges facing New Zealand businesses, and consider how businesses can meet these challenges and flourish in a carbon constrained world. Keynote speakers at the event included Achim Steiner, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, and Pete Hodgson, Minister of Economic Development.

The symposium was partly funded by the Ministry for the Environment. The breakfast was followed by a morning business symposium on climate change.

World Environment Day 2008

Climate Change Business Symposium

Organisers: Institute of Policy Studies and Climate Change Research Institute

The World Environment Day Business Symposium on 4 June in Auckland provided an opportunity for business leaders to discuss the issues posed by the global shift to a low carbon economy, explored the challenges facing New Zealand businesses, and considered how businesses can meet these challenges and flourish in a carbon constrained world. Keynote speakers included Dr Rajendra Pachauri (Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and John Whitehead (the Secretary to the Treasury). Additionally, a number of business leaders, academics and commentators had the opportunity to reflect on the prospects posed by the new business environment and the innovative solutions being adopted by particular companies.

The symposium was funded by the Ministry for the Environment and hosted by the Institute of Policy Studies and Climate Change Research Centre, and the School of Government - Victoria University of Wellington and was held in collaboration with the following organizations:

- The Auckland Chamber of Commerce
- Business New Zealand
- The Climate Change and Business Centre
- Environmental Defence Society
- New Zealand Business Council for Sustainable Development
- New Zealand Climate Change Centre
- NIWA
- The Royal Society of New Zealand
- The University of Auckland Business School

The Business Symposium immediately followed the Business Breakfast held at the same venue. The broad theme of the event was 'Towards a low carbon economy: Business opportunities and innovative solutions'. The symposium was targeted at the Auckland business community, local government, NGO's and the wider community.

Core event

World Environment Day 2008

Lecture: Are we Glimpsing the Emergence of a Green Global Economy?

Organisers: Institute of Policy Studies and University of Auckland

The lecture 'Are we Glimpsing the Emergence of a Green Global Economy?' was hosted by the Institute of Policy Studies and the University of Auckland on Wednesday 4 June. Achim Steiner, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme was the primary speaker at the event.

In his talk, Achim Steiner examined some of the key challenges facing the global community as it seeks to build a more intelligent development trajectory for the 21st century. The question of agriculture and the issue of biofuels are among those challenges and opportunities as they relate to food security; livelihoods and options for a far less carbon-intensive future for the six, billion people in this world.

The lecture was targeted at the general public, policy makers, scientists, NGOs, and sector groups.

Core event

World Environment Day 2008

MoRST Science breakfast

Organisers: Ministry of Research, Science and Technology

The Ministry of Science, Research and Technology hosted a science breakfast to celebrate World Environment Day 2008.

The science breakfast was designed to enable dialogue between senior officials, climate scientists and managers regarding directions for the next United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment round. The first part of the event was formal with presentations by Dr Pachuri and Hon. Pete Hodgson, Minister for Science Research and Technology. This was followed by a forum on the future directions of IPCC and New Zealand Climate Science.

Core event

World Environment Day 2008

AgResearch Grasslands, Palmerston North

Organisers: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, AgResearch, Pastoral Greenhouse Gas Research Consortium

The AgResearch Grasslands in Palmerston North, an agriculture research centre officially opened on World Environment Day, 5 June 2008. The opening was attended by Hon. Pete Hodgson the Minister for Research, Science and Technology.

The event focussed on what New Zealand is doing in regards to greenhouse gas mitigation and adaptation research in forestry and agriculture. The event showcased the new animal metabolism measurement chambers at AgResearch and highlighted the research in progress supported by the first funding round of the Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change Plan of Action Research Fund.

Workshops were held throughout the day with presentations on mitigation and adaptation. Presenters included representatives from Landcare Research, Auckland University, AgResearch and National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research.

Core event

World Environment Day 2008

Lunchtime panel discussion: How do we de-carbonise the world?

