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Quality Hotel, Willis St

Wellington

Innovation for Urban Sustainability and Eco-Efficiency workshop



Auckland
Regional
Council

Foundation for
RESEARCH
SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY



Tūāpepa Rangahau Pūtaiao



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mo Te Taiao



MINISTRY of TRANSPORT
TE MANATŪ WAKA

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Ranking of issues

Issues Explored	Initiator	Score
Urban design How can the design process be utilised to achieve sustainability and eco-efficiency because it sure can't be achieved without it	Barry Rae	14
Mindsets and frameworks		24
Urban sustainability Barriers to delivery Economic/market "Cost" versus "value of good urban design" Leadership and facilitation	Allan McGregor	1
Leadership		11
Aging population The issues for sustainability	Jim Harland	0
What do we mean by urban sustainability and eco-efficiency: Is it a process or an output? [End state/ends or a means]	Steven Kerr	9
Urban spaces, neighbourhoods and communities	David Thorns	8
Problems/trends and impediments to solutions How to create livable urban environments places we want to live work and play – a wide-ranging future orientated discussion	Kataraina Maki	4
Safe pedestrian environments	Barbara Rouse	12
Motivating change	Jane Bradbury Doug Gartner Rhys Taylor Simon Swaffield Murray Cameron	22
Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population • Communities • Individuals 	Val Orchard	3

Integration Dealing with the complexity of multiple stakeholders and technology (not just planners)	Russell Kenley	42
Transport Sustainable transport, infrastructure and communications	Barbara Rouse	34
How do we create intensified living that is embraced by New Zealanders	Peter Thorby	1
Public open spaces How can we encourage people back into the public realm?	Gerald Blunt	7
Linking the environment and the economy		21
Do we need a national policy statement on the built environment?	John Pfahlert	33
Urban design Amenity Transport Creating a sense of space Retail Enhancing natural light Green spaces Clean and healthy Enjoyment	Doug Simpson	1
Communities/cultural groups/migrants/refugees	John Webber Trevor Garrett	2
Business as a component of urban sustainability		2
Macro regions defined by urban systems	Barry Rae	19
Heritage – aesthetic creative input into urban development How do we provide for historic heritage in urban development? How do we provide for creative, artistic and aesthetic input into urban development	Mark Lindsay	5
How do we know when we are there?		10
Urban ecology		14
Kids' Space/Safety Kids access to and freedom, safety to explore/engage with be in their neighbourhoods and city – stimulate curiosity, knowledge and fun	Kataraina Maki	4
Innovation by physical design Best practice for achieving sustainable neighbourhoods, towns and cities	Graeme McIndoe	7

General discussion group – butterflies landing beautifully		0
Urban research centre	Noel Reardon/ Gavin Fisher	38
Using waste recycling/diversion as a means to create awareness / changed actions that lead to wider areas such as sustainability	Ket Bradshaw/ Ashley Owens	10
Definition of sustainability		3
Clean and Green	Claudia Bell	21
Cities as systems		19

Urban Design

Initiator: Barry Rae

Participants:

Wayne Knox	Mark Lindsay
Barry Rae	Rachel Hargreaves
Michael Jones	Gerald Blunt
Shad Rolleston	

Key Points:

- Design is crucial to achieving sustainability → how to get it back into the development process. RMA only catches 'bad design' (need to raise the bar).
- 'Design Team' is very diverse – architects, LA, planners, engineers, etc.
- Policy for the Build Environment → the possible strategy of getting good urban design into the design/development process, i.e.: into RMA.
- Auckland city already has an urban design panel (voluntary measure) to run alongside RMA requirements.
- Guidelines - design alternatives are available → refer 'Better WCC, Building Code', North Shore's guide, Auckland City's guide etc.
- Need integration across design disciplines.
- Must fit within DPMC sustainability framework.
- End of day, we want quality urban environments → that are regionally or locally specific.
- Local government have to implement good urban design)
 - Planning works at different political levels)
 - Should enhance commercial developments)Key relationship
- Professional Institutes need to take a key role)
 - Education, to integrate across sectors)
- (Fresh education models needed). Built environment undergraduate education process. All disciplines common awareness of bigger picture.
- Education for local government - 'social studies' - primary, secondary schools - people, places, spaces, as a 'text' for secondary schools.
- Make it mandatory for **all** government buildings to have urban design briefs/ principles - **all** public buildings as part of the brief
 - Through a cabinet director; or

- A national policy statement.
- Look at overseas initiatives
 - 'Department' of urban affairs in many countries around the world.
 - European directives → follow up on these, e.g.: DETR.
- Urban amenity values - interpretation, definition, guidance.
- National policy statement on urban amenities could sit very well alongside the coastal policy statement - to balance built and natural environments.
- The urban environment could sit within MfE quite nicely → already have a strong urban agenda which can make linkages through Department of Internal Affairs
 - Local government "council" → LGNZ
 - Building Act review → BIA.

Mindsets & Frameworks: Mindsets, the future, what we need to know

Participants:

John Peet	Morgan Williams
Faust Bovenlander	Ashley Owers
Chris Kissling	Robert Burgess
Val Orchard	Neil Ericksen
Roger Toleman	Maggie Lawton
James Baines	Charles Eason
Ali Memon	Gavin Fisher
Carolyn O'Fallon	Phil Reid
Lesley Woudberg	Jenny Steven
Ann Winstanley	Mike Richardson
Lin Roberts	

Key Points:

- How do we think about sustainability?
- What are our mindsets and how will they affect what happens, the techno-sceptics and techno-optimists?
- What are the common things about how we think about urban sustainability (relative or absolute)?
- Urban sustainability - something to do with urban form and function. Different elements of function (social, economic, environment), some soft and some hard infrastructure. What roles do people play in this and how do people determine what forms and functions are important.
- We need to know how best to fit and retrofit the urban environment and how to manage the peri-urban environment.
- Perhaps we do know what the problem is (literature can tell us). Why don't we link that knowledge? Perhaps we need sustainability reporting and indicators.
- Research opportunities lie in here –
- Complex - we need to deal with a huge number of issues. Integration important.
- Lack of action on well-known concepts and ideas, how do you turn them into actions.
- How do individuals value components?
- How do we initiate the components? How do you bring the component

- How do we think about ourselves as an urban nation?
- What influences do our cultural constructs? Need clear dialogue about the way we think - this affects the models we construct.
- We are using old institutional models based on 20-year-old paradigms.
- Need to examine different mindsets. Keep being told about how new technologies might contribute techno-sceptic or optimist with technology contribute.
- 20 years will prove whether we were right.
- We can prepare for the futures
- What if it turns to custard? Optimist – Star Trek
- Mad Max
- Only one is a disaster scenario. Mad Max. Sceptic – Government
- May still manage ecotopia.
- What are our mindsets? Worried about decision makers' ability to be cautious.
- Change mindset or change by action - chicken & egg. What do we need to know to get to a desired future?
- Personal experience of nature is a precursor to insight - separation from nature root of the dysfunction in human urban systems.

What urban sustainability means to people

Key Points:

- Perhaps there's a role for MfE to take an overview with an operational strategy.
- Though we aren't agreed on where we are (a map) to see where each group fits in.
- Then with the map in mind we need to get down to concrete actions.
- Be more creative with our decision-making frameworks (partnerships and new strategic relationships).
- How do you get the information you think you need and how do you implement it and by whom and who pays?
- Lifestyles - create opportunities to enable range of lifestyles - this then moves on to possible conflicts over resources.
- Risk questions - how do we adopt systems to deal with risk - the surprises?
- What drives someone's current behaviour and values?
- Can we 'import' sustainability?
- Importance of conflict resolution - and we are not very good at this as member of communities. Difficult when resources are scarce.

