

FRAMING OUR FUTURE



NELSON'S SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

Issue No 6 September 2011

So here it is.... You came to the workshops, you gave us feedback – this is what we've come up with so far. This vision represents so many different voices, and no doubt there will be more to come. First and foremost though we want to say well done and thank you for helping the process get this far!

Do you share the vision?

Hundreds of people have told us what a sustainable Nelson looks like in 2060 (from a range of community, school, business and Mayoral Taskforce workshops) and we'd like to know if you agree. Read our vision and tell us if it sounds like the kind of place you, your friends and your family would want to live in 50 years time. We'll use the final vision to develop Nelson City Council's Sustainability Strategy – the blueprint for guiding our community towards a more sustainable future.

The vision is about where we want to be in the future. When reading it, it is important to keep your mind firmly planted in 2060 – either on behalf of yourself or future generations

Please read on for the full vision. You can also see it on the Council website, www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz or collect a copy from the Council office or libraries.

Nelson 2060 – The Vision

Nelson 2060 is a city whose diverse residents connect easily to each other and to the place we call home. Warm and richly interconnected natural and community systems enable our unique approach to living that is boldly creative, ecologically exemplary, efficient, socially balanced and economically successful.

Our naturally beautiful, sun-filled location, combined with the high level of environmental connection by our people, the city's participatory local governance style and ecologically sound people-focused urban design, and a

deliberate policy of stimulating the economy based on natural science technologies, stand behind Nelson's proud status as New Zealand's Solar Capital.

Theme 1. A sustainable city of beauty and connectivity

Naku te rourou, nau te rourou, ka ora nga tangata katoa

With your basket and my basket, the people will be well

Urban design:

Nelson 2060 has implemented sustainable development principles to create a beautiful city that is purposefully designed to balance social equity, liveability, ecological health and economic prosperity.

People-focused urban development is thoughtfully managed to realise a compact, mixed use city that has strong local centres, develops along the main public transport arteries and gives preference to inner-city development over growth on its outskirts. Thriving local community centres are empowered by their strong sense of interconnectedness, and by Nelson's nationally recognised commitment to localised renewable energy technologies as Solar Capital of New Zealand.

An affordable range of well designed housing is built around community gardens; primary food production for and by local communities is a part of life, as is respectful resource use focused on reduced consumption, reuse and waste minimisation.

The central city is a vibrant, attractive place in which people live, work and play. Quality open spaces are important factors in the cultural, historical and aesthetic identity of Nelson. Hubs throughout the city are lively gathering places that hum with pride in "our place" and a sense of belonging.

Transport and utilities:

We have vastly reduced our reliance on fossil fuels. Our approach to planning actively promotes and supports environmentally light travel (on foot, by bicycle and local public transport). Nelson's energy efficient transport network is well connected regionally and nationally, while locally, green corridors connect the inner city to the city fringes. Safe cycling routes run between schools and homes. Goods and services are within walking distance, and housing centres are further linked by public transit to local jobs.

Our city's core services are delivered efficiently and effectively: sustainable local energy, water, food, transit options, waste and comprehensive risk management drive our smart, adaptive planning. Distributed city programmes for small scale, neighbourhood based power, water and waste systems are integrated with household systems that are energy and water efficient.

Resilience:

We are resilient and self-sufficient, as are the natural ecosystems that we are intrinsically woven to. Understanding the interdependence of all the ecosystem systems, and having confidence in our ability to create and manage adequate, affordable and adaptive built systems, has secured Nelson 2060 as a liveable, complete community, supporting social and built networks that enhance quality of life for all.

We are more reliant on our own strengths and capabilities than on those outside our region, and we continue to plan effectively to secure our desired future. Our resiliency brings us tangible benefits: preferences of cycling and walking enhance and enable the people-connections we highly value; consuming healthy, locally grown produce, and our active lifestyle, has contributed to the vast reduction in lifestyle related diseases; our choice to move to renewable fuels has helped to give us the lowest carbon footprint in the country.

Theme 2. Outstanding lifestyles, immersed in nature and strong communities

He aha nga mea o te ao, he tangata, he tangata, he tangata

What is important, the people, the people, the people

Connected with our natural environment:

Nelson 2060 is indisputably a beautiful place to live; a place where simple pleasures are as easy to access as reaching out a hand to touch the beauty of our environment. Nelson is celebrated as the gateway to a greater region richly endowed with an abundance of vibrant natural environments. These places teem with native plants and animals, and anywhere we are, there is easy access to active lifestyle choices and recreation opportunities that ground us in ourselves, each other and our place.

We wholeheartedly embrace those opportunities and surroundings that spill into our built areas: we exercise and rest in our city along river corridors rich in biodiversity. We delight in sharing our city with birdsong and green spaces. The coast and the mauri (spirit) of our marine waters wrap around our built edges.

