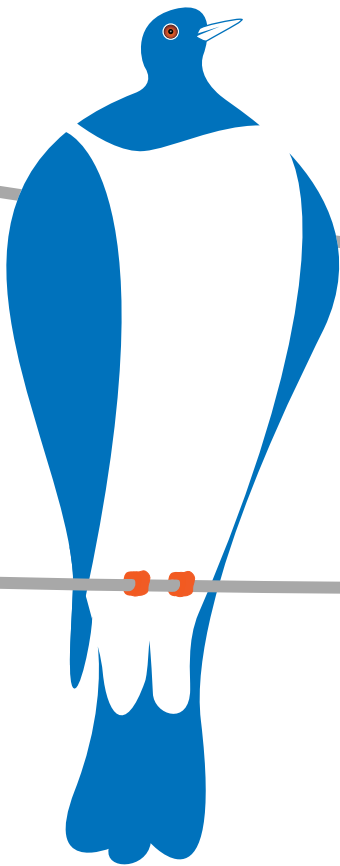


# dsscf

**dunedin climate  
secondary forum  
students**



**Our 2008  
Communiqué**

**the voice of  
tomorrow's leaders, today**



## **DSSCF 08 – Our Communiqué**

As the youth and future leaders of Dunedin, we have a vision for our city, our home.

We envisage a more environmentally conscious and active community. A Dunedin that is increasingly self-sufficient and sustainable.

Our city is facing many problems. We must act now. Currently we're heavily reliant on environmentally damaging and finite resources, such as oil.

We have the privilege of being able to see where our actions are taking us, and the ability to change.

We have a vision for the future but we're not in the position to carry it out alone.

### **We need your help.**

Together we have the potential to improve the way we function as an environmentally conscious community, with strategies relating to -

1. Our public transport system
2. How we generate, use and conserve our electricity
3. The level of environmental awareness and action in our community
4. The way we perceive, and manage our waste (with a focus on reduction)
5. The level of support for local producers and manufacturers, and promotion of a less materialistic lifestyle
6. How and where we build our homes
7. The way we use and conserve our water resources.

Our vision for each of these focus areas is outlined below.

Climate change and Peak Oil affect every aspect of our lives. The world is changing, and we need to adapt. These things are not only within our power as a city, but they are our responsibility. By supporting these changes we are supporting our future.

## **DSSCF 08 – Our Vision for Dunedin**

### **1. Our public transport system**

Our vision for Dunedin's future transport systems involves increasing the availability, accessibility and frequency of cheap public transport for everyone, as an incentive to reduce the numbers of private cars on the roads.

The current bus system, while sufficient for many, could benefit from improvement. Many outer suburbs miss out on late night and weekend services. Improved, more frequent bus services would be beneficial for the whole city. Economic viability would be improved with a targeted public awareness programme.

We believe that other strategies to reduce our city's demand for fuel could include -

- harbour ferries to connect Port Chalmers and the Peninsula with the city.
- trams or cable cars around the inner city, and up main routes, which could reduce cars on the main roads.
- electrification of the bus system, and bus lanes on main routes
- the development of walking and biking routes.
- providing and publicising more free bicycle and scooter parks.
- encouraging transport along one-way systems.

If sections of George St. and/or the Octagon were designated private-car-free zones (Wellington's Cuba St. style), this would discourage car traffic and encourage people to bike or walk.

### **2. The way we generate, use and conserve our electricity**

Our vision is to reduce our energy use by 20% by 2015. We think we can improve energy efficiency by having better insulation in homes, more use of Energy Star appliances and energy-saver light bulbs, giving businesses incentives to reduce energy use and increasing public awareness. By 2015, we also want our electricity to be produced completely from renewable and waste resources. This would mean reducing the use of coal, oil and gas in generating electricity and heat.

To realise our efficiency goals, we believe programmes to subsidise the simultaneous installation of insulation and double-glazing could be put in place. This will also improve the health and standard of living of the population.

The long-term cost savings from using energy efficient appliances and light bulbs should be promoted. Incandescent bulbs could be phased out and recycling facilities for fluorescent bulbs provided.

Businesses should be made aware of the financial benefits of using energy efficiently. This could be facilitated by providing free energy audits and advice, with estimates of how much could be saved by cutting energy use.

To raise public awareness, an 'Energy efficiency saves you money' campaign should be implemented. Calculations of how much money could be saved over 1, 5 or 10 years by using energy efficient appliances and bulbs should be made and publicised widely. Availability of subsidies should be promoted for insulation and energy efficient re-modelling.

All of the above initiatives could be commenced immediately.

### **3. The level of environmental awareness and action in our community**

Our vision for education in Dunedin is to increase the accessibility of information in regards to global warming, its effects, and what the individual can do to mitigate them.

The cooperation of local newspaper and radio stations is essential in combating the causes and detrimental effects of climate change. One of the reasons that this issue is commonly misunderstood is due to the lack of easily accessible and reliable information.

In the area of public education, we believe Dunedin would benefit from

- A television advertisement campaign similar to those for substance abuse to serve as a constant reminder about the situation at hand.
- Local newspapers with an 'environment column' informing people about simple steps they can take to combat climate change, and community events related to the issue.

We need also to promote and support environmental education in both primary and secondary schools. In the area of school-based education, we believe Dunedin would benefit from

- Mentoring programmes that promote interaction between secondary school students and primary school students on environmental issues.
- Continued support of education programmes like *Enviroschools*.

