

## Energise Ōtaki Inc. Chairman's Report



Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 for the 2018/19 year

Energise Ōtaki is in its third year as an Incorporated Society, and this is my seventh as Chairman. I am really pleased about all that we continue to accomplish, and extremely excited about our current projects and future goals.

Since last year a lot of work has gone on behind the scenes, and I would like to take a moment to acknowledge all the hard work and invaluable contribution from Hanna, Lloyd, Gael, Iain, Dave, Stuart, Andy, and Jake. We have been successful because of all of your time, effort, and patience.

### Key Activities

<b>Community Solar Farm</b>	A lot of work in the background to progress this project which has now been fully funded by the WCT by way of a \$407,000 grant for two systems. One at Ōtaki college and a large one at the Ōtaki WWTP.
<b>Curtain Bank</b>	Running for the 4 <sup>th</sup> year now in conjunction with Wellington Sustainability Trust and CAB Ōtaki. Providing curtains for Ōtaki Community Service Card Holders (Since 2016, 160 households have been assisted and 512 curtains provided).
<b>LED Lights</b>	Thanks to a \$500 grant from the Ōtaki Community Board (ŌCB), LED lights will be provided to past and current curtain bank recipients.
<b>Curious Minds Project &amp; EVelocity &amp; Wonder Project</b>	These started as Energise Ōtaki / Ōtaki College initiatives and are now integrated into the curriculum at Ōtaki College - supporting students to get involved in STEM subjects. In 2018, Energise Ōtaki supported the College's EVelocity competition again, and the students were successful at Nationals.
<b>Ōtaki Bike Space</b>	Ōtaki MenzShed helped fit out (and donated tools for) the container and we have started a Facebook Group. This project is possible with a Waste Levy Grant from KCDC to purchase a 20 foot container and tools. We are planning events at the end of September 2019.
<b>Ōtaki College Horticulture Block</b>	The College continues to lead this project.
<b>Community Gardens with Birthright Ōtaki Members</b>	Teaching the community about planting garden veggies in bags and buckets – such as lettuce and tomato and how to harvest and use.
<b>Coppicing woodlot</b>	Unfortunately, this project has been terminated by the College but the wood has been used as mulch for their new donated gardens. Although this is not the outcome that we had hoped for at the beginning of the project, it shows that projects evolve and are responsive to community needs.
<b>Ōtaki College Pool</b>	Energise Ōtaki received \$1,200 from the ŌCB for a data monitoring project at Ōtaki College. Dave Rumsey is working with teacher Chris Georgetti to teach the students how to measure and monitor the output from the Solar Thermal Panels.
<b>Solar Thermal Panels</b>	An agreement with KCDC to use the surplus solar thermal panels from the Ōtaki Pool for community projects.

<b>Ōtaki Kindergarten Bike Project</b>	Power to the People - A bike that harnesses energy to power light-bulbs or mobile phones has been developed at the Kindergarten on Waerenga Road using pedal power.
<b>Profile Raising</b>	our newsletter started in September 2018 with 59 recipients. We now have 120 recipients. Our meetings are well attended and it seems that having special presentations on special topics helps attract new members to the group. Feedback and requests are always welcome. We have revamped our website and are updating it more frequently (weekly / fortnightly). We will establish a “storefront” in town thanks to \$2,500 in funding from COGS.
<b>Meetings in 2018/19</b>	August 2018 – Heat Recovery September 2018 – Wildpoldsreid October 2018 – no speaker November 2018 – Low Carbon Kāpiti February 2019 – Ogo Technology March 2019 – NuFuels NZ April 2019 – Forest Lakes Organic Farm June 2019 – Strawbale Home
<b>Strategic Partnerships</b>	We continue to engage with other community groups to further benefit the community by way of it resilience messages. These include (but not exclusive to) Ngā Hapu ō Ōtaki, Transition Towns Ōtaki, Volunteer Kāpiti, Ōtaki College, and Low Carbon Kāpiti.
<b>Commercial Advice</b>	We also continue to provide technical expertise on energy-related construction, retrofitting, refrigeration, waste to energy, battery management, solar, and bio-energy.
<b>Registered Charity</b>	Since November 2018, Energise Ōtaki is a registered charity. This means we have Donee Status and can accept donations and issue charity receipts to people and businesses (33.33% tax rebate).
<b>Paid Coordinator through the KCDC Social Investment Fund</b>	The Coordinator focuses on progressing Energise Ōtaki’s 5 year strategy with the help and direction of the Committee, while our volunteers focus on projects and their own areas of interest. Most of the year has been getting Sara up to speed with the work that Energise Ōtaki has been implementing over the past 7 years, along with streamlining documents and creating organisational structures and systems, fundraising and identifying new opportunities for growth.

This year I have often said, *“How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time”*. Sometimes it felt like we have been standing still and I know we have lost the interest of some in the community through this time, but a lot of groundwork has been going on in the background, which is imperative for our future growth. Exciting things are happening, and I invite you all to get involved because the next year will be very interesting.

14<sup>th</sup> August 2019



Leigh Ramsey  
Chairman Energise Ōtaki Inc.