Organisers: The Institute of Policy Studies

The Institute of Policy Studies and Climate Change Research Institute, and the School of Government - Victoria University of Wellington hosted a panel discussion on Thursday 5 June to celebrate World Environment Day. The lunchtime panel discussion was facilitated by Chris Laidlaw and included short presentations from the participants with opportunities for questions from the audience.

Speakers at the discussion included Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP; Dr Rajendra Pachauri, Chair UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; President Anote Tong of Kiribati; and Hon. David Parker, Minister Responsible for Climate Change Issues.

The panel discussion was free to attend and targeted at the general public, policy makers, scientists, NGOs, and sector groups.

Core event

World Environment Day 2008 Eco Home Tours

Organisers: Wellington City Council

The Eco Home tour project involved showcasing 'eco homes' located around Wellington to promote sustainable building technology. The tours enabled Wellington residents to see how their neighbours have incorporated sustainability into their homes. The project raised awareness and promoted action on climate change by making a connection between household energy consumption, household building design and climate change.

The Eco Home Tours were a hands-on, interactive experience that educated the public on how they can best reduce their energy consumption through everyday behaviour change, important purchasing decisions and building renovations. The tours also allowed some of the best examples of sustainable Wellington homes to be open to the public.

The open homes occurred on Saturday 7 June. The areas of focus for the Eco Home Tours were:

- Water heating – promoting the benefits of hot water cylinder wraps and other sustainable technologies such as heat pumps and solar water heating
- Passive solar – promoting the benefits of orientating the building design with the sun
- Lighting – promoting the benefits of compact fluorescent light bulbs
- Space heating – promoting the benefits of heat pumps
- Major appliances – promoting energy efficiency appliance choices
- Insulation – promoting the heating benefits of insulation and double glazing

The Council also engaged with the occupants of a five star rated office building – the Department of Conservation - to hold tours of their building throughout the week. The tours were open to the public but also targeted at building and office managers of large Wellington companies.

Core event

World Environment Day 2008 Eco Party

Organisers: Wellington City Council

The Wellington City Council organised an Eco party to celebrate World Environment Day and to raise awareness of the theme: 'Kick the Carbon Habit'. The Eco Party was an indoor concert, held at the Wellington Town Hall on Friday 6 June, and incorporated live performances and speakers. The Council engaged with the performers and speakers at the event to raise awareness of the 'Kick the Habit' theme. Sustainable behaviour was also promoted throughout the event.

The Council co-ordinated the event as they recognised WED had an educational and behavioural change focus but it is also important to celebrate the environment and engage people through a variety of ways to raise awareness of WED. The Council

partnered with a local radio station to promote the event. The radio station helped with marketing the event and promoting the 'Kick the Habit' theme. The Council worked with performers at the Eco party to come up with innovative ways to engage the audience relating to the 'Kick the Habit' theme and climate change issues. This included short speeches and environmental tips in between performances relating to sustainability topics.

The Council made the event 'carbon conscious' by measuring the emissions of the event (including energy use and waste) and then offset the emissions. The methodology and processes developed during this event will be used as a template for future Council events. The Council took the following steps to ensure the event was carbon conscious:

- Develop a methodology for measuring emissions
- Identify actions that event planners can take to minimise emissions at events
- Develop a practical and user friendly guide for measuring event emissions for future Council or community led events

The event was free and open to all members of the public.

Core event

World Environment Day 2008

World Environment Day lecture series

Organisers: Wellington City Council

The Wellington City Council organised a series of lectures during the week of World Environment Day that focussed on reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and climate change issues. The purpose of these lectures was to educate the public about climate change issues and to discuss the innovative and collaborative actions taking place around the world. Each lecture had varying speakers and themes.

The Council held two lectures at the Wellington Town Hall Illot Theatre during the week of World Environment Day with the format of the series being a 5x10 lecture (five speakers for ten minutes each on an agreed topic). Speakers included Al Morrison - Department of Conservation CEO, Ian Cassels – The Wellington Company, and Tim Cosar Positively Wellington Tourism CEO.