#### **4. The way we perceive and manage our waste (with a focus on reduction)**

Our vision for Dunedin is to have a more effective and sustainable resource renewal system capable of dealing with the challenges that Peak Oil and climate change pose. We also want a Dunedin that has an emphasis on reducing waste.

We believe we need to reduce our waste -

- Publicising the problem of excess packaging, and encourage people to cut down.
- Make Dunedin a 'plastic bag-free city'. Start by encouraging supermarkets to charge for bags, starting at 10c per bag. Eventually try to phase out plastic bags completely. Green bags, paper bags, or potato-waste bags, are a biodegradable alternative.

We believe we need to promote packaging reuse –

- Publicising packaging reuse options.
- Encouraging the reintroduction of glass milk bottles, and the introduction of similar schemes for other products.

We believe we need more extensive local recycling facilities -

- In terms of plastics, we need to develop recycling facilities to recycle all types of plastic, or limit packaging to those types that we are able to recycle.
- Cash incentives for recycling of glass bottles, cans and metals
- Recycling bins for cans and bottles need to be placed in public places to make them more accessible.
- Additional, free public recycling facilities, especially during the 'festive season' when a lot of waste is generated
- Recycling systems for energy saver light bulbs
- Appropriate disposal systems for chemicals

We believe we need planning around organic waste -

- More education of the public, of schools and of commercial businesses about composting
- Increasing the availability and decreasing the cost of composting bins
- A separate organic waste collection for those unable or unwilling to compost themselves, collected in biodegradable bags. This organic waste could be turned into compost for use in community gardens.

We believe we need more extensive recycling in schools -

- Incentives for recycling in schools, supported by local council
- Interschool competitions - who recycles most?

We believe we need to investigate the potential to produce energy from our waste -

- Waste emits methane as it breaks down, which can be trapped and used to generate electricity.

## **5. The level of support for local producers and manufacturers, and promotion of a less materialistic lifestyle**

Our vision in this area is to reduce imports and exports, and buy much more from local producers and manufacturers.

We believe we need to support the Farmers' Market -

- Dunedin and local growers would benefit from free buses (and later, commuter trains) running from suburbs – beginning with the Peninsula, St. Clair, Waitati and Port Chalmers - to the Farmers' Market on Saturday. e.g. Leaving suburbs at 8am, and departing the Market at 10am.
- Ideally, buses would be filled. If three buses ran, that would mean 180 people would be buying their produce from local producers and wouldn't need to take their car.
- A proportion of the stall fee could be used to put towards bus costs.

We believe we need to identify locally produced food and goods -

- We would like to see the development of a 'Produced in Otago' logo or sticker.
- Newspapers could run regular 'local food producer' and 'local manufacturer' profiles.
- Supermarkets could be encouraged to have a local produce section.
- We believe we need public reward systems for local producers and manufacturers, and eco-conscious businesses.

We believe we need more school education in food production -

- Free seeds and education at schools around gardening and growing vegetables.
- Encouraging *Enviroschools* and similar projects.

We believe we need to encourage the development of community gardens in suburban areas -

- These could be developed as part of golf courses, parks and public gardens. They need to be easily accessible.
- In return for volunteer work at the community garden, people could take home seeds and cuttings. Volunteers could be paid from the takings from stalls and events.
- Community gardens could also be places of education – with free brochures, talks, work shops and speakers.
- At each community garden a food stall could sell fruit, jam, preserves, herbs and chutneys, and fresh produce.

And we have some other ideas -

- Compost collected from cafes and restaurants can be collected as used as free compost for the public.
- Growing food at home should be encouraged at all levels.

## 6. How and where we build our homes

Our vision is for our homes and communities to be built on the taking into account environmental concerns, future needs, and future risk.

We believe we need to reconsider the way we zone and develop land -

- Stopping zoning for development in highly arable zones
- Zoning for low risk activities in low-lying and risk areas
- Ensure public amenity buildings are placed only in no- and low-risk zones
- Reserve areas for community squares and parks and commercial and service areas within new developments. Each residential area needs spaces where community functions (e.g. employment, services) can be fulfilled, reducing the need to travel great distances.

We believe we need to ensure home owners understand future needs and risks before building or improving homes -

- Develop risk assessment schemes around climate change issues for all areas of Dunedin, to be made available to home owners and developers

We need to ensure all new developments are undertaken using best sustainable practice -

- All building regulations should ensure sustainable practice.
- Educate local building professionals in sustainable building methods, and ensure they have easy access to sustainable building materials
- Reduce consent cost for environmentally sustainable homes and remodelling
- Ensure grants for solar panels, insulation and double glazing are available, substantial, and improve they're well publicised.

## 7. The way we use and conserve our water resources

We have a vision for a Dunedin that conserves its water resources.

In the face of potentially longer and more frequent droughts, we believe we need to ensure the availability and promote the use of water conservation devices and technologies -

- Publicising water conservation devices (e.g. low flow shower heads), and educating the public educated about their correct use.
- Changing regulations to support grey water and rain water tanks, especially for use in gardens.
- Investigating water reuse

We believe we need to reduce our water consumption -

- Introducing water meters and associated charges, BUT on top of a water allowance (basic level of free water per person)
- Encouraging household water storage (e.g. rainwater tanks)
- Capping Dunedin's water supply and trying to meet all our water needs from current sources for as long as possible.