- Dialogue needed to get to where people agree on a system that doesn't suck resources in from outside, one that doesn't compromise the future by doing what you like now.
- How do we make decisions that bring about good outcomes? These good ideals tend to be compromised by the process.
- Few people would think sustainability is not worth pursuing - but the majority of people do not care. How do you deliver it in bite-sized chunks? Short-termism tends to rule - Why is this? Is it a cultural or institutional construct that causes these views?
- What are the thresholds that a city. . .
- The integrated framework for sustainability is important and is not yet in place.
- Shortcomings of the RMA resource consenting process. The process doesn't provide information on long-term environmental outcomes.
- Not integrated, not based on long-term information.
- There seems to be an assumption that consents information is sufficient but it isn't.
- People don't want to internalise the environmental costs and people are basically acting as selfish individuals - people resist being told how to act. A common reaction - where people take short term and individualistic solutions.
- Though decisions are not necessarily thought through economically, e.g.: option of taking a taxi versus having 2 cars.
- We mustn't forget the economic imperative - ability to afford choices.
- Look at the business sector's issues. Their view may be that NZ is in a dire economic state and big corporations' decisions to have a major influence. How important is mobility of capital in sustainable development?
- Morgan doesn't buy the argument that NZ can't afford to do something towards sustainability, nor that NZ is in a dire state. Curitiba was looking for growth that wasn't necessarily export led.
- One model doesn't fit all. Perhaps we need to empower different groups/cities/communities to take different approaches - let them go their own way.
- General competence is of limited value if you don't have the means of getting financial capability - not a silver bullet.
- Self versus community / Short term versus long term. There seems to have been a disconcerting shift away from the second aspects - away from egalitarian values - some people were concerned about this movement.
- What are responsibilities that go with that increased individual freedom? Some good things are stimulated by individuals. Have the rules, e.g. from WINZ etc required people to act in this way? A lot of the population does live very frugally.
- We need collective understanding of the future responsibilities.
- Ensure we make use of the scientific understanding we do have.

- What are the things we value - give people time to identify what they do value.
- What were the things that drew us to sustainability?
- Investing in innovation and knowledge economy. More lateral and flexible approaches, e.g. business assistance proposals.
- Do we think enough in a systems context? (as certainly not a closed system)
- The knowledge to think about systems is already there - it's how you build relationship connections and how you connect to policy making. For last 15 years it has not been legitimate to think in that way.
- Local authority decisions are based on pressure group views not scientific surveys and information. Issues around district plans. Effects based approach has been focussed on short term neighbour effects. RMA does not encourage a systems approach. Failure to look long term and holistically.

Importance of longer-term approaches

Key Points:

- Sustainability is a long-term issue.
- Real problems are likely to eventuate.
- There will be some earth recovery but what will be the place of humanity.
- We will either achieve sustainability by force or gently.
- People are able to think long term if given appropriate ...
- How do we get the long term-ism into our approaches?
- Do we need a legislative change to get this kind of thinking in? To what extent is leadership important (e.g.: good leadership and perhaps also sustained leadership)?
- What is the nature of the framework that supports that leadership? Importance of shared leadership helps create a longer-term framework.
- Maybe we need some case studies.
- Lots of distrust about institutions and entering the political arena. What is it about the local political model that isn't bringing up people who can work consensually, i.e.: through consensus.
- We have a transactional paradigm not a relationship paradigm. This transactional approach (win win view) dominates.
- Learn from the good models from the past - to learn for the future.
- Do we sit back and wait for inspirational leaders or do we do something to help them emerge.
- Can a cross agency institution help? Need a dynamic management framework.

- Ideas drive bureaucracy and communities.
- Elicit answers from the community through questionnaires so politicians have something to work on.
- Better opportunities for integrated research - linked to policy and planning, more linked to communities.
- Important to learn from initiatives that are happening in NZ (as well as overseas), as there are initiatives that are working (research why).
- Why are some organisations able to respond more positively than others in addressing sustainability issues?
- What influences uptake?
- Some interest in legislative changes. Economic and educational mechanisms that back up those.
- Need for a conceptual framework and a systems approach may provide ..
- Sorting out a mobility future will help - Mobility is the key (in one view).
- Hold people and institutions responsible for delivering sustainable outcomes.

Urban Sustainability

Initiator:

Allan McGregor

Key Points:

Barriers to Delivery:

Urban design

- Pedestrian environments
- Different (as a market response)
- Neighbourhood reserves
- Integrated neighbourhood.

Concerns

- How do sustainable principles get applied to a broader economic base who cannot necessarily afford the initial cost of good design?
- Proliferation of shopping malls – no barriers to poor urban environments.

Constraints

- Consistence in standards for community infrastructure (i.e.: reserves, facilities etc)
- Lack of consistency across TLA's in respect of application of requirements – consistency of application.
- Problem of lack of planning.

Standards

- Needs to be flexible enough to encourage difference and providing to difference.
- Community needs to recognise the need to add value to development.
- Lack of development scale to provide integrated and sustainable neighbourhoods.
- People requirements for biomass and biodiversity.

Legal issues

- Existing laws do not control peripheral development, i.e.: shopping malls and "edge" developments.
- RMA is not a suitable tool for urban areas.
- Co-ordination and integration of developments across multiple ownerships – structure plans.
- Imposition of financial contribution regimes, which are equitable to new, and existing residents.
- Need to ensure assessment of neighbourhood context in development to ensure integration.

Issues

- Facilitate change as demands change to allow sustainable urban form.
- Allowing flexibility in future provision for residential and community facilities.
- Ensure the creation/retention of biomass.
- Incentives for development to occur (TLA to facilitate).
- Incentives to encourage vegetation in subdivision developments.
- Urban sustainability lessons of good and bad and learning from experience.
- Cost of land may be an impediment to good urban outcomes.
- True joint venture with TLA's.
- Improving energy efficiency of buildings
- Energy performance standards.

Regulatory ideas

- Maori Issues are more ...
 - Is an additional cost to development if it is not seen as a true partnership;
 - Need a public body, which represents Iwi interests to avoid conflict with overlapping Iwi claims/interests.

Leadership

Initiator: Jo Brosnahan

Participants:

Jo Brosnahan	Noel Reardon
Penny Pirritt	John Pfahlert
Kathy Garden	Eric Park
Virginia Hope	Kathleen Ryan
Alistair Sheat	Jim Harland

Key Points:

- Leadership - need long term rather than short-term thinking - hooks into the community / understands and reflects community.
- Need collective strategies / visions.
- Systems in New Zealand based on a transactional rather than strategic process.
- Urban sustainability is long term – structure in Council is short term.
- Need to get community on board in order to underpin / support / direct leaders.
- Engaging the community is a key - the local context is critical.
- We have a wide variety of communities and therefore need a variety of leaders and leadership styles.
- A key challenge is how to get leaders involved.
- Funding / resources need to get down to the lowest level possible. Structures in place in New Zealand are at a central level.
- Central government needs to change its attitude to local government to get resources down to lowest level.
- Review required of central government relationships.
- Central government needs to focus on outcomes.
- Need integrated outcomes – and someone accountable at central level.
- Create broader community trusts, i.e.: beyond sports etc.
- Create a leadership culture in New Zealand – Leadership Institute.
- Resource communities - information \$ etc to enable them to contribute to leadership debate.
- Leadership boot camp for new national and local politicians.

- Purpose-specific organisation at a national level to drive through agreed vision(s) and commitment to support local development and integration of sustainable policies.
- Restructure political system of local government to reflect a new model of leadership.
- Need to understand leadership. It is about honesty / values / support / humility. All qualities that New Zealanders like and can relate to.
- There are difficulties in providing leadership at a citywide level with all its complexities. Need to bring it back to a vision that people buy into.
- Could set up a process to allow us / the participants of today / to engage further. Swap ideas.
- Look at different models of governance - appointees to local government that represent different groups alongside democratic elected representatives.
- Clause in CEO contracts that require a review clause once there is a new council / government.
- Leadership institutes / leadership schools.

Action:

- Establish a longer electoral cycle to foster greater stability.
- Keep talking about leadership - particularly servant leadership - create a forum.

Aging Population: The issues for sustainability

Initiator:

Jim Harland

Key Points:

- Less people paying taxes / rates to support young and old people.
- Concern about ability to pay with an increase in the proportion of people on fixed incomes.
- Where will the money come from to improve services in urban communities with an aging population? :
 - Water supplies
 - Waste minimisation
 - Parks
 - Art galleries
 - Museums
 - Roads
 - Footpaths
 - Education facilities
 - Heritage buildings, etc.
- How will mobility issues be dealt with?
- Increased proportion of money on the health budget by old people.
- If we don't deal with the above what will happen to our urban community?

Possible Solutions:

- Facilities should be capable of multi-use (e.g.: indoor stadiums)
- Integrated funding and loan repayment cycles need to be carefully considered.
- Clarity of funding policies – who benefits / pays
- Who agitates – Grey Power
- Deferred rates on estates.
- To discuss this further.

What do we mean by Urban Sustainability and Eco-efficiency: Is it a process or an output? [End state/ends or a means?]