The themes of the lectures included:

- How to reduce dependence on fossil fuels through our every day choices
- Initiatives happening around the world that are responding to climate change
- The impact of climate change on our everyday lives
- The debate about 'peak oil' or demand exceeding supply

The Council partnered with different organisations to participate in the lecture series including: the Ministry for the Environment, local embassies, Victoria University of Wellington, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research; local business leaders, academics and authors.

Community events

World Environment Day 2008

Greentown – Reducing energy used in Greytown

Organisers: Greater Wellington Regional Council

To celebrate World Environment Day, the Greytown community launched a programme of events to emphasise the benefits of becoming more sustainable and 'kick the carbon habit' by assisting people to reduce their carbon footprint and adopt a more environmentally friendly lifestyle.

'Greentown', a month long programme of sustainability initiatives, was launched on Thursday 5 June with a distribution pack sent to all households (by horse and cart). This reusable shopping bag pack included: light bulbs; a kowhai tree to plant at home or in the community; energy saving information; environmentally friendly laundry powder; locally produced apple juice and samples of Living Nature personal products.

Green stamps were distributed to individual community members by local businesses every time they use their reusable shopping bag or purchased "green" or locally produced goods. Green stamp cards went into a draw to win prizes such as a heat pump, one of ten household energy rating assessments or a home energy retrofit from EECA.

Other events included: a green ball at the Town Hall on Friday 6 June; displays on sustainable living at the Library throughout the month; a Matariki celebration on Saturday 7 June at Papawhai marae; use of paper bags instead of plastic at the town supermarket; arbor days in the community and at Kuranui College and Greytown Primary School and a technology challenge on getting rid of plastic at Kuranui College.

Students at Victoria University were invited to interview and monitor pro-environmental behaviour change over this month to assess the success of this programme.

Community event

World Environment Day 2008

Celebrate Sustainability

Organisers: Waitakere City Council, Auckland City Council, Auckland Regional Transport Authority

The intention of this joint collaboration was to say thank you to existing public transport users and encourage regular car-users to try public transport. The event was intended to alert the public to the fact that transport accounts for 48% of carbon dioxide emissions in the Auckland region.

A two-hour celebratory and informative event was created through vibrant displays on topics such as: climate change; transport emissions and sustainable living. Commuters received a free energy-efficient light bulb or a reusable cloth shopping bag. There were street performers and giveaway locations at main bus and train stops.

Regular car-users were enticed to use other options for the day and build it into a long-term behaviour change. A commuter survey undertaken by the councils will provide valuable insights into why people choose to use their private car and how best to encourage pro-environmental transport options.

The event was a highly visual, inclusive event involving many different sectors of the community.

Community event

World Environment Day 2008

Gisborne District Council and Radio Network – *The 11th hour in Gisborne*

Organisers: Gisborne District Council and Radio Network

During the week of World Environment Day, the Radio Network and Gisborne District Council ran screenings of “The 11th Hour”, an environmental documentary, at the Odeon Multiplex Theatre in Gisborne. People who biked, carpooled or travelled by bus to see the movie went into a draw to win a prize. Those who travelled by bus also received free entry to the documentary screening.

Daytime sessions were attended by secondary school students. At the end of each session, students participated in facilitated discussions and question and answer sessions on environmental issues (including climate change).

Evening film sessions were open to the general public. At the conclusion of evening sessions there were facilitated discussions (over a light supper) led by council officers and local politicians.

All attendees of the film were given eco bags and climate change publications to take away. It is estimated that 2,500 people attended this event.

This project was driven by both the Council and Radio Works and was in partnership with other local organisations. The event was actively promoted all week on as many local radio stations as possible (Classic Hits, Newstalk ZB, ZM and 91 Hauraki) and Classic Hits ‘interviewed’ callers about their environmental tips.

Community event

World Environment Day 2008

Horizons Regional Council – *Horizons World Environment Day Interschool debates*

Organisers: Horizons Regional Council

The Horizons Regional Council held a series of interschool debates at locations across the region over the week of World Environment Day.

