

# Te Awamutu Sustainability Champions 2014/15



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## FOREWORD

The Te Awamutu Chamber of Commerce, Waipa District Council and Waikato Regional Council are thrilled to be working together to deliver initiatives in business sustainability.

We see sustainable business practice as a key to success, and a real way forward for local businesses. Not only does it make sound financial sense, there are also positive social and environmental impacts that business leaders have made, and continue to make.

In this edition we celebrate the Sustainability Champion Award winners, who have made sustainability part of the culture in their businesses. The initiatives range from the small (encouraging customers to bring their own shopping bag) to the spectacular (one business installing solar power, and another replacing all its lighting with energy efficient bulbs).

The key is that they are all doing something and everything counts – no matter how simple or complex it might be.



Susan Trodden, CEO Te Awamutu Chamber of Commerce



Garry Dyet, CEO Waipa District Council



Vaughan Payne, CEO Waikato Regional Council





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## BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY

Across Aotearoa New Zealand there are a growing number of businesses incorporating environmental and social considerations into their operations and strategies. Both business owners and staff are recognising the benefits of engaging in sustainable and responsible practices, which include:

- cost savings and improvements to financial performance
- developing stronger relationships with customers and suppliers
- increasing competitiveness (and in the long term remaining competitive)
- lessening negative environmental impacts on their local and wider community.

Partnering with the Waikato Regional Council and Waipa District Council, the Te Awamutu Chamber of Commerce has developed the **LINK Sustainability** programme. **LINK Sustainability** offers training, support and advocacy for all businesses in Te Awamutu wishing to increase their sustainability. As well as running a number of lectures and workshops, there is also the monthly **Sustainability Champion Award**, recognising excellence and innovation in sustainability initiatives carried out by businesses in Te Awamutu.

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## WORKING ON SUSTAINABILITY

During the 2014/15 year two workshops were held to inspire businesses to introduce sustainability practices.

The first workshop was led by Waikato Regional Council's business and corporate sustainability advisor, Anna D'Arcy, in November 2014. Her workshop, pictured below, focused on 'Business Sustainability in the Waipa: the what, the how and the why'.

In the July 2015 workshop, international marketer Kath Dewar (GoodSense) provided must-have insights to sell sustainable business efforts. During the workshop she showed how brands telling good sustainability stories sell more, command higher prices and are more attractive to employees.



# Sustainability Champion Awards

Since October 2014, **Sustainability Champion Awards** have been won monthly, with winning businesses all exhibiting commitment to various and differing sustainability initiatives. Here are their stories.

## WINNER OCTOBER 2014: DE LAUTOURS.CO



de Lautours.co won the Sustainability Champion Award for their commitment to renewable energy. Early in 2014, they installed a solar panel array on their roof to become

more self-sufficient regarding their electricity usage. As a result of their decision to generate their own solar power, they have dramatically reduced their power bills, decreased their carbon dioxide emissions, and are even able to feed renewable energy back into the grid.

*“ Investing in a solar system is huge. To me, it indicates de Lautours.co understand that being more sustainable is beneficial for businesses in the long run, even if certain initiatives require considerable outright investment. But de Lautours.co also realise the benefits of simple and smaller-scale changes, such as reducing their waste sent to landfill by recycling, and moving towards electronic document storage systems to reduce paper consumption.”*

*Camilla Carty-Melis, Sustainability Specialist.*

de Lautours.co is an accounting firm that works closely with clients and supports them in identifying and then working towards achieving their financial goals. They are located at 182 Teasdale Street and can be contacted on 07 872 0566.



Susan Trodden CEO Te Awamutu Chamber of Commerce and Craig Yarndley Owner and Principal of de Lautours.co

## WINNER NOVEMBER 2014: MUZ'S BIN INN



Muz's Bin Inn has integrated waste minimisation into their core business

philosophy. They offer a wide range of foodstuffs and household products in bulk, giving customers an option to purchase goods that are associated with much less waste than their pre-packaged alternatives. Small bags are available, but at Muz's Bin Inn customers are encouraged to bring their own bags and packaging, not only reducing waste generation but also lowering costs to the business and therefore its customers.

*"I am encouraged to bring ALL my own packaging and packing. That's part of the reason I love shopping there. I also love the wide range of planet friendly organic products. That list of groceries seems to be growing every time I visit."*

*Customer at Muz's Bin Inn.*

Bin Inn is a retail brand selling quality wholefoods and speciality grocery items. You can find Muz's Bin Inn at shop 13 of the Warehouse Shopping Complex, 170 George Street – contact them on 07 870 1218.