Initiator: Steven Kerr, Lin Roberts & Nigel Jollands

Participants:

Ket Bradshaw	James Glover
Bron Bennetts	John Talbot
David Corlett	Sandy Beath-Croft
Trevor Garnett	David Carew
Steven Kerr	Arthur Williamson
Vaia Makisi	John McShane
Lin Roberts	Ali Memon
Nigel Jollands	

Key Points:

- Don't expect a definition but a framework to work towards achieving "x"
- Why do people come together in urban communities? And what are the consequences that lead to unsustainability?
- Social and economic reasons but impacts on the environment, but balance between group and individual needs and short and long term thinking.

Benefits

Transport

Sewage/Tradewaste

Solid Waste Collection

Energy

Water

Challenges

Can't move it outside area of "footprint" as there is no "away"

Need to have cyclical thinking – ecosystem services

Airborne pollutants

Decision makers are unaware, e.g.: Environment Court.

- What is the destination (output) we are aiming to get to?
- Eco-efficiency is a means to an end but not the destination.
- Who is influencing this?
 - Education
 - Businesses

- Household recycling and entering the debate.
- Is it output?
 - The city looks like "x"
 - Have impacts like "y"
- Or is it a process?
 - Yes, need a process to get to a destination
- Lack of central government leadership behind rest of the world in this area - need some ownership strategy and vision of what is required.
- Need to close the loop and have an integrated approach - thinking about the interactions of all components.
- Social aspect - people need to be included in society - gainful employment
 - Economic
 - Health and education
 - But the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer - this is true.
- Value stuff versus people versus relationships versus time – how to do this – what levels of consumption are we happy with.
- Why have eco-efficiency as the subject of this workshop – why the specific focus? Not challenging our basic concepts – it is becoming an end, not changing the basic paradigm.
- Waste issue of affluence not for lower income people who don't waste. – New Zealand Waste Strategy has not gone far enough to help with communities.
- E.g.: Wellington - Could it be sustainable if there is an earthquake → survival - all need to take individual responsibility → find innovation and "just start" and widen circle of influence. Simple things: recycling and caring for neighbours. Social cohesion is crucial. Keep it simple.
- Conclusion – It is both – need a direction and destination in mind and a process to get there. Urban sustainability goes beyond eco-efficiency. Need an agreed set of values – not necessarily an end physical state, but still need to see something. Sustainability is a state of mind.

Urban Spaces, Neighbourhoods & Communities

Initiator:

David Thorns

Key Points:

- Sustainability about more than keeping the economy going. Very important is social well-being.
- Local based communities / neighbourhoods important - how do we develop social connectedness / social capital - important aspects of well-being and social cohesion.
- Traditional ways of building community changing
- New ways of working and living
- Possible meeting places:
 - Coffee shops (for sociability)
 - Home based workers
 - Buy households etc
 - Libraries - not just for books, but meeting places.
 - School and Kindies.
- How do we connect across the generations?
 - Retirement villages or separation, but responding to
 - Issues about safe & security.
- Question of public versus private space → shift to the malls rather than public places are they as welcome?
- For social well-being need:-
 - Range of choices
 - Places for social interaction
 - Access to an appropriate infrastructure.
- Planning / Governance implications:
 - Need more integrated approach
 - Need to involve neighbourhoods / communities in the process.
 - Provide increased range of opportunities for social connectedness.
 - Recognise need for 'flexible' arrangements, which recognise the pace of change.

Problems / Trends & Impediments to Solutions

Initiator: Kataraina Maki, Colin Meurk

Participants:

Daryl Cockburn	Kataraina Maki
Phillipa Richardson	Sue Powell
Colin Meurk	Michael Theelen
Riki Ellison	Caro Pinfield
Shad Rolleston	

Key Points:

- No local authority conducts "proper" scientific survey of what people want – squeaky wheel syndrome.
- Averting catastrophic projections of climate/environment change.
- Problem of utilising expertise that exists – decision-makers "not knowing that they don't know"!
- How to motivate people to participate and make it worthwhile for them to do so.
- Virtual reality scenario - overcoming the 'why bother' comfort zone.
- How to divert from doomsday.
- Reconnecting environment and community and reconnecting people with environment - eliminating the dichotomy between nature and culture.
- Personal experience of nature and precursor to understanding the concept of living systems and therefore sustainable management of cities - transformative value of nature.
- Consequences of actions need to be made more immediate and tangible → leads to more responsible behaviour.
- Overcoming peer pressure and economy of scale of cheap and nasty and environmentally unfriendly technologies - but government owned properties could lead the way.
- Locked into growth economy and personal debt regime.
- Have we gone so far in we can't back out now? We have a dependency on existing paradigm.
- Short-term vision.
- Older generation are more frugal but have different values and concerns.

- Disconnection between resources and behaviour and waste and our use.
- Enabling participation at local level - force-feeding environmental and global problems may be disempowering and overwhelming to many people. Provide simple local solutions and infrastructure to enable people to solve some of their own problems - good transport systems; neighbourhood gardens.
- Frontier mentality feeds waste and exploitation.
- We keep blaming someone else - local, national government.
- Local government feels squeezed.
- Overcoming conflicting needs of people - social versus individual (want to fill up petrol tank close to home but don't want petrol stations next door). NIMBY syndrome.
- "Required" social responsibility - everyone should "serve" on community councils, e.g.: jury.
- Apathetic community - then unhappy about what decisions are made on their behalf.

Summary Statements:

- This was an overall brainstorming of problems and social impediments to solutions - socially, environmentally and economically.
- We can all go away and do something different that will improve the environment after this!
- To balance between top down and bottom up enabling individual versus social contract - importance of leadership / expertise and empowerment.

Safe Pedestrian Environment

Initiator: Barbara Rouse

Participants:

Doug Simpson	Miriam Betty
Simon Paquier	Russell Turnbull
Jane Dawson	Chris McDonald
Greg Vossler	Natasha Naus
Claudia Bell	Ben White
Caroline Ryder	Barry Rae
Gerald Blunt	

Key Points:

- Energy efficiency, personal choices, connection with other modes, e.g.: bus.
- Walking not taken seriously as a mode of transport - no "status" / low status.
- Need to create more attractive walking environment.
- Walking infrastructure (accessibility), safety and environment - no dark corners, connectivity.
- Priorities – pedestrians versus cars – cars always seem to be given priority – pedestrians time not given any weight – can't hold up the car.
- Odd perceptions by people – walking not seen as viable exercise mode – driven to the gym.
- Urban form hinders walking - e.g.: new subdivisions with no amenities.
- Little information collected on walking, why people do or don't walk.
- Information on linking with other forms of transport that combine with walking - public transport.
- Note that walking is often part of a trip, e.g.: bus, car, train etc.

Ideas:

- Walking adult buses (and more walking school buses)
- Designated pedestrian routes with a variety of experiences and safe (and priority traffic signalling) and lighting and traffic calming.
- Individualised advice on travel plans, routes, integrating with public transport personalising the benefits - green prescriptions
- Need to promote benefits - cost, health, etc.

- Get people comfortable with the idea of walking within a "zone" and encouraging development of suburban amenities and mixed-use zones / buildings.
- Giving pedestrians more weight in transport planning and design guides, connectivity, signals.
- Research on why people do/don't walk – urban, suburban and in different regions.
- Investigating suburban teleworking facilities.
- Speed limits outside schools.

Key Points:

- Suburban work environments can make it difficult to get to amenities, hence need a car.
- Building bad patterns of behaviour in kids – walking not cool and not encouraged by parents - health effects – overweight kids – congestion – not seen as safe.
- Sharing of spaces a problem – lack of respect of each other's rights – cars, cyclists, and pedestrians.
- Carriageway width – urban environments often designed by road builders.
- Neighbourhood redesign needed – grants?
- People enjoy driving their cars – quality time for some people.
- Bias – political and officials – as well as professionals
- Stigma attached to walking (esp. in suburbs)
- What infrastructure do we need to support, infrastructure → political issue because resources not available. (Probably do have the knowledge about how to do it.)
- Difficulty getting people to walk day-to-day – key incentive is the quality / look of the urban environment.
- Well lit routes that connect: safety is the bottom line – avoiding 'dark corners' – lighting off the main corridors.
- Separating pedestrians and cars more? But isn't it always the pedestrian that is asked to detour over/under? Isn't the real issue priority?
- Pedestrians need to be factored into costing models.
- "Walking Buses" for adults.
- Perception that pedestrians inhale more fumes
- Maintenance of the paving surfaces / lighting.
- Campaign to educate people
- Ensuring that urban form issues are addressed ...<600m radius to services – must have somewhere to walk to.
- Design of intersections ... to avoid inconvenience to pedestrians. "Pedestrian is not an economic unit".