We are proud of Nelson's reputation as a champion of natural advantages and environmental worthiness. Our stewardship of, and engagement with, this beautiful and unique regional environment has ensured that the range and diversity of naturally functioning ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity is enhanced, safeguarded and valued as natural taonga.

Connected with each other:

This is a city whose citizens connect to and value each other and the fabric of the place we call home. A deep sense of integrity bonds and engages the old

and young, Maori and global cultures, diverse interests and eclectic backgrounds into one community. Nelson's warmth and care invites all to participate.

The creative heart of the city is sustained by nurturing its arts talent, valuing its heritage and supporting community cultural aspirations. This wide ranging diversity contributes to a full portfolio of opportunities in the fields of art, music, literature, active recreation and sport, heritage and learning. Accessible and adaptable social and recreational facilities and services abound; Nelson is renowned for its local festivals and celebrations.

Nelson has long been recognised internationally as being a safe place to live. Vibrant cooperative networks have secured social equity and resilience. People commit to this community, assured that all have access to adequate income, healthy housing and safe, vibrant lifestyles of distinction.

Theme 3. Economy and knowledge

Te wahie ka whāia mō takurua, te kai ka mahia mōtau

*Employ one's time and energies most effectively
as the firewood is sought in winter and food is worked for all year round*

The importance we place on interaction and participation, and an appreciation for the role culture and creativity play in the process of happily living and learning together, provide the perfect conditions for entrepreneurial and learning excellence. Nelson's deliberate policy of fostering sustainable environmental and natural technologies has given the city a decisive edge in an internationally competitive environment and has done much to enhance its appeal and quality of life.

The environment and the economy are not antagonists here. For Nelson, as New Zealand's Solar Capital, sustainability is not simply a matter of ambitious environment and social protection concepts. Instead, it is seen as the springboard for positive developments in the economy, education and science. Nelson 2060 has developed strengths in the fields of research into, and the marketing of, renewable energy technologies. Private and state research excel; a centre of natural science excellence has been established and acts, with the research hub around the enduring Cawthron Institute, as a centre of gravity surrounded by hundreds of spin-off companies, service providers and organisations. Nelson's businesses understand and actively pursue business models built on sustainable development. New food production technologies have enhanced and extended our food security. Industry sectors such as agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture and technology are benefiting from the continued upsurge in the solar economy. Aquaculture within a clean, healthy and resilient coastal ecosystem is a key industry. Cultural tourism and local retail are flourishing.

Nelson's approach to life, its lifestyle, culture and creativity attracts entrepreneurs, stretch thinkers and investors from across the globe. Education, training and employment options attract young people to Nelson, and they stay. Nelson's businesses attract and keep talent. The local education sector has embedded sustainable development and participatory governance education in schools. This ensures that our population continues to develop, creating ideal conditions for the city's social balance and economic success.

Theme 4. Leadership and partnership

Ko koe ki tēnā, ko ahau ki tēnei kīwai o te kete

You at that and I at this handle of the basket

Nelson's local leadership approach is founded on the principles of kaitiakitanga (guardianship), partnership and intergenerational responsibility. This city works forward in a cooperative, participatory manner—Nelson 2060 is a living example of sustainable practice in action, and is nationally influential as an exemplar sustainable community.

Our commitment to inclusive governance has seen it stand out as an enabling, learning leader across economic, environmental and social domains. We use and strengthen this advantage and build expertise in our partnerships under the Treaty of Waitangi principles and responsibilities.

The city is renowned as a centre of community innovation; together we tackle increasingly interconnected social and environmental and economic issues in thoroughly engaging ways. The imagination and inventiveness of citizens, experts and activists is embraced in collaborative efforts that make us increasingly more inclusive, innovative and interactive.

Give us your thoughts

Do you think this vision is a good starting point to develop a draft sustainability strategy? This draft Strategy will be released for formal public consultation before it can be adopted, and will identify some of the actions and decisions that will need to be taken in the future to move our city towards our vision for it.

What next?

Please read the vision, think about the place it describes and give us your feedback by 21 October 2011. When final vision is approved, it will become the blue print for the draft sustainability strategy, and will also inform the Council's long term planning.

Here are some particular questions you might want to think about:

- Does this vision of Nelson create a place that you and your family would choose to live in?
- Does this vision successfully unite people; the economy; the environment and culture in a common future?
- What do you like best in this vision?
- What do you like the least in this vision?
- Are there any broad themes that are missing?

Please send your feedback on these and any other thoughts on the vision in an email (to sustainability@ncc.govt.nz), in writing (to PO Box 645, Nelson) or you can complete an online feedback form here -

<http://www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz/feedback-on-framing-our-future-vision/>

Please call our Sustainability Adviser on 03 546 0339 if you need more information. Remember we'd love to hear from you by 21 October 2011.

Contact us

For more information on the Framing our Future process contact:

Karen Lee – Sustainability Adviser

Phone 546 0339 or email Karen.lee@ncc.govt.nz.

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