The Horizons region covers a large geographical area in the lower North Island. All intermediate and high school aged students in the region were encouraged to participate in the interschool debates. The categories were Years 7-8, Years 9-10 and Years 11-13, with one team per age category accepted from each school. Heats were

held in both Wanganui and Palmerston North from June 3-5. The finals were held in Palmerston North on June 6.

Debating teams were given topics relating to environmental issues that have social and economic impacts such as sustainable practices in farming and household recycling.

The project aimed to increase awareness and support for environmental initiatives at a local level. Key stakeholders (Federated Farmers and AgResearch) were involved to promote agricultural sustainability.

Horizons also used their Green RIG 'classroom on wheels' to promote environmental sustainability throughout the week.

Community event

World Environment Day 2008 Good Habits at Te Maara

Organisers: Porirua City Council

Good Habits at Te Maara was a 'learning festival' bringing together local schools, refugee, new migrant and Pacific Island communities from the Porirua region to celebrate World Environment Day. The focus of the event was facilitating practical knowledge and skills to the participants, helping them to 'kick the [carbon] habit.' The first event was held on June 4th where five local migrant and/or refugee facilitators delivered culturally-specific composting courses to people from their own language groups. These facilitators have undergone training through Porirua City Council's 'Community Development Fund' to empower them to run composting workshops in their own communities.

The second event was held on June 5th with Cannons Creek School and Brandon Intermediate. Adopting a 'tuakana-teina model', senior students from these schools facilitated six workshops to their peers on the skills required for a low-carbon lifestyle. Previous to these workshops, these student-facilitators worked with sustainability educators to increase their understanding of the relationship between climate change and day-to-day living, empowering them to be able to design and deliver the June 5th workshops. Themes included bike maintenance, household waste audits, creek-side native tree planting, healthy eating and energy efficiency.

The event aimed to raise awareness and promote action through providing participants with easily adaptable skills to mitigate climate change in home and school environments.

Community event

World Environment Day 2008 Step Up Canterbury – World Environment Day

Date: Thursday 5 June

Time: All day event

Venue: Christchurch, Canterbury

Format: Expo and auction

Organisers: Environment Canterbury, Ministry for the Environment

Environment Canterbury with support from the Ministry for the Environment Day held a two-part event on 5 June, World Environment Day.

The first event was a celebratory expo and auction held at the Christchurch Convention Centre. The expo celebrated sustainability successes and encouraged residents to take 'their next steps' to becoming more sustainable. The expo featured seminars, exhibitions, speakers and children's activities. Organisations and businesses were asked to donate environmentally friendly items for a 'funny money' auction in return for exhibit space and exposure in the associated marketing campaign of the event.

Dr. Pachauri's presentation on climate change at the Hilary Institute's conference was also shown at the expo on a large screen in the main event hall. Exhibitors held educational seminars to inform businesses and homeowners about sustainable solutions.

The second activity held on World Environment Day was a 'Sustainable Transport Day' in the Canterbury region that helped to promote sustainable transport options. Those participating in the event were rewarded with a free lunch, distributed at twelve busy transport hubs in the region. Throughout the day, customers at service stations were given a tree seedling carrying a message to remind them that tree planting can offset fuel emissions and additional information about climate change and World Environment Day.

Community event

World Environment Day 2008 Nelson and Tasman 'Less Cars, Less Carbon'

Organisers: Nelson City Council

Nelson City Council, in partnership with Tasman District Council promoted a reduced car use day to celebrate World Environment Day in the region. The objective of the event was to raise awareness of transport as a factor in contributing to carbon emissions and to demonstrate alternative transport options to the wider Nelson community. The event was held in conjunction with the Tasman District Council to ensure that commuters across the region were targeted.

The day of celebrations included free bus services in the Nelson region, car pooling incentives and cycling promotions. Members of the public who participated in the celebrations were offered a free breakfast in the Nelson town centre to reward them for

cycling, walking, car pooling or catching the bus. The Council had an active presence on the streets of Nelson promoting World Environment Day and communicating the importance of reducing emissions.