- How to encourage walking in smaller centres.
- We need to know what attracts people to walking ... what discourages – part of larger issue, gathering information about what pedestrians do / want / choose.
- Need to 'personalise' the benefits of walking. 'Individualised marketing' - targeting people most likely to change asking them what their priorities are.
- Information is two-way.. E.g.: text-messaging service about when the next bus comes.
- Walking is part of every journey including driving.
- Perception of walking in suburb inhibits walking to the local rail station ... looking like a 'weirdo'. Why don't we consciously question whether the car is necessary?
- Employer incentives for walking? There are some saving to businesses – car parking / health – if employees walk ... currently having a car at work is an indication of status.
- Much more difficult to encourage walking / reduce car dependence in low density / single function environments.
- Providing right infrastructure within walking distance – can district plans be this prescriptive. Community must clearly express objectives.
- Public agencies / corporations setting good example.
- Rewarding locating in / creating viable centres, clear transport / walking routes by knowing higher density (with good demand)
- Need to educate children re walking ... currently children grow up expecting to get in/out of a car many times a day ... even drop off environment at school is designed for cars.
- Enforcement of red light rule ... part of degradation of public environment (including less maintenance). Councils sometimes don't have power themselves ... local authorities used to have more power / resources to affect moving traffic more flexible speed zones.
- Designing in traffic calming including . . . narrower streets / carriageways ... self-enforcing ... in many places public agencies require over wide streets which encourage high speeds.
- "Streets aren't seen as open space ... need to be seen as destination."
- Public transport needs to be out front where it can be seen.
- Bus companies can control.
- 'Green prescription' campaign.
- Restructuring of neighbourhoods ... 'neighbourhood renewal grants' ... need to internalise walking issues in economic models/decisions.

Recommendation:

- Build these issues into decision-making models.
- Public health benefits need to be acknowledged

- Walking/biking/motoring lobbies adopt adversarial positions but don't have to be exclusive/opposed.

Motivating Change

Initiator: Rhys Taylor

Participants:

Murray Cameron	Simon Swaffield
Tom Fookes	Graeme Campbell
Jane Bradbury	Jan Gregor
Jan Crawford	Andrew Dakers
David Given	Lauren Semple
Graeme McIndoe	Doug Gartner
Peter Thorby	Alice Anne Wetzel
Meeky Blizzard	John Collyns
Kevin Golding	Beat Huser
Tack Daniel	Bron Bennetts
Robin Winter	

Key Points:

- Collaboration of ideas
- No shortage of ideas
- Public may be willing
- Public may be ignorant
- We give mixed messages
- How do we get people to adopt these ideas?
- How do they change their behaviours
- How do we move from constant talk fests - then we stop because strategies are diluted because the statements are all encompassing.
- How do we give meaning to people?
- Involvement for INTERESTED who want to change but don't know what to do.
- Practical
 - Assist those who wish to
 - Give options to change
 - Measure change
 - Must have meaning at local level.

- Overseas - lots of words but is there a behavioural shift.
1. British model (Sus Dev) not beat up people but specify quality of life, articulate range of qualities.
 2. American model (Sus Dev) was lacked dynamism and buy in.

Therefore rebranded to "Smart Growth"

Now - Is media friendly

- Applicable
- Articulate to reach US citizen values ..
- Elicits strong Sus Dev values.

(E.g.) 1. Key example - objective as "protection of open space"

(E.g.) 2. Key example - collective ownership because it has meaning for them

Conclusion:

Identify and find out what is important in area. Bring forward into people's awareness and horizon = bottom up approach.

Buy In: How to get public buy in

- They set agenda
- They broker solutions
- They drive partnership solutions
- Assess risk to individual, show how it will be overcome, show greater collective buy in. Recognise and promote incentives.

Comment:

Environmental activists all played in the wild places.

Issues: What is greater buy in?

- How do we get people to adopt these ideas?
- How do we get people to buy in?
- How do we compel people?
- How do we get people to change their behaviour?

- What is the pay off / balance for those less able?
- What is really meaningful for people?
- What are the blocks to involvement?
- Responsibility?
- Ownership?
- Vote Education. What is Government (local/central) direction?

Values:

- Appeals to personal sense of well-being
- Assists in building community involvement
- Promotes individual interaction in community process
- Provides support for all individuals.
- Is not necessarily by total agreement - but aspires to (80/20 rule?)
- Is driven, brokered and supported by community.
- Recognises and promotes incentives.
- Is empathetic.
- Recognises and values economic imperatives.
- Assists in behavioural change.
- Is iterative.
- Is relevant, real and is practical.
- Quick, effective (policy versus action)
- Imaginative, nurturing, empowering, inspiring, exciting.
- Builds and engenders trust, leadership.
- Builds confidence.
- Builds and uses education system - younger people buy in.
- Fun, locally based.

Impediments to Proposition:

- Bureaucracy - too many hurdles - green tape.
- Admin. Heavy.
- Councils too big
- 100% agreement.
- Apathy.
- No or little recognition and/or support for those whose priority is on surviving (i.e.: feeding families – baby care – getting to meetings).
- Policy is not linked to easy or simple action.

- Mistrust.
- Unclear central government position - strategy.
- Little incentive for developers to engage in "creative" sustainable solutions – easier to develop and contribute to urban sprawl.

Tools / Growth enacting processes:

- Build confidence and trust through collaboration models.
- Support for all interested participants.
- Clear government position.
- Urban footprint.
- US Education system models - junior achievement / democratic models.
- Identify links to children participating.
- Targeted and marketing priorities.
- Cultural tools
- Investigate global models
- Identify key individuals
 - Therefore have a dream
 - Are courageous
 - Can determine a reality.
- Can communicate at multi-levels.
- Passionate, understands issues, has humanity.
- Can walk away if a lemon, can say I DON'T KNOW, equate ability to winner.

Health

Initiator: Val Orchard

Participants:

Val Orchard	Kataraina Maki
Virginia Hope	Maryanne McLeod
Mike Richardson	Rhys Taylor
Ali Memon	

Key Points:

- Fragmentation of health agencies and organisation.
- Inter-relationship in equity and SES issues.
- Lack of clarity about what we are trying to manage at present.
- Indicators that may not reflect public's "health" concerns or key.
- Noted Christchurch City Council views very broadly its functions in terms of influencing the determinants of health.
- Need for integration of DHB and City Council strategy planning and monitoring.
- Need for frameworks for integrating a number of processes at a national level, e.g.: urban sustainability planning, RMA processes.

Action:

- Model impacts on health of environmental development and policy so that economic costs / taxation can be appropriately apportioned.
- Ensure public health funding incentives encourage the movement of money from hospital into practical public health initiatives in environmental health.
- Joint planning DHB'S / TAS.

Integration

Initiator: Russell Kenley

Participants:

Wayne Knox	Rhys Taylor
Eric Park	Kathy Garden
Russell Kenley	John Peet
John Tocker	Kathleen Ryan
Andrew Daken	Lin Roberts
Philippa Richardson	Barry Rae
David Carew	John Lumsden
Ali Memon	Bron Bennetts
Jenny Steven	Tom Fookes
Alistair Sheat	Colin Meurk
Lesley Woudberg	Simon Swaffield
Leigh Hopper	

Key Points:

- Broader holistic view of community participation.
- Using systems thinking to define sustainability.
- Co-ordination between involved professions and fields.
- Auckland situation not conducive to integration – things are slow to happen, e.g.: transport, Infrastructure Auckland / integrative Land Transport & water strategy.
- Concern about 'super city' – must remember community when talking about integration. "Bottom up" approach.
- Political efficiency versus public buy in – need balance.
- Regional level issues, e.g.: new stadium for region, addressed differently to local issue, e.g.: local park.
- Relevance of Local Government Act – requires Local Authorities to work together more closely and to involve community to greater extent.
- What is the role of Central Government - matching of local government structures and departments to central government ones?
- Auckland Regional growth strategy is not sustainable, as are other city/regional strategies.
- How to address at governance level.

