



**TAIRAWHITI DEVELOPMENT
PARTNERSHIP**



TAIRAWHITI REGIONAL ENERGY STRATEGY

March 2005

Tairawhiti Regional Energy Strategy

This strategy identifies key opportunities and priorities based on the Tairawhiti Regional Energy Assessment, which was commissioned by the Tairawhiti Development Partnership and completed in December 2004.

At present the region is facing an electricity supply constraint as transmission and distribution lines into parts of the region reach capacity. In addition the region has some of the highest costs for energy in the nation.

In the face of rising energy costs and diminishing supply of fossil fuels over the next decade the Tairawhiti has the potential to proactively manage its local energy needs and ensure a sustainable energy future for the region.

The December 2004 meeting of the Partnership approved the Tairawhiti Regional Energy Assessment Report. The Partnership also recommended the establishment of a Regional Energy Strategy based on the above document.

The Tairawhiti Regional Energy Strategy is based on the following Principles:

- Future demand can be met by:
 - Promoting energy efficiency
 - Encouraging the effective use of energy resources through energy management plans, procedures and technology.
 - Investment in local large, small and micro generation facilities.
- Projects to have a demonstration and delivery focus for the region
- Establishment of an energy outcomes delivery organisation to work with the various an existing parties involved in energy projects
- A programme of engagement with Central Government for security of energy and energy efficiency projects
- A variety of energy sources should be developed
- Provide strong advocacy and financial, promotional, strategic policy and institutional support for low and efficient energy modes of transport
- Continue to monitor and evaluate alternative renewable sources of energy.

Areas of Focus

Outlined below are the key areas of focus identified within the Tairawhiti Regional Energy Assessment, which will form the basis of the strategy.

The following specific opportunities have been aligned to the Five Sector Programmes* of the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy where either local and or regional authorities have a responsibility for action.

The extent to which this strategy can be implemented will depend on available funding and resources.

A. Energy Generation / Supply Opportunities

1. Promote the evaluation of all hydro generation **(2)**
2. Promote the evaluation of CHP opportunities, generally on a small scale for high thermal and electricity users e.g. Council Olympic pool **(1,3)**
3. Promote offshore Gas exploration **(2)**
4. Facilitate/assist in Wind Energy evaluation **(2)**
5. Promote / facilitate solar energy for water heating uptake within the region. **(2)**

B. District Plan Reviews and Empowering Policies

1. Work with District Councils and iwi to encourage the inclusion of proactive policies as part of long-term plans. **(1)**
2. Encourage review of current legislation that places unnecessary restrictions on electricity distribution, generation and retailing. **(1)**
3. Work with District Councils to review Policy Statements and Resource Management Plans to ensure that these reflect energy needs and strategies.

C. Energy Efficiency Programmes

Residential

1. Warm homes and reduction in cost through Energy Saver programme **(4)**
2. Solar heating hot water pilot scheme and loans programme **(2,4)**
3. Promote monitoring of energy consumption through time and use metering **(4)**
4. Review residential consents for energy saving initiatives e.g. solar heating. **(2,4)**

Industrial

1. Promote and effect increased uptake of energy audits programmes **(1,3)**
2. Promote and effect increased uptake by SME of energy efficiency programmes **(1,3)**
3. Facilitate implementation of audit training programme **(1,3)**
4. CHP opportunities seminar. **(1,3)**
5. Promotion of Time & use metering **(1,3)**

Transport

1. Facilitate demand reduction and traffic management review – reduce the need to travel **(1,5)**
2. Provide greater financial, promotional, strategic policy and institutional support for low energy modes – reduce reliance on roads, secure rail and shipping as viable alternatives **(1,5)**
3. Facilitate energy efficient driving education programme **(1,5)**
4. Change fleet management perceptions, purchase decision and management practices **(1,5)**

D. Energy Efficiency & Public Awareness Programme:

1. Prepare a public awareness information pack **(1,4)**
2. Provide literature for schools and polytechnic re energy conservation and energy planning **(1,4)**
3. Encourage energy efficient building design fact sheets for consent applications **(1,4)**
4. Facilitate by laws amendments to encourage house access to sun for solar heating e.g. trees on north boundary may be a hazard to energy efficiency **(1,4)**
5. Asses options for the establishment of an energy efficient rating of homes. **(1,4)**

E. Secure Existing Industry and Attract New Industry

1. Promote the development of secure and reliable energy supply for existing and new industry (1)
2. Facilitate Energy Sector skills and Audit training programme (1)
3. Develop an energy profile. (1)

F. Transmission Network

Work with suppliers and line companies to ensure adequate transmission capability for the region is maintained. (1)

G. Research & Development Opportunities

1. Facilitate a renewable energy resource study (2)
2. Monitor wave technology and generators (2)
3. Monitor Bio energy opportunities (2)

H. Facilitate the Establishment of a Regional Energy Champion –

This would allow a number of the above projects to be given a regional focus.

*** Note: Five Sector Programmes of the Sustainable Energy Strategy**

1. Central and Local Government Programme.
2. Energy Supply Programme.
3. Industrial Programme
4. Buildings and Appliances Programme
5. Transport Programme.