A range of organisations participated in the event in an effort to 'Kick the Carbon Habit' including Bicycle Nelson Bays, Cycle Advocates Network, the District Health Board and the Department of Conservation.

Community event

World Environment Day 2008 Kick the Habit – Walk the Talk Foot Art

Organisers: Living Streets Aotearoa

Living Streets Aotearoa, with support from the Wellington City Council installed temporary art pieces around the city of Wellington. The outdoor art pieces encouraged carbon reduction by emphasising walking as a viable transport mode in a positive way.

Twenty fence posts, resembling pou whenua or totems, were installed at significant pedestrian intersections in Wellington throughout the week of World Environment Day. Each post was painted with the message – 'Kick the Carbon Habit- Use Your Feet!' and attractive patterns relevant to the particular location of the installation. Recycled shoes (sourced from second hand stores and recycling centres) were also used in the art installations to reinforce the message that walking is a sustainable transportation option.

Schools and community groups were involved in the design and installation of the art works which enabled the World Environment Day theme to be communicated to a wider audience.

Community event

World Environment Day 2008 eDay Schools pilot

Organisers: Computer Access New Zealand (CANZ) and the 20/20 Communications Trust

Electronic waste (e-waste) is the fastest growing type of waste in the world and is more toxic than normal household rubbish. Pending the development of a producer responsibility scheme in New Zealand, schools and households have little choice but to dump e-waste in landfills. This creates a potential threat to our environment and is wasteful in terms of the materials that can be reused and recycled in the manufacture of other products – over 95% of the materials used in computer equipment can be recycled.

This World Environment Day project focussed on schools in the Wellington region. Schools from the region took part in a programme encouraging schools to 'Kick the Habit' of dumping e-waste in landfills and adding to climate change issues. The programme, launched in the week of World Environment Day, includes an online

educational resource and a campaign to inform schools of the environmentally friendly options for disposing of e-waste.

The school resource kits have been published in digital format on the eDay website and schools will be able to download the resources as required – therefore avoiding unnecessary paper waste. The school kits have been available online from Monday 2 June and a direct mail communication was distributed to schools during the week of World Environment Day.

Community event

World Environment Day 2008 World Environment Day – Carbon Zero Schools Project

Organisers: Environmental Education for Resource Sustainability (EERST) and partnering schools

Environmental Education for Resource Sustainability (EERST) and partnering schools worked together on the Carbon Zero Schools project throughout the week of World Environment Day.

The Carbon Zero Schools Project competition involved 100 schools already enrolled in the Paper4Trees Project (a programme that rewards primary schools with native trees when they recycle paper and cardboard). Schools and early childhood centres completed an ecological footprint of their school. The footprint enabled schools to get a better understanding of their impact on the environment and promoted the benefits of a low carbon lifestyle and economy.

Schools were selected on the first 100 schools to sign up to the competition from the total of 662 involved in the Paper4Trees project. Footprints were measured throughout the week of World Environment Day and schools were given a Kauri – Gold, Rimu – Silver or Kowhai – Bronze rating on their footprint.

The project was carbon conscious as no posters or printed materials were used to promote the project (other than the certificate of participation which is printed on 100% recycled paper).

The project demonstrated the importance of looking at the total environmental impact schools have on their communities and the planet's resources.

Community event

World Environment Day 2008 Ngati Rakaipaaka – Nuhaka Fight Against Climate Change

Organisers: Te Iwi o Rakaipaaka Incorporated

Te Iwi o Rakaipaaka co-ordinated a cycling rally for the Nuhaka region on Tuesday 2 June – Thursday 4 June. The rally/hikoi involved students from local primary and secondary schools, community members and local businesses cycling from one end of the region to the other to promote the 'Kick the Carbon Habit' message. The rally

travelled through Wairoa, Whakaki and the Mahia districts. Hikoi members planted Redwood and native trees along twenty locations of the cycle.