- Purpose – what is purpose of integration.
- What mechanisms can we use to improve integration?
- Important thing about Curitiba is that broad range of expert/high level personnel focussing on a certain issue, i.e.: integration.
- Bottom up consultation can restrict specialists – limits innovation.
- Cross / inter-disciplinary approach essential.
- Examples from Curitiba – ' autocratic' approach but interdisciplinary
- Whole society communicates – 0800 number for enquiries (transport) and co-operates well – does consultation mean something different in Brazil?
- Integrating as a matter of structure as opposed to working in silos.
- Integrating on technical / practical problems in Brazil – 'silos' resent integrators.
- Integration begins at high level in Curitiba.
- Integrated planning tools, e.g. GIS
- Strong incubation of leadership.
- Assumption that if process is right, outcome will be right too, but need to consider physical structure also.
- Variation 17 – Waterfront Development.
- Better to get it right first and consult community, than to get it wrong and redo it. Time is important – balance.
- A big ask to coordinate local government and central government.
- Interdisciplinary / holistic knowledge not respected / valued in NZ. Loss of experience to overseas. Not seen to add value to decision making.
- Helen Clark frustrated with central government. Silo approach.
- Concrete methods and ideas.
- E-Government.
- What do you need to achieve integration?
 - Common language / different fields
 - E.g.: working definitions of sustainability concepts
 - Over-arching frameworks compatible with different areas of expertise.
 - Systematic approach.
- A methodology that speaks to central government that frames sustainability. Then need to relate to other related fields, e.g.: social, health etc can cause a lot of headaches at this point. Difficult to then put integrated proposals to central government in clear / concise manner. Requires some sort of THINK TANK.
- Why not just go and do it rather than theorise?
 - Integration of fields notionally associated to address immediate pragmatic issues

- This is good, as long as it does not interfere / negatively impact overall framework, i.e.: paratuanuku.
- Still good to have a well thought out approach that is non-prescriptive.
- Research should be directed into what is working already.
- Applied research used to update framework.
- Not much integration research in New Zealand.
- Not about information or research, it's about action.
- Create an organisation with reps from 'silos' to request specific research 'institutional framework'.
- Should happen at high level as well as localised level.
 - Practical constraint of integration is TIME.
- Principal of kaitiakitanga – different world view, how does this enhance our approach. Are there practical lessons ... having a real sense of the environment and its balance – what can we really afford to take from environment.
 - Process needs to have exemplars of form and to achieve something concrete.
 - Process needs to have authority.

Transport: Sustainable transport, infrastructure and communications

Participants:

David Corlett	Roger Toleman
Simon Paquier	Morgan Williams
Ashley Owers	Richard Maher
Roger Toleman	Steven Kerr
Alistair Shanks	John McShane
Noel Reardon	Carolyn O'Fallon
Barry Hellberg	Shad Rolleston
Daryl Cockburn	Russell Turnbull
Barbara Rouse	Arthur Williamson
Chris Kissling	Murray Cameron
Meeky Blizzard	John Collyns
Jane Dawson	Murray Isdale
Lindsay Gow	

The participants looking at this topic came from a wide range of backgrounds and had a range of issues they wanted to raise and areas of interest.

We began by introducing ourselves and our areas of interest. The main focus was on land transport but others raised the issue of communications, accessibility and mobility.

Key Points:

- There have been large increases in public transport use over recent years.
- Transport is the means to do the things we want to do. Some people stressed the importance of transport, but the need to do it more efficiently.
- Decisions on school zoning made without reference to transport implications.
- Curitiba has staggered school and business hours. Perhaps schools could be opened 15 minutes later.
- Transfund is starting to build health considerations into its decisions.
- There is great utility and convenience in using the private motor car.
- We have only become car dependent since 1960's.

- New technology will help us increase capacity. (Automated transport systems for motor vehicles).
- What do we need to do to improve modal split?
- How do we improve car occupancy levels?
- Do we need to provide more choice?
- Our accessibility needs change throughout our life. NZ has a very flexible transport system. It is easy for people to enter the market, e.g.: the Taxi industry. We need to introduce appropriate pricing structures:
 - Short-term parking should be less than all day
 - Insurance should be based on use
 - In the US there was a proposal for insurance tagged to petrol use
 - In Holland registration is \$1000 per annum
 - Cordon toll in the UK
- If you bring in these types of systems you need alternatives:
 - Timing and co-ordination is needed
- Congestion pricing is used in electricity and communications marketplace.
- How long will it be until Netherlands example takes place in New Zealand? Legislation will be introduced next year, but it will take several years before actual practice on the ground. Step by step process for some of the initiatives.
- Bus could be marketed better. In Auckland bus company has gone to hospitals to provide information to workers on bus availability and provision of a free ticket.
 - In Boulder, Colorado, if you sell a house you get a 3-year supply of bus tickets.
 - In Seattle transit efficient mortgage.
 - People change their jobs more often than their houses.

How do we create intensified living that is embraced by New Zealanders?

Initiator: Peter Thorby

Participants:

Allan McGregor	Michael Theelen
Peter Thorley	Graeme McIndoe
Caroline Ryder	Chris McDonald

Key Points:

- Issue of engaging developers
- Transferable property rights critical for developers. Need the ability to mitigate off-site if logical – such as stormwater.
- One of the major barriers to urban sustainability is incremental development.
- RMA not a good urban mechanism – doesn't promote urban sustainability.
- Heritage in parts of Wellington preventing greater intensification – can't pull them down and put up apartments.
- Density should be ultimate driver of urban development – RMA has paddock mentality.
- Developers don't build medium density buildings, as developers perceive it to be too risky.
- Containment policies – impose strict city boundaries – problem of rural subdivision undermining city endeavours to contain growth.
- Don't have a culture of high risers – yet this is higher density.
- Encourage transition to high/medium housing developments by providing examples. Can't keep carving land and putting big houses on them.
- Design guides – should not be seen as an imposition but seen as a benefit.
- Land development driven by surveyors – don't recognise broader issues.
- Medium density also put in wrong places – look for sites that can support it – look for TLAs to promote / regulate this. District plan rules could be changed to reflect the desire to have higher density (e.g.: relax height controls).
- Limited types of housing / buildings for medium density.
- NZ medium density in 1920's was much better than 2 or 3 types today. Today garages lined up on street, no gardens, paved space in front for cars.
- Sponsorship of new building styles / type / format to choose from.

- People suspicious of developers – particularly TLA's – if they want to do the right thing.
- Carrot and stick – it is always the stick but can't regulate good outcomes.
- Local government should listen and facilitate good ideas – but they're not good at it.
- How do you get density in suburbia? Difficult but necessary.
- Could start in areas with growing amenity values, e.g.: cafes, shops nearby. As these areas grow more extensively, will be copied elsewhere – set example.
- Problem of longevity of housing stock – one bad decision will last 50-100 years.
- People beginning to see bad design – reflected in property market.
- Informing house buyers important.
- Behavioural changes in property ownership – generational changes, move renters, power of baby boomers.
- In Wellington privacy and noise issue for apartments – this needs to be prevented. Needs to be dealt with by careful planning and construction.
- Rating system for housing – live energy efficiency 'stars' for houses in Australia, fridges, washing machines.
- 'Smart grow matrixes' in US – rating affects financial contributions, incentive for developers to design 'smarter' buildings. Means developers get credit for doing good thing.
- If district plans too restrictive, developers will go elsewhere.
- Design guides put out by MFE and some TLA's helps educate developers, local government and property owners/buyers.
- Local government has public information and advocacy role.
- Market is changing - people now have different perceptions.
- People becoming more urban and more rural (lifestylers). Average time in lifestyle blocks in Hawkes Bay 2 years – people get sick of it, but lots of people still wanting to experience open rural environment.
- Medium density could be sold on its lifestyle (like lifestyle blocks). Could appeal to social conscience?
- In Auckland people choosing to go into density – won't go near it before. People want to live in density because of lifestyle – proximity to amenities.
- Development company in UK has marketing brochure which indicates what facilities are in walking distance.
- Consumer tests for housing? Next to fridges?!

Public Open Spaces : How can we encourage people back into the public realm?

Initiator: Gerald Blunt

Participants:

Doug Simpson

Ann Winstanley

Penny Pirrit

David Thorns

Key Points:

Society is more inwardly focused: preference for uses in private spaces.