*Hope Williams, Waste Minimisation Advisor, Waipa District Council,  
Susan Trodden, CEO Te Awamutu Chamber of Commerce,  
Murray Shaw, Owner of Muz's Bin Inn, Anna D'Arcy, Business and  
Corporate Sustainability Advisor, Waikato Regional Council.*



## WINNER DECEMBER 2014: GALLIE MILES



Gallie Miles is working towards having a paperless office and won the Sustainability Champion Award for their achievements in reducing paper consumption. While carefully reviewing their use of paper over 12 months, they implemented a paper management system made up of a number of components and strategies. First, they committed to reusing all paper where possible. They then adopted systems to enable electronic review of documents, significantly reducing the volume of paper used for drafts. They have now also implemented an electronic filing system and have a goal of managing all client files electronically by the end of 2015.

Their comprehensive evaluation of paper use and requirements led them to discover innovative new ways of operating – from installing dual computer screens to aid in document review, to experimenting with standing desks for easy on-screen reading. Staff are excited about the challenge of running a paperless office and the business has already made cost savings due to more efficient paper use.

*"Gallie Miles is committed to reducing and potentially eliminating our use of paper resources – no mean feat for a law office! Long term we see ourselves having a fully paperless office with client intranet, remote work spaces and a smaller overall footprint."*

*Sue Garmonsway, Senior Associate at Gallie Miles.*

Gallie Miles is a law firm specialising in commercial and rural affairs. They are located on 53 Mutu Street and can be reached by calling 07 872 0560.

# Sustainability Champion Awards

## WINNER JANUARY 2015: MCDONALD'S



Investing \$10,000 into LED lighting and \$45,000 into more efficient fryers, the McDonald's in Te Awamutu is well-deserving of the Sustainability Champion Award

for showing leadership in energy efficiency.

By switching to energy-saving alternatives and creating a 'start-up schedule' for their cooking equipment, they are set to make savings of approximately \$12,000 per year. These savings will increase as they replace their street signage and remaining indoor lights with LED.

*"We are interested in finding ideas that save money or are good for customers, even if they cost money."*

*Tony Rowland, Managing Director at McDonald's in Te Awamutu.*

The McDonald's in Te Awamutu is located on 35 Sloane Street and can be contacted by calling 07 870 2044.

## WINNER FEBRUARY 2015: SHABBY CHIC



The principle of 'reduce, reuse, recycle' is incorporated into Shabby Chic's core business practices. The retail shop sells pre-loved clothing and accessories, which

fundamentally have a lower environmental impact than new clothing. But in addition to this, there are a number of other activities taking place that make the business more environmentally sustainable: tags, string and other resources are reused, customers are offered their purchases in bags made from recycled paper, journey planning is used to source supplies so trips are minimal and multipurpose, and the doors are kept closed when the heating is on to increase heating efficiency.

Shabby Chic is a retail shop selling unique, vintage and designer second hand clothing. It is located at 322 Alexandra Street.



*Susan Trodden, CEO Te Awamutu Chamber of Commerce and Councilor Stuart Kneebone, Waikato Regional Council, Ange and Tony Rowland, Managing Directors at McDonald's in Te Awamutu.*





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## WINNER MARCH 2015: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RESTORE



ReStore won the Sustainability Champion Award for its contribution to the community and mission of increasing social sustainability. With projects taking place in both Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally, Habitat for Humanity works with families to ensure they are living safely and healthily in their homes. ReStore is a second hand shop whose profits help fund Habitat for Humanity projects.

*“ Moving into our Habitat home has given us stability and peace of mind. Our children can always come back to their home and know there will always be someone there. We are not constantly moving around. It just means peace.”*

*Dornan family, Hamilton.*

ReStore in Te Awamutu is also working to minimise environmental impacts by discouraging customers from using plastic bags, and following a 100 per cent recycling policy for their clothing donations with items that are not resalable being turned into rags. To support their work, go to [www.habitat.org.nz](http://www.habitat.org.nz) or visit them at 240 Sloane Street.

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## WINNER APRIL 2015: MATARIKI MOTOR LODGE



Matariki Motor Lodge won the Sustainability Champion Award for their excellent water management practices. As well as collecting their own rainwater for washing linen and other laundry, they have a number of practices in place to ensure this limited resource is not wasted. These practices include giving guests the option to not have their towels washed every day, washing bed linen every 3 days (as opposed to daily) for their long stayers, and using water-efficient front-load washers to clean their laundry. Their next goal is to shift to only using 100 per cent biodegradable cleaning products, to avoid damage to local water quality.

