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Left any lights on upstairs? Think Global, Act Local!



The DCC has been recognised by the Ministry for the Environment for its commitment to implementing initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the city.

Since the DCC signed up to 'Communities for Climate Protection', a programme supporting councils in cutting greenhouse gas emissions in their activities and communities, it has completed the first of five milestones required to lower our citywide CO2 footprint. The greenhouse gas emissions inventory, analysis and forecast, is complete and details almost 815,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions from the whole community, and over 11,000 tonnes from the DCC itself.

To combat the city's CO2 levels, the DCC has been running brainstorming sessions, which have already revealed significant ways of potential energy savings in the DCC's buildings, vehicle fleet, and employee commuting. Ideas to eradicate gas emissions caused by water/sewage, waste and streetlights will also be challenging staff members over the next few months.

Next, the DCC will work with the wider community to make changes. Simple things, like installing low-flow showerheads and minimising the number of streetlights, can hugely reduce the level of CO2 in the city. We can all make small steps – switching off lights, turning off the tap while brushing your teeth, or car-pooling will all reduce our citywide CO2 output.

Jim Harland, DCC Chief Executive.

Middle Beach Update

The management plan for Middle Beach is in place, with extra sand stored at the St Clair end, the Reno mattress installed and covered and the sand sausages safely back under cover. Recent tides have also co-operated by washing sand back onto the beach, helping to dissipate waves energy. The cost of repairs so far is approximately \$650,000.

A Million Trees in 2007

Trees for Survival has embraced the Billion Trees Campaign being promoted by the United Nations Environment Programme, pledging to plant a million trees in 2007 and the Dunedin City Council is playing its part, pledging to plant 11,000 trees this year.

The approximately fifty trees to be planted in the next few weeks, as part of the usual annual street tree planting project, will be included, as will plantings in the Town Belt and around coastal areas. This year, the trees being planted around the suburbs are mostly of the genus Prunus (flowering plum), but include crabapples, pin oaks, lime (linden), kowhai and silver birch.

If you would like to make your own pledge or just follow the progress of the campaign, visit <http://tfsnz.org.nz/billiontrees.cfm#Organisation>.

Three Mile Hill Road Closed for Three Months

Three Mile Hill Road's major upgrade is scheduled to start Monday 27 August, entailing full road closures for a period of three months. The road will be reopened on 1 December, whether the work is completed or not

With over 100 letters sent out, and advertising in local papers, the public seem to have accepted the work needs to be done. Several alternative routes for Taieri commuters, including Riccarton Road and Allanton Road, have been suggested.

The 2.6km stretch of road has a poor crash history and an estimated traffic flow of 3,500 vehicles per day. Work to address these issues, including significant earthworks, tree felling, road widening, new guardrail installation, drainage improvements and easing of corners, comes with a budget of \$1.2million.

Life Made Easy for Dunedin's Tourism Operators

The Dunedin i-Site Visitor Centre (VC) has joined 65 other visitor centres throughout the country in using a new computer system, IBIS.

IBIS replaces Vincent, the former system used by the team at the Dunedin VC. IBIS is a Queenstown company that develops systems for tourism operators throughout the country. The system allows any operator using IBIS to locate the information they need from other operators, without the need for phone-calls between the many operators.

Already, 75% of all Queenstown adventure operators use the system, as well as 65 of the 88 i-Sites throughout New Zealand.

Visitor Centre Manager, Louise Van De Vlierd, says the advanced functionality of the system makes life a bit easier for Dunedin's operators.

"IBIS does a lot of things our operators had to do manually – ticketing, especially with big groups wanting to go on tours, is now much faster, and the system means there is always financial accuracy with every transaction."

Trainers from IBIS worked closely with operators from the VC for two days to train them on the new system.

Tertiary Sector Development

The DCC is working closely with the University of Otago (including the Dunedin College of Education) and Otago Polytechnic to support the growth of the tertiary sector as one of our "vital industries".

The overall mission is: "To contribute to the creation of a quality, sustainable campus environment and a vibrant tertiary quarter, ensuring Dunedin's place as the Education capital of New Zealand."

Two workshops this week, will provide opportunities for key stakeholders and other affected parties, including students, residents, businesses and other interest groups to discuss and prioritise key issues and develop an action plan. The five issues identified by the Steering and Planning groups are development opportunities, housing, transportation, campus environment, facilities, amenities and open space, and infrastructure and information technology.

The workshops are one way the tertiary institutions and the DCC are working together to ensure activity and resources are co-ordinated and focused on the right areas to maximise value and impact for Dunedin's tertiary sector.