- Open spaces are sterile
- Who are the public spaces for?
- Interface between public / private spaces poor
- Safety an issue – have sense of insecurity
- Lack of activity – people generators
- Different cultures use spaces differently – people have different perceptions
- Conflicts between community as to how public spaces used
- Often not readily accessible.
- Issue: management of public spaces under Reserves Act to constraining
- Privately managed spaces are exclusive
- Need for more interface between public and private
- Streets are public spaces: how can they be engaged with.
- Community have preference for private property – protect asset; based on economic values not social / environmental values.
- People like diversity
- Sunday market, embracing a range of cultures
- Positive reinforcement of using spaces
- Encourage mixed activity and uses – public spaces are only place that can do
- Make public spaces that allow a range of uses with 'active edges'
- Design of public spaces becomes more important as we move to higher densities.
- Who is involved in public space design – do we hear youth voice?
- Fear of 'different' groups monopolising space

- Better communication between groups
- Public space; interaction between people is important.
- Prioritising of spaces that allow different uses – 'wild spaces' – community (youth) define as their own
- Integration of open spaces in areas where other uses happen; i.e.: suburban town centres where playgrounds etc are
- Allow different social interaction situations, i.e. cafe, lunch spaces.
- Be smarter about how vehicles 'controlled' in high pedestrian area; integration of public transport – move away from getting vehicles to move through as fast as possible – efficient vehicle use in certain locations should be constrained – how to link to car parking etc – example of better public transport operation Christchurch shuttle bus, central city.
- One-way streets that concentrate traffic go against pedestrians.
- Who will use these spaces? Users should be involved in the design process – they will feel more comfortable about the use of these spaces
- Risk of 'over designing' but have maintenance issues.
- Maintenance needs to be achieved.
- Opportunities to plant
- What are people's expectations?

Linking the Environment with the Economy

Participants:

Nigel Jollands

Beat Hauser

Doug Gartner

Robert Burgess

Phil Reid

James Glover

Gavin Fisher

Chris McDonald

David Glenn

John Talbot

Key Points:

- Business drives urban areas – but there is a lack of integration between business and planning.
- GDP does not correctly address quality of life.
- We should make more of the fact that the quality of the environment is an attractor for business.
- Business sees the bureaucracy of local government as being a barrier to contributing towards environmental improvements.
- Importance of indicators or quantifying systems for being able to talk the business language.
- Trends of level of input into process compared to outcomes need to be looked at so that resources (time/cost) are more clearly linked to environmental outcomes.
- SIAC report on 'sustainable future' has an interpretation worthy of use across government departments.
- Alternate view that environment sustainability principles are well enough known and must now be put into practice. This leads to lifestyle changes and education on true costs.
- Alternate view that environment sustainability principles are well enough known and must now be put into practice. This leads to lifestyle changes and education on true costs.
- Choosing not to recognise the linkage between economics and the environment is symptomatic of short-termism. Local government left to pick up the pieces including social costs.
- RMA not working for 'overall sustainable development' but is more piecemeal looking at 'avoiding, remedying, mitigating' rather than broader planning vision.
- Over-franchising of community groups through planning process.
- Definition of environment still too narrow.

- Need to bring health/environmental values up to standard of law in terms of cost/benefit analysis for using in regulatory processes.
- Have to either use economic values or surrogate economic values where you have weightings being introduced – but you do not necessarily need to use dollars as the method of measurement.
- You cannot de-couple economic development from environmental values – depending on the scale of your system.
- For triple bottom-lining there is too much de-coupling of indicators going on (from a monitoring perspective), they are interdependent. There is much more research to do on linkages (and indicators for these).
- Complexity of NZ Society – ecological footprint of our cities is broad.

Is there a need for a National Policy Statement on the Built Environment?

Initiator: John Pfahlert

Participants:

John Pfahlert	John Sinclair
John Goodchild	Rachel Hargreaves
Alice Ann Wetzel	Kevin Golding
Charles Eason	

Key Points:

- Backgrounds Construction Liaison Group (CLG) initiative as platform for disparate initiatives.
- Policy should be a no-brainer for government since most voters live in cities.
- Not a huge political leap / risk.
- Urban policy statements can be borrowed from overseas.
- APS – devil in detail.
- Don't want a Truman movie style set environment.
- Don't bother if its motherhood and apple pie.
- Some want greater prescription, but this will be contentious.
- CLG document provides basis for an ongoing cohesive debate.
- Final policy output may be quite different.

Action:

Want workshop endorsement for national policy on built environment.

- One view that policy should not be prescriptive.
- But should set quantifiable targets.
- Building Industry Authority – lowest common denominator standards.
- Need to examine economic instruments to encourage good design.
- Significant benefits to improved health standards from healthy housing / good design.
- Built environment underpins the economy.
- Competition between cities / country major driver to economic development – quality of life important.

- Links with MfE urban amenities indicators.
- Links with MED – sustainability project?
- Policy could act as a focal point to bring together other initiatives.
- Urban energy use a key driver for good policy outcomes on energy efficiency.
- NPS – a statement of shared values.

Urban Design

Initiator: Doug Simpson

Participants:

Jan Gregor	James Baines
Andrew Dakers	Robin Winter
Simon Paquier	

Key Points:

- How is urban design shaped by existing infrastructure (roads, water services, etc)?
 - Sunk costs
 - Becomes less important over the longer term
 - In past, existing infrastructure has shaped development.
- A lot of design is for modernising. If don't take into account the need/opportunity to change behaviours/patterns – then a waste of money, waste of use of space. Need big picture view.
- Need to understand whole system, e.g.: wider impacts of changing traffic movements.
- Form design versus functional design (physical, biophysical, social) requires understanding of complexity.
- Retrofit more complex than starting from new.
- Go for least cost, elements of political cycle driven.
- Functional designs are not always pretty.
- Need to have designers who understand the whole system.
- What are the important amenity values? Will differ in different parts of town – residential, main street, green space.
- Why is it difficult to interact with others in residential areas
 - No front door - only garage) ? Driven by designers or
 - No front garden) convenience/lifestyle.
- Sustainability – is at the aggregate level, e.g.: community but doesn't require every individual to participate – for some things we encourage diversity.
- How/Where do you draw the line between where it is OK for individual to make decision versus decision made for individual? Rules.
 - If the activity is resilient, its OK
 - Individual behaviour and cumulative effects.

- We have the rules, but so prescription that understanding at individual level is lost – can't connect with the rule. Don't realise they still have to take responsibility. Rules no longer keep us safe. Rules need to evolve to take account of impact of humans on environment.
 - Need ownership rather than rules
 - Rules protect the many from the few. Based on retrospective fixing what has gone wrong in past. Also need 'rules' to help get to the future.
- Examples of setting rules as a spur to innovation a positive instrument.
 - E.g.: Christchurch – 5 years to find another way to heat homes in place of fires.
- Rules that tell us what we should do versus rules that tell us what we shouldn't do.
- Setting of minimum standards – rules of what we should do – don't give incentives to do better.
- Designing industrial areas to optimise flow of materials – inputs and outputs.

Community/Cultural Groups/Migrants/Refugees

Initiator: John Webber

Participants:

John Webber	Trevor Garrett
Sandy Beath-Croft	Catherine Adams
Ket Bradshaw	

Key Points:

- We cannot stay in a circle as we must share our ideas, but learn to communicate via the right media.
- Sustainability not a priority of ethnic groups but survival is.
- How do we move from a community that cannot help themselves to one that has choices?
- Children of 16 cannot read.
- Channel Z talkback – teenagers.
- Radio Pacific – older adults
- Radio Sport / Newstalk ZB – Mid aged.
- What now – Children (TV)
- Chat room
- Ethnic newsletters and papers.
- Translation and literacy challenges
- 46% unable to comprehend a set of instructions
- 10% not able to read
- Should we talk only to the refugee women. Males talk to males. Females are the doers but structures need to be taken into account.
- Women play a huge role in sustainability.
- Refugee and migrant groups nearly gone due to finance.
- Voluntary groups can be key to contact to give out important messages.
- Communication chains required to get down to community level.
- People in policy should be in the community.
- Councils have a challenge to get into the community. Need efficient groups that have contact.

Action:

- Find efficient groups, popular radio talkback and other media to communicate sustainability.

Businesses as a Component of Urban Sustainability

Participants:

Barry Hellberg

Lin Roberts

Jan Gregor

Key Points:

- Businesses increasingly realising they don't lose money by espousing social values and indeed starting to embrace them.
- Retailers association didn't support increased trading hours because realise they and their staff need time off – social needs.
- Chain stores better equipped to cope with sustainability initiatives than small 'ma & pa' stores – need processes etc to reach them (e.g.: the Natural Step small business programme).
- Different councils have different interpretations of sustainability – call for national standards.

Macro Regions defined by Urban Systems

Initiator: Barry Rae

Participants:

Barry Rae

Tom Fookes

Key Points:

- Our thinking on urban systems constrained by administrative boundaries not the macro system of settlements.
- Sustained urban growth in New Zealand over last 80 years has occurred only in the regions north of Taupo through to Auckland (and recently includes Northland).
- Within macro region there is a network of increasingly and potentially inter-connected settlements (e.g.: Auckland – Hamilton – Tauranga – Rotorua and in-between places).