*“ Capacities to process both freshwater and wastewater are limited in Te Awamutu, but water is a resource we often take for granted. It is great to see a business that is considering their use of this resource so carefully.”*

*Simon Gascoigne, Waikato Environment Centre.*

Matariki Motor Lodge is at 425 Kihikihi Road and can be contacted on 0800 4 MATARIKI (0800 4 62827454).

# Sustainability Champion Awards



## WINNER MAY 2015: Z ENERGY

Z Energy was awarded the Sustainability Champion title for embedding the principle of 'use less, waste less' into their operational processes, allowing them to reduce energy demands and outgoing waste streams. Across their retail network they have succeeded in using 10 per cent less electricity and 50 per cent less water, and sending 70 per cent less waste to landfill. Z Energy also has tools available so staff and customers can help them reduce their carbon dioxide emissions. In addition to their environmental sustainability initiatives, the



*Z Te Awamutu staff member Jamie Taylor, site leader Steve Comber, Susan Trodden, CEO Te Awamutu Chamber of Commerce, and staff member Ruwai Heke*

Z Energy in Te Awamutu is also working within the community and has already given away \$5000 to local charities and organisations as part of the 'Good in the Hood' programme.

Z Energy is a transport energy company that is investing in new technologies and researching alternative fuels.

They can be found at Rosetown, 451 Alexandra Street, phone 07 871 7335 and Z Te Awamutu, 601 Sloane Street, phone 07 871 2030.

## WINNER JUNE 2015: ROADING TEAM, WAIPA DISTRICT COUNCIL



Waipa District Council's roading team received the Sustainability Champion Award after recycling material from the Alexandra Street Resurfacing Project. As part of the project contractors removed 3240 tonnes of road surface, which was then reused and reworked to create a temporary seal on a previously unsealed section of Jary Road. This project reduced the unsealed portion of Jary Road by 10,600m<sup>2</sup>, thereby providing a smoother ride for road users and reducing the rate and effect of the dust that was accumulating on the unsealed road.



*Left to right is Anna D'Arcy Business and Corporate Sustainability Advisor, Waikato Regional Council, Mayor Jim Mylchreest, Waipa District Council, Paul Strange, Roading Team, Waipa District Council and Susan Trodden, CEO, Te Awamutu Chamber of Commerce.*

Waipa District Council is located at 101 Bank Street and is available by calling 0800 924 723.





Chief Preechavanitvong

## WINNER JULY 2015: THE NOODLE SHOP

The Noodle Shop has kept its carbon footprint and environmental impacts low through sharing resources and using local suppliers. Locally-sourced products are not transported as far, so there are fewer associated emissions. As well as purchasing as many products and as much produce as possible from Te Awamutu and the surrounding area, The Noodle Shop collaborates with another shop to have a shared recycling system, as kerbside recycling is not yet available to businesses. Waste oil and food is also recycled, with a local farmer collecting scraps for his pigs. The Noodle Shop illustrates how even a small business can create links and partnerships with other organisations and individuals in their community, and work together to find mutually beneficial solutions.

The Noodle Shop is a Thai eatery located at 124 Sloane Street. They can be contacted by phoning 07 871 2070.

## SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION OF THE YEAR



Deborah Hamilton receiving their Sustainability Champion Award from Waikato regional councillor, Alan Livingston.

**Matariki Motor Lodge** is the worthy winner of the Sustainability Champion of the Year Award, to recognise their exemplary dedication to sustainability in all their operations. As well as their water management practices which won them the Sustainability Champion Award in April 2015, they have numerous other processes and infrastructure to ensure the environmental impacts of their business are minimal.

To maximise their energy efficiency, Matariki Motor Lodge have installed double-glazed windows and wall insulation, use only low-energy light bulbs, and have energy efficient heat pumps in each room. To minimise their waste generation, on-wall pumps for shampoo and body wash have been installed, resulting in much less plastic and product waste. All waste – including that generated by guests – is separated into landfill and recyclables. Environmental considerations are also a key component of the lodge's purchasing decisions – they buy products that have lower environmental impacts than conventional alternatives.

*"We are delighted to be acknowledged with this award. The practices we have put in place, for example recycling, using rainwater for laundry, and using long-life [light] bulbs have an environmental and economic benefit, and we are always looking to see what else we can do to reduce our ecological footprint."*

*Deborah Hamilton, Matariki Motor Lodge.*

The prize for the Sustainability Champion of the Year is a night at Solscope Eco-Retreat in Raglan. Solscope is a provider of simple and luxury eco-accommodation, and offers many different opportunities for self-development and protection of the natural world. To learn about their work or make a booking, visit [www.solscope.co.nz](http://www.solscope.co.nz).

To nominate a business for the monthly Sustainability Champion Award, please visit [www.teawamutuchamber.org.nz/sustainability-champion-nomination](http://www.teawamutuchamber.org.nz/sustainability-champion-nomination).