The event raised awareness and promoted action on climate change as the cyclists wore high visibility vests with the 'Kick the Carbon Habit' logo. Billboards were also stationed at eight locations throughout the Wairoa, Whakaki, Nuhaka and Mahia districts urging people to fight climate change and kick the carbon habit.

The high visibility of the event enabled the 'Kick the Carbon Habit' message to reach the wider community and be seen by people who are not necessarily aware of the effects of climate change. The event intended to raise awareness about the importance of preserving and conserving New Zealand's environment.

The event concluded with a healthy picnic at the Morere Hot Springs to celebrate World Environment Day.

Community event

World Environment Day 2008

The Hubbards – World Environment Day Carbon Crusade

Organisers: Spark Events Limited

The Hubbards – World Environment Day Carbon Crusade was held on World Environment Day, 5 June 2008. The event was held at Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park in Hamilton from 12.30pm. It was a free event where participants ran or walked a 4km circuit, with each participant planting a tree at approximately half way through their journey. 1,200 people were invited to take part in the event as well as key media. Those 1,200 people were to be made up of 600 primary school children (aged 8-11 years old), and 600 people from Hamilton based companies. Local celebrities such as Sarah Ulmer and Waikato Chiefs rugby players were also invited to attend.

The Hubbards – World Environment Day Carbon Crusade promotes a simple, accessible and fun way to take action and make a contribution towards the fight against climate change. Participants were encouraged to cycle or use group transport when they travel to the event in an effort to reduce the environmental footprint of the event.

Community event

Te Rā Taiao o te Ao – Kāti whakaputa hauhā World Environment Day 2008

Iwi Māori projects

Organisers: Iwi, hapū, whanau, marae, and Māori community groups

Te Rā Taiao o te Ao (World Environment Day) is about celebrating the kaitiaki role of whanau/hapu/iwi and Māori communities. Te Rā Taiao o te Ao recognises the holistic and integrated relationships between tangata and Te Taiao (the environment).

World Environment Day this year coincided with the night of the New Moon that ushers in Mātāriki - the Māori New Year. Following a request from World Environment Day organisers, Iwi, hapū whanau, marae, and Māori community groups responded with projects to celebrate Mātāriki and Te Rā Taiao o te Ao.

Fourteen Iwi-Māori projects took place across the Motu that took the opportunity for flaxroots action to encourage us all including our tamariki me nga mokopuna to kāti whakaputa hauhā - kick the carbon habit.

The projects were as diverse as the groups themselves. They featured taking public transport or sharing a bus, cycling and walking. The projects demonstrated composting and worm farming especially in Kohanga Reo and Kura Kaupapa Māori. One marae changed to energy efficient light bulbs, and most projects included planting our indigenous trees and plants to protect and restore the mauri of the rohe (area).

School Events

Organisers: Individual schools

76 primary schools, colleges and early childhood centres received funding to undertake projects to 'Kick the Habit' (carbon habit) for World Environment Day 2008.

A variety of projects were planned such as: native and fruit tree planting, establishing worm farms and edible gardens, organising 'Bike to School Days', installing rainwater harvesting and wetlands restoration.

Many of these projects were student driven and involved the school and the wider community. While many of the projects were focused on one activity such as tree planting they also aimed to raise on-going awareness of environmental issues that will ultimately result in community members reducing their personal carbon footprint.

Those who took up the challenge represented education centres from as far North as Kaitaia to the South in Invercargill. Aoraki Mount Cook School established a book exchange and have funding for book cabinets and book repair materials. This service will be available to residents who can drive up to 150km round trip to the nearest library.

Other projects include Matipo Primary School who received funding to publish a book on environmental harm with original paintings by local artists from West Auckland. Other original projects included Tawhirimatea project at Te Kura Mana o Whangaparaoa rural school in Opotiki. This involved the construction and management of a second hand windmill.

Johnsonville School in Wellington replanted some grounds with natives and Wellington East Girls' College created an organic garden.

NOTE: This is not a comprehensive list of all World Environment Day events. If you would like information about a community event that is not listed here please contact the Ministry for the Environment Projects and Partnerships team on 04 439 7400.