Action:

Strategies that reach beyond current regional boundaries – integrate the range of lifestyle and economic opportunities across the macro-region, e.g.: broaden the focus beyond Auckland's metropolitan growth limits on "Instinsopoulos". (See article about Barry Rae's paper on this them in NZ Environment March 2002.)

Heritage - Aesthetic Creative Input into Urban Development

Initiator: Mark Lindsay / Tack Daniel

Participants:

Wayne Knox	Ashley Owers
Maryanne McLeod	Tack Daniel
Greg Vossler	Ben White
Faust Bovenlander	Mark Lindsay

Issues

- H is flexible; is dynamic
- W
- Research into
 - Issues of conservation
 - What are econ benefits
 - Costing & valuing public good(s)
- Promote notion of heritage/cultural sustainability as a 4th leg of sustainable development model.
 - Environmental
 - Economic
 - Social
 - Cultural/heritage
- Why should local authorities positively recognise HH
- Identify benefits of looking at HH in a wider concept
- Recognise criteria and systems
- Future cost possible
- Economic valuation of HH
- Recognise Heritage
 - Mentality
 - & Communities who cluster
 - Because of passion for

Values

- Flexibility
- Important
- Many collective areas
- Recognise Hobart system
- Recognise Auckland system

- Endless conservation versus retention of
 - Traditional techniques
 - Intention and process
- Constant dialogue
- Tradable development rights
- Education

How do we know when we are there?

Participants:

Miriam Betty

Russell Turnbull

David Carew

Robin Winter

Caroline Ryder

Faust Bovenlander

Maryanne McLeod -

Ben White

Key Points:

We have to consider the measures as we develop and work out what we want to achieve.

- Transport development – benefit / cost decisions used as the base.
- Time is the key
- Can we apply the same models / measures from other areas.
- How do we give feedback to people on achievements – important to feedback – helps build acceptance of new directions.
- Looked wide in terms of possible indicators (EECA experience), overseas then what is applicable, what packages make sense, precursors – i.e.: signal indicators, government policy – what is important.
- Look wide into stakeholder groups, who is doing what, can they assist, are they already measuring things we need.

Action:

Start with the schools

Bottom up and top down.

- If trying to capture an urban set of indicators – most things that need to be measured are already in place, i.e.: energy, transport.
- Don't want a silo approach – need to be cross-cutting in how you deal with this.
- Agencies need to work in partnerships.
- Need a common language – across sectors, industry baseline information base is needed so we know we are coming from the same place.
- Need a common understanding of where we are at now and common understanding to build towards.
- Have to know what sustainability is. Need to know what the word means. Need to have some basic information about how those concepts relate to day to day issues, e.g.: food gardening.

- How do those issues relate to the general public - is it even important to people in general. Why should they care?
- Where does change come from – actions and mindset. Need to inspire people.
- Actions and words in place that people can relate to on a day-to-day basis.
- Need bottom up but must feed into a central government framework to get support.
- How much we trust that government is working in our best interests is a possible issue. Do we trust government?
- Place of Internet in providing information - where does this fit?
- What is the role of standards – safety or wider. If you can buy it, we assume it is safe/good.
- Should milk always be cheaper than fanta – i.e.: do we have a duty.
- Infrastructure / society is not set up to support a sustainable development society. Need to educate, change mindset.
- Small changes, i.e.: growing own vegetables, concepts like food chains, cyclic systems, have to be learned by hands on experience.
- Broad connections with natural systems. Understanding that systems are cyclic. Fruit and veggies in any season - not in touch with natural systems.

Action:

- Regulation and education and information
- Frameworks and communication – people's language.

Urban Ecology

Participants:

Andrew Dakers	Shad Rolleston
Charles Eason	Eric Pyle
Bron Bennetts	David Given
Phil Reid	Mike Theelen
Mike Richardson	Beat Hauser
Maggie Lawton	James Baines

Key Points:

- People who make decisions often know very little about the ecosystems in which they make the decisions. Interdisciplinary teams are a sound mechanism for ensuring that ecological skills can be applied.
- At all levels of policy / planning / construction needs to be a better understanding of the eco system in which the urban environment is embedded.
- Governance issue of large footprint of urban environment – dealing with surrounding TA's.
- Ecology is really looking at the flows, relationships and feedbacks.
- Opportunities for things like protection of biodiversity are more feasible in places like the Waitakere ranges than on the DOC estate due to the access of a large human population base.
- Role of green infrastructure within urban areas is becoming more important as a distinguishing feature of cities.
- Need to look at values and the need to get people to believe that they are a part of the environment and directly inter-related to effects through actions.
- Often lower design costs and ongoing costs of green infrastructure over grey infrastructure. Examples of this are swales and rainwater tank collection.
- How complex is the urban ecology system?
- How resilient is the system?
- How do we plan for change?
- Can eco-systems survive quick fixes?
- The valuing of ecosystems needs to look at alternative valuation techniques for decision-making. Could be looked at as a balance sheet loss, i.e.: degradation of environmental asset.
- Educational test of how well people actually know and understand their environment, i.e.: name native plants in surrounding vicinity.

- Be careful of seeking win / win situations as many of the harder decisions do cost to implement. Look at values basis for these decisions.
- Values issue – for instance public art and heritage values are recognised and often handsomely paid for – values of environment should hold uniqueness as identifiers of our place so we should invest in them accordingly.
- Political perception of voter backlash against money being spent on environmental concerns.
- How well are our institutions structured to achieve quality environmental outcomes? Unfortunately we have a silos approach with aims of productivity and cost recovery.

Kids' Space / Safety

Initiator: Ann Winstanley

Participants:

Jonathon Fletcher	Murray Cameron
Kathy Garden	David Thorns
Val Orchard	Jane Dawson
Virginia Hope	

Key Points:

- People in making decisions do not consider children, elderly.
- Perceptions of safety, surveillance.
- Concerns with children's development don't go outside home:
 - Traffic
 - Stranger danger
- Access different parts of the city.
- E.g.: of C put kid's space where people already are:
 - Philosophy of children as building blocks
 - City work for everybody
- Kids staying inside – health, obesity – passive activities.
- Safety and surveillance – parents happy to see kids there at home – organised games.
- U.H. – Kids playing sport.
- 12-14 yrs "different age" that need their own spaces.
- Worried about the 'wrong' dangers – should be concerned about
 - Drinking
 - Traffic
- Be good to have local facilities available for e.g.: teens
- Communities "net"-worked kids talking to each other across geographical locations.
- Do we have 'young families' in one space – generational segregation?
- "Social engineering" through design.
- Don't build as before – e.g.: Wainuiomata.
- Need to incorporate urban design elements that work for kids.

- How much money do you spend?
 - What is it spent on?
 - How is it relevant to local community?

Innovation by Physical Design: Best practice for designing sustainable neighbourhoods, towns and cities

Initiator: Graeme McIndoe

Participants:

Sandy Beath-Croft	John Pfahlert
David Corlett	Trevor Garnett
Leigh Hopper	Murray Isdale
Allan McGregor	Meeky Blizzard
Graeme McIndoe	

Key Points:

- Basic standards required for construction.
- Problem – decline in trade practices with loss of apprentice system, i.e.: decline in training in all aspects of the industry.
- Examples of building to recognised environmental standards:
 - Waitakere City:
 - Difficult to sell environmental advantages. Cost of environmentally friendly products.
- American examples: e.g.: Portland with demonstration projects.
- Possibility of grading system for environmental sustainability of housing construction.
- Get people to consider cost-in-use, e.g.: energy use at the time of design and construction.
- Consider total cost of ownership - transport cost & energy cost +
- Rating system could help with resale value.
- Difficulty of achieving mixed use. Developments usually too small to achieve this - must be achieved by regulation, e.g.: designations for schools.
- Changes in retail behaviour will probably mean that local service retail will become less important. It is crucial that developers provide buildings that can be adapted for retail when this becomes feasible.
 - Retail is dependent on motor vehicles to justify existence, achieve demand.
- Focus on good quality development - mixed use, sustainable, etc.
- District Plan is the tool to achieve this but RMA does not allow this.
- Cost of design regulation:

- Issue is affordability
- There is a cost arising from better urban practice.

