

Wellington Regional Council Water Group Environmental Management System : Draft Objectives and Targets

1. Legal Compliance

Policy

Comply with all relevant laws and standards to which the Wellington Regional Council subscribes.

Objectives

- 1.1 *Be aware of all legislation, regulations, bylaws and standards that are relevant to the environmental performance of The Water Group.*

Targets

- 1.1.1 Compile a record of all current legislation, regulations and local authority bylaws pertaining to environmental issues by 31 December 1999.
- 1.1.2 Establish a mechanism that monitors new legislation, regulations and local authority bylaws, and identifies those with environmental implications, by 31 December 1999.
- 1.1.3 Compile by 31 December 1999, and maintain, a file of all resource consents issued to The Water Group.
- 1.1.4 Compile by 31 December 1999 and maintain a file of all permitted activity rules relevant to The Water Group's activities.

- 1.2 *Comply with all legislation, regulations, bylaws and standards that are relevant to the environmental performance of The Water Group.*

Targets

- 1.2.1 Obtain all necessary resource consents and building permits for new work or changes to the operation of the system.
- 1.2.2 Obtain and keep up-to-date all necessary trade waste permits.
- 1.2.3 Obtain and keep up-to-date all necessary dangerous goods licences.
- 1.2.4 Keep all Building Warrants of Fitness up-to-date.

- 1.2.5 Ensure that all chemical management activities comply with applicable hazardous substance legislation.
- 1.2.6 Ensure that noise emissions from wholesale water facilities meet the requirements of the relevant territorial authority by 31 December 2002.
- 1.3 *Demonstrate compliance with all legislation, regulations, bylaws and standards that are relevant to the environmental performance of The Water Group.*

Targets

- 1.3.1 Demonstrate compliance with all resource consents.
- 1.3.2 Carry out and report all monitoring required by resource consents annually, or to timeframes required by consent conditions.
- 1.3.3 Carry out and report all monitoring required by hazardous substance legislation, where matters are not covered by a resource consent.

2. Environmental Risks

Policy

Evaluate the environmental effects and risks of all activities, and adopt all reasonable means, including consideration of alternatives, to eliminate, remedy or mitigate these effects.

Objectives

- 2.1 *Identify all activities with environmental impacts and assess the significance of these impacts.*

Target

- 2.2.1 Adopt a systematic procedure for identifying activities that have environmental impacts and establish the relative significance of each by 31 December 1999.
- 2.2 *Investigate, and adopt where reasonable, alternative practices or methods which will reduce the environmental impact of an activity.*

Target

- 2.2.1 Adopt policies, procedures and practices to eliminate environmental risk if practicable, or to reduce it to an acceptable level.

- 2.3 *For new projects or activities, consider environmental aspects when choosing between alternatives.*

Targets

- 2.3.1 All capital project briefs will include a requirement to examine environmental effects and, where practicable, consider alternatives with lesser effects, beginning 1 October 1999.
- 2.3.2 Options reports, feasibility reports and design reports for all capital project initiated after 1 October 1999 shall include consideration of environmental effects, including their avoidance or mitigation.
- 2.3.3 Before any significant changes to operational procedures or work methods are adopted, potential environmental effects shall be considered, and any of significance avoided or mitigated.

3. Pollution Prevention

Policy

Prevent pollution of the environment. Wastes will be treated and disposed of in a safe manner. Where practicable, waste will be reduced through the use of alternative processes, reuse, recycling or conversion to by-products.

Objectives

- 3.1 *Adopt all practicable means to prevent pollution of the environment.*

Targets

- 3.1.1 Review chemical spill control facilities to ensure that the risk of uncontrolled chemical spills is minimal by 30 June 2000.
- 3.1.2 Eliminate accidental discharges of substances with the potential to harm the environment to acceptable levels by 31 December 2000.
- 3.1.3 Make application for a consent to enable discharge of Wainuiomata Water Treatment Plant supernatant into the Wainuiomata River by 31 December 1999.

- 3.2 *Treat and dispose of wastes in an environmentally safe manner.*

Targets

- 3.2.1 Comply with Trade Waste Permit conditions.
- 3.2.2 Comply with the requirements of all discharge consents.
- 3.2.3 Dispose of sludge and other solid waste to a properly consented landfill or in some other environmentally safe manner.