# 10 TIPS TO BECOMING A MORE SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS

- 1. List your activities that impact on the environment:** Once environmental impacts are understood, they can be more easily prioritised and managed. Examples are driving, heating, paper, refrigeration, packaging, purchasing.
- 2. Measure, measure and measure your resource use:** If you do nothing else for a year, just measure and get a year's worth of data as a benchmark to improve. Recording and periodically reviewing information about your resource use can allow trends, patterns, inefficiencies and unexplained consumption spikes to be observed. Electricity use, water consumption and waste generation are basic measurables, but monitoring other resources your business uses can also be insightful.
- 3. Reduce waste to landfill:** Sending waste to landfill is associated with large environmental and often financial costs. There are many easy ways to reduce the volume of waste your business sends to landfill.  
For example:
  - install recycling bins to collect recyclable waste
  - decrease the size and number of landfill bins – if recycling is the easier option, it is more likely to occur
  - set up a worm farm or bokashi bin for food and organic waste
  - donate unwanted items to charity or list them on The Waste Exchange website ([www.nothrow.co.nz](http://www.nothrow.co.nz))
  - look at the kinds of items ending up in your waste and see if there are creative ways to reduce or eliminate them from your waste stream (e.g. if cheap disposable pens keep breaking, consider finding a more reliable alternative that does not need to be replaced so frequently).
- 4. Increase energy efficiency:** Increasing energy efficiency is not only beneficial to the environment, it also leads to measurable cost savings. Some simple ways to increase energy efficiency include:
  - switching to energy saving light bulbs
  - switching off electrical appliances when they are not in use
  - avoiding energy waste associated with heating and cooling. e.g. not having heating on and window open, or closing doors to areas that do not need to be heated
  - choosing electrical appliances with Energy Star accreditation.
- 5. Use water carefully:** Clean water is a limited resource and there are numerous ways to reduce water consumption at your workplace. For example, adding water displacement devices, such as filled water bottles, into toilet cisterns can save 3-6 litres per flush, and fixing leaks promptly can save 200 litres per week. Water pollution is also a factor to be considered, but even simple actions such as switching to 'eco' cleaning products can significantly reduce the impacts of your business on the environment.
- 6. Decrease paper consumption:** Moving to electronic storage and communication systems dramatically reduces the volume of paper consumed by most businesses, and also has other benefits such as easier management and oversight. Paper consumption can also be reduced by nearly 50 per cent if printers are set to print double-sided by default. For those businesses already doing this, there are many other ways to further increase paper efficiency such as:
  - using narrower margins
  - choosing other fonts
  - reusing scrap paper
  - printing 2:1 page ratios for draft copies.

Many businesses find they are much less dependent on using large volumes of paper than they initially thought.

7. **Consider the social and environmental impacts in your supply chain and procurement choices:** The environmental and social impacts of the products/services a business supplies is very rarely limited to just the operations taking place on site. Considering the lifecycle of your products and services, and reviewing your supply chain, offers great opportunity to improve business sustainability. For example, choosing to purchase resources that are sourced locally, ethically and/or sustainably may result in fewer unintended social and environmental issues when compared with conventional alternatives.
8. **Create (and support!) a sustainability representative or sustainability team:** Assigning someone or several people with the responsibility of managing and working to find solutions to your business's environmental impacts can help ensure sustainability is an ongoing project rather than an idea that struggles to take off. It is important, however, to ensure that a sustainability representative or team receives adequate support from management and staff, in order for them to be effective.
9. **Engage all staff:** Business sustainability works best if the onus is not on just one or a few people. Goals can be reached faster and change become more ingrained by ensuring all staff are engaged with the company's sustainability commitments and goals, and all staff are aware of their responsibilities regarding good environmental practice.
10. **Keep it fun!** Sustainability should not be a burden. It is an opportunity to improve operations, financial performance and the impact of your business on the local and wider community. Choosing to engage with issues that you and other staff care about, and developing initiatives that are engaging and meaningful means they can be integrated into normal business practice more easily.



The Te Awamutu Chamber of Commerce has received funding from the Waste Minimisation Fund for local businesses to receive a free waste and sustainability evaluation. **Camilla Carty-Melis**, a sustainability specialist, can visit your workplace and talk to you about your business and various components of your operations. She will then write a personalised sustainability report, including recommendations suited to your needs. To talk to Camilla about business sustainability or arrange for her to carry out a free sustainability evaluation, please email [camillasustainablefuture@gmail.com](mailto:camillasustainablefuture@gmail.com) or ring 0223 410 643.




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## MORE INFORMATION

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