General Discussion Group: Butterflies landing beautifully

Discussion:

1. Inter-relation of Heritage sites, be they distant from each other, should still be recognised as a discrete system. These sites have a relationship that must be recognised.
2. Leadership by example: we interface over small things, rather than contextual things.
3. We should review similar to OECD panels which review cities. Feedback is given.
4. Cultural ideas/attitudes about how others live:
 - Pacific Islanders
 - Chinese (Feng Shui)
 - As determined by market
 - Types of houses
 - Arrangement of houses
 - Types of buildings (South Auckland – churches)
5. Innovation comes in all sorts of ways.
6. Growth responsibility must ensure
 - Options for innovation
 - And support for maintenance.
7. Aging population on fixed incomes (ability of folks to pay) versus increase in potential rates due to changes in services and technology (gold plated sewer). Potential immediate use.
8. Community to value assets
 - Historical cost
 - Future history
 - Depreciation / appreciation of asset
 - Capital depreciation fund.
9. Sustainable financing of future with a prioritising for future use
 - Ring fencing
 - Jam jar funding.
10. No choice without \$ - how do you use it.

Urban Research Centre

Initiator: Noel Reardon / Gavin Fisher

Participants:

Noel Reardon	Penny Pirrit
Kathleen Ryan	Chris McDonald
Ann Magee	Gavin Fisher
John Talbot	Rachel Hargreaves
Wayne Knox	John Sinclair
John Tocker	

Key Points:

- A lot going on already – variable quality.
- Support for an information library.
- New Zealand too small to repeat / reinvent research.
- Network of organisations around the country.
- Independence from local government.
- Can be self-funding if addresses local concerns and can add value.
- Need a pragmatic approach to prioritise and make relevant existing research. Then move to a more sophisticated model, i.e.: a providing agency.
- Don't have a mechanism to identify existing issues.
- Positive benefit is to provide a career path for the bright young New Zealanders
- Need for a lead agency.
- Collaboration of research providers as well as research demanders.
- Need a structure to provide intellectual grunt on urban issues.
- There is no champion – an agency like EECA is needed.

Using Waste Recycling/Diversion as a means to create awareness/changed actions that lead to wider areas such as sustainability

Initiator: Ket Bradshaw and Ashley Owens

Participants:

John McShane	Alistair Shanks
Ket Bradshaw	Arthur Williamson
Ashley Owens	Rhys Taylor

Key Points:

- Waste – transport (possibly) gardening also, are good places to start the general public thinking about the environment / sustainability.
- Need to develop small-scale technology suitable for urban households with no or small garden, e.g.: effective micro-organisms (embokashi).
- Encourage early closing of cycles.
- Waste minimisation strategy as part of trade waste permitting.
- Educate public about "nasties" in household detergents, soaps, cleaners etc.
- Education / policy of small business polluters.
- Sustainable households programme useful.
- Encourage more "No Junk Mail" stickers on letterboxes.

Definition of "Sustainability"

Participants:

Steven Kerr

Catherine Adams

Richard Maher

Key Points:

- Sustainability more than just environmental – includes social and economic elements, e.g.: community concerns, business concerns.
- Not 'one size fits all'. May be different solutions for different situations.
- May change over time – with new technology / changes in values, culture.
- Process is important. Communication of trade-offs / participation in processes.
- Sustainability = process rather than outcome.
- Informed choice important.
- Markets have a role to play – showing preferences, providing options.
- Finding balance between generation's needs – costs upfront for future generations.
- Criteria – consistent information needs to feed into decisions. Should be regularly reviewed.

Clean & Green

Initiator: Claudia Bell

Participants:

Simon Swaffield

Doug Gartner

John Webber

Key Points:

- Clean, green myth is very popular: How to make it true than it is now:
 - Need to identify how we damage the environment
 - And possible ways to reverse this
 - And learn from elsewhere
- Problem of consciousness raising in green issues across demographic groups.
- Education for young children a key strategy
- Incentives / rewards for good practice (rather a punitive approach)
- Need to normalise good eco practices.
- And celebrate good practice.
 - E.g.: maybe GREEN AWARDS at local / regional / national levels, which identify role models! People and practices.
- Need to identify manageable, accessible new practices that can fit / extend existing social practices.
- Behavioural issues need research (e.g.: how do people make spatial decisions about where they litter).
- Concern for next generation's lack of engagement with environment.
- Identify reality of our cultural practices (watch TV, computer games, malls, sports, solo parents) - need innovation that corresponds to those realities, instituting activities that become part of everyday life, i.e.: piggy back onto present practices.

Action:

- Need to identify how we damage the environment
 - and possible ways to reverse this
 - and learn from elsewhere.
- Education for young children a key strategy.

- Incentives / rewards for good practice (rather a punitive approach).
 - And celebrate good practice, e.g.: maybe GREEN AWARDS at local / regional / national levels.
- Need to identify manageable, accessible new practices that can fit/extend existing social practices.
- Behavioural issues need research (e.g.: how do people make a spatial decision about where they litter).
- Identify reality of our cultural practices. (Watch TV, computer games, malls, sport, solo parents) – Need innovations that correspond to these realities, instituting activities that become part of everyday life, i.e.: piggyback onto present practices.

Cities as Systems

Participants:

Eric Park	Alice Ann Wetzel
Chris Kissling	Peter Thorby
Phillipa Richardson	Colin Meurk
Robert Burgess	James Glover
Jan Crawford	John Peet
Lesley Woudberg	Jenny Steven
Natasha Naus	Nigel Jollands
Alistair Sheat	Ali Memon
Neil Ericksen	Michael Jones
Barry Rae	Lin Roberts
Graham Campbell	Tom Fookes
Murray Cameron	

Key Points:

- Economic, social, environment – when there is an investment there will be consequences on the above parameters / systems.
- Do we know or understand the systems that are operational in cities?
- Annual plans do not represent the whole system, but one leg on the stool. Need to understand all of the legs on the stool.
- Curitiba – city government is responsible for all aspects of the health of the city.
- Is there an optimal size city?
- Can cities be regarded as eco-systems?
- Little analysis of cross systems – water costs what is impact? New motorway's impact. Experiences from other cities can be ..
- City is part of eco-system a bigger one.
- Try to look at system for its viability. Most systems are actually sub-systems.
- Cities have necessities for life and viability.
- Work on connectiveness of parts – if one part isn't well then other parts aren't well. Poverty may be a bigger problem than we care to admit. What are the starting points?
- What do we check to determine the health of the urban system?
 - Needs are they being satisfied

- Must be met simultaneously
 - Must fix up the poverty first
 - There are ways of doing it.
- Migration – Does the system deal with both in migration and out migration?
- What analysis are we doing?
 - Who's it getting to?
 - What is it being done for?
 - Who should be listening or geared for?
- If people have better information then better decisions.
- Wisdom to use the information.
- Short-term economics is basis for most decision making and therefore impacting the system.
- Quality of life is driver of decision making in Curitiba – tyranny of the bureaucracy.
- We can take from other systems – reforming old institutions – National Planning Council.
- Information based decision-making.
- What role for private sector – implementers / Curitiba
- What role for NGO – don't know.
- Network of NGOs are critical in New Zealand. Critical to city sustainability. Knowledge base – collectors of information.
- Connectivity is needed.
- Capacity building – on all aspects of urban systems is needed in urban communities of New Zealand.
- Decisions of what happens in cities are up to private sector – need to engage with private sector.
- Most commercial behaviour is unsustainable.
- Triple bottom line reporting required.
- What is the goal of city in regards to sustainability
- What is a sustainable city? Needs to include the hinterland.

Action:

- Take good research outcomes and put them into practice. Will help to understand the systems better.
- Better engagement between central government and local government and academia on urban systems.

Sustainable Cities - Resilient Communities

Initiator: John Lumsden

Participants:

Murray Isdale	Alistair Shanks
Ann Magee	Kay Saville-Smith
Laura Hogg	Alison Dalziel
John Lumsden	

Key Points:

- Centre for Advanced Engineering – Urban sustainability.
- CIS Infrastructure systems
- Sustainable communities require infrastructure that has resilience.
- Socially how we work together – also an issue
- What are the underlying [reasons] of the removal of these things?
- Social structure – opt out
- Slow death or quick death – effects of globalisation – small existing companies growing.
- Our infrastructure evolved around big industries by cities – there are only 3.8 million of us.
- Unfettered urban sprawl, inexpensive housing.
- Rural properties tend to be diverse - spread out. Could be some benefits in clustering
 - Reduce sprawl
- Local power generation, small-scale sewage etc.
- Resource consents etc for small-scale sewage hard to find.
- MfE have never sorted out the top of the planning cascade.
- Investment into researching and workshopping for local government – MfE, DIA & local government may have a role. Processes are improving. Communities becoming more empowered.
- Local government - cultural, social, economic environment.
- Need to understand effects of central decisions – health, education etc (hospitals attract jobs etc).
- We don't think about things as a whole – need multi-disciplinary approach (CAE US workshop).