3.2.4 Dispose of liquid waste in an environmentally safe manner.

3.3 *Adopt policies, procedures and practices that will reduce waste.*

Targets

3.3.1 Optimise the performance of water treatment processes to reduce the volume of sludge produced by 30 June 2000.

4. Renewable Resources

Policy

Recognise and operate within the natural limits of natural resources, particularly water.

Objectives

4.1 *Recognise the natural limits of regional water resources.*

Targets

4.1.1 Complete large-scale pump testing of the Waiwhetu aquifer by 30 June 2000.

4.1.2 Maintain the minimum river flows set out in the Regional Freshwater Plan for the Wellington Region, except in cases of extreme emergency; beginning no later than 1 October 2001.

4.1.3 Promote water conservation by an annual summer campaign to provide information about the need to conserve water and encourage customer territorial authorities to do likewise.

4.1.4 Promote, and provide annual funding for appropriate leak detection activities by the four customer authorities.

4.1.5 Upgrade selected system water meters to increase the accuracy of flow measurement and improve the reliability of Unaccounted for Water estimates.

4.2 *Minimise energy use.*

Targets

4.2.1 Reduce power consumption per megalitre of water produced by 3 percent by 31 December 2004, after taking account of increased power consumption required to satisfy the requirements of new resource consents.

4.2.2 Review the power factor at each point of significant electricity consumption and, if practicable and warranted, install power factor

correction.

4.2.3 Reduce power use during coincident charge hours.

4.2.4 Adopt the use of energy efficient products and equipment, where practicable and economic.

5. Ecological Damage

Policy

Aim for no net loss of significant habitats and ecosystems.

Objectives

5.1 *Prevent damage to significant habitats and ecosystems.*

Targets

5.1.1 Recognise the need to maintain appropriate minimum flows and, as far as practicable, natural flow variation in watercourses below points of abstraction, beginning 1 October 2001.

5.1.2 Avoid damage to significant ecosystems by new capital works or, if this is unavoidable, mitigate the damage by establishing, if practicable, equivalent replacement ecosystems.

6. Business Decisions

Policy

Consider the environmental implications of business decisions.

Objective

6.1 All recommendations made by the Utility Services Committee involving investment or the use of natural resources shall include consideration of environmental impacts.

Targets

6.1.1 All reports to the Utility Services Committee proposing investment or use of physical resources shall address the environmental aspects of the proposal, including any practicable alternative courses of action; beginning 1 January 2000.

7. Training

Policy

Ensure that all staff members are aware of the environmental performance of The Water Group and of the environmental implications of the activities they undertake.

Objective

7.1 *Achieve environmental awareness in all Water Group staff.*

Target

7.1.1 Provide initial training for all Water Group staff in environmental awareness and the Environmental Management System by 31 December 1999.

7.2 *Ensure that all staff whose actions have potential environmental impacts, understand that potential.*

Targets

7.2.1 Provide specific training to staff whose actions have potential environmental impacts, to ensure they understand those potential impacts and their significance, and are equipped to eliminate or mitigate any impact. Beginning 15 November 1999 and ongoing.

7.2.2 Establish a database to record all environmental training events by 31 December 1999.

8. Contractors and Suppliers

Policy

Specify the environmental requirements to be met by third parties engaged by The Water Group and, where practicable, include consideration of environmental performance in the assessment of contractors and suppliers.

Objective

8.1 *Ensure that third parties engaged by The Water Group are aware of environmental matters or concerns associated with the work they are engaged to do.*

Target

8.1.1 All formally documented works and supply contracts shall include any applicable environmental requirements, beginning 1 January 2000.

8.2 *Where practicable, the environmental performance of a contractor or suppliers shall be taken into account in the assessment of tenders.*

Target

- 8.2.1 From 1 January 2000, include environmental performance as an attribute when assessing tenders for major works or supply contracts by the weighted attribute method.

9. Stakeholder Reporting

Policy

Report annually on the environmental performance of The Water Group.

Objective

- 9.1 *Report annually on resource consent compliance.*

Target

- 9.1.1 Prepare an annual report for the year ending 30 June, demonstrating compliance with all resource consents by 30 November each year, beginning 2000.

- 9.2 *Report annually on the environmental performance of The Water Group.*

Target

- 9.2.1 Prepare an annual report for the year ending 30 June on the environmental performance of The Water Group by 30 November each year, beginning 2000.