



S O U T H L A N D

SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS NETWORK

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In this issue...

Welcome	1
SSBN Website	2
Quarterly Newsletter	2
From the Editor	3
Local scene	4
Quick Steps for Sustainability	4
EnviroSmart	4
Sustainable Tourism Project	5
Business 'waste' exchange in Southland	5
Events	6
Contact us	6

Welcome...

to the Southland Sustainable Business Network!

It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that we welcome all participating businesses to the newly created Southland Sustainable Business Network (SSBN).

Our mission is to **connect** businesses with what they need to become more sustainable.

The Network is a newborn addition to the growing stable of sustainable offerings in Southland, and is a project led by Environment Southland. We will continue to develop and improve over time with the feedback and contributions of members.

Sustainability is both an **opportunity** and a **challenge**, and one of the largest issues that businesses currently face.

The SSBN provides a forum for interested businesses to be informed about news, events, programmes and opportunities in sustainability. Through the network, you can also share information and experiences with others who are meeting similar challenges.

SSBN Website...

<http://www.ssbns.org.nz>

Our website **connects** businesses to a range of relevant resources under one roof.

Check out our newly launched SSBN website for a range of information and resources that will help your business to take steps towards sustainability.

The website features:

- News – keep informed about what's new
- Resources – sustainability tools and guidelines
- Events – upcoming events in Southland
- Case studies - see what other Southland businesses are doing
- Tools - tools and calculators for saving energy, water and reducing waste
- Tips - practical actions your business can take
- Members – lists the members of SSBN
- Contacts - people who can assist your business and answer your questions
- Links – a list of useful websites

Quarterly Newsletter...

Members of the SSBN will receive this e-newsletter quarterly, keeping you up-to-date with what's going on in the world of business sustainability in Southland.

If you have anything you want to include or promote within the newsletter, please email Carolyn at futuregenz@gmail.com

From the Editor

Howdy from the wild west of Alberta, Canada, and the Calgary Stampede!

Although I'm on the other side of the globe, sustainability knows no boundaries. In fact, an international perspective can be essential to improving your grasp on what is a highly complex topic.

You see, deciding what is 'sustainable' seems to all depend on your perspective. To illustrate, imagine my surprise to see the 'Adopt-a-Ferret' float in the Stampede parade the other week. As this group of committed campaigners for rodent quality of life passed by, I thought back to the many individuals and organisations in New Zealand who work with an equal passion to eradicate this pesky rodent, and his stoat mates. But the call in Alberta goes out, to all fair-minded people - help save ferrets from mistreatment by adopting them as pets!

Like Doctors, sustainability experts are often called upon to diagnose the 'best' action to take. Frustratingly, the best answer is usually "it depends..."

Yes, energy efficient lightbulbs use about 10% of the energy of an incandescent bulb, but what about the effect of more mercury in the environment? Or the energy needed to recycle them safely? Or the increase in waste from perfectly good incandescent bulbs being replaced? The 'best' option to take all depends on your perspective.

So, yes, sustainability can be an inexact science, but I think Atticus Finch in 'To Kill A Mockingbird' had the right idea when he said something like,

Good people do the best they can with the sense they've got.

Something we can all remember as we do our best to become more sustainable in an imperfect world.

Bye for now!

Carolyn Dean
SSBN Manager

Local Scene...

Congratulations to the latest 10 businesses that have joined in the Quick Steps programme. This is the third time that a group of 10 businesses have been through the process, and, after a very nice breakfast on 20th June, we now eagerly await the revisits in November, to check their progress over the last 5 months.

The businesses participating in this round are Phoenix Services, McLoughlin Consulting, EIS Electrical, Lazybones Café and Gifts, Muirs Radiators, Radio Works Southland, Southland Building Society, Trevor Daley Music Works, Zookeepers and Front-Line Training Consultancy and Kiwi Host Southland & Southern Lakes.

Quick Steps

Background Information:

Quick Steps is a free sustainability programme for small to medium-sized businesses. Businesses receive a site assessment and a report of actions they can take to be more resource efficient, sustainable and save money. Participants attend a networking breakfast and receive a certificate for participation, which is upgraded to a certificate for action for any actions they take. For more information, contact Gretchen Ledington at Environment Southland, phone 03 2115 115.

EnviroSmart

Six participants have been working through the EnviroSmart programme for the past 12 months, working through environmental accreditation against Health and Safety and Environmental legal compliance and Environmental Management Systems (EMS).

Congratulations to Craigs Print and Design and NES Electrical for achieving Bronze and Silver level of EnviroMark, and Placemakers for achieving Bronze level.

Works Infrastructure are well on the way to achieving all the levels of EnviroMark (up to Diamond) and Quality Foods Southland have also made good progress towards Bronze and Silver and benefited from the process.

For information on EnviroMark accreditation, visit www.landcareresearch.co.nz/services/sustainablesoc/enviromark

Sustainable Tourism Project

Angela Halliday from Venture Southland is off to the UK and Karyn Owen has taken over the reins of the Sustainable Tourism Project in Southland. For the final round of this project, Karyn has recruited 7 businesses who will be guided through the process to becoming more sustainable across environmental, social and cultural aspects.

Business 'Waste' Exchange in Southland

A unique service is now available to help Southland groups and businesses connect their unwanted materials and recyclables with new owners.

The waste exchange provides a web and phone-based forum that allows users to list their unwanted materials, and search for resources that they need.

The waste exchange will help businesses to find alternatives to landfilling materials, save money on disposal costs and support community groups and schools, who benefit by sourcing free materials.

For more information, or to register materials, contact:

TerraNova

Jim Forsman, ph (03) 336 0063
Email jforsman@terranova.org.nz
www.terranova.org.nz

WasteNet Southland

Donna Peterson, ph (03) 211 1706
Email donna.peterson@icc.govt.nz

Wanted: Contributors for Southland Wastebusters newspaper column.

If you would like to have your business profiled in the Busting Waste column in the Southland Times every Thursday, contact Carolyn – futuregenz@gmail.com

Events...

Upcoming events that your business may like to be involved in:

KNZB Clean Up Week

5-12 September 2008

www.knzb.org.nz/cleanup/2008/

Conservation Week

7-14 September 2008

www.doc.govt.nz/conservationweek

Enterprise Training Workshops – Sustainability

November 2008

For information, or to register, contact Alistair Adam, Venture Southland, phone 2111 400, email

Alistair@venturesouthland.co.nz

Contact Us...

If you have anything you want to contribute, or would like to find out more information, email Carolyn at futuregenz@gmail.com