

**From:** [ECInfo](#)  
**To:** [Mailroom Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** FW: submission to draft long term plan EMAIL:05270856  
**Date:** Monday, 13 April 2015 2:36:44 p.m.  
**Attachments:** [{cid1D96D095353F184C83D62F234D8A7738@ecan.govt.nz}Environment Canterbury.pdf](#)

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** Nieschmidt Anke  
**Received:** 13/04/2015 2:31 p.m.  
**To:** ECInfo; Environment Canterbury; Services Customer; Services Customer  
**Subject:** submission to draft long term plan

Kia ora

Please find attached a submission from The Enviroschools Foundation to Environment Canterbury's draft Long Term Plan 2015-2025

Many thanks  
Anke

Anke Nieschmidt  
Enviroschools Programme and Projects Coordination  
The Enviroschools Foundation

# Submission to Draft Long Term Plan Environment Canterbury 2015-25

**Name:** The Enviroschools Foundation **Contact person:** Kristen Price, Operations Manager

We do NOT wish to speak to this submission

## Recognising your support for the Enviroschools Programme

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We would like to acknowledge Environment Canterbury (ECAN) for supporting young people in your region to be part of the Enviroschools network since 2003.

The Enviroschools Programme is a nationwide action-based education programme where young people plan, design and implement sustainability projects and become catalysts for change in their communities. Enviroschools was originally developed in the late 1990's by councils in Waikato as a non-regulatory tool and has now been adopted by 51 councils, including most of the larger councils and two-thirds of the total sector.

The programme is managed nationally by The Enviroschools Foundation (a charitable trust). The Foundation has funding from the Ministry for the Environment and works closely with the Department of Conservation. Regional implementation of Enviroschools is through partnerships with Local Government and other community agencies. This multi-sector collaboration has enabled nearly 1,000 schools and early childhood education (ECE) centres to now be involved – representing 30% of the school sector and 5% of the large early childhood sector. There is a solid network of 75 enviroschools in Canterbury (21 % of all schools and 3 % of all early childhood centres).

This submission encourages ECAN to maintain its involvement in Enviroschools along with the other regional partner agencies – Timaru District Council, Selwyn District Council, Waimakariri District Council and the Department of Conservation. Christchurch City Council has been supporting through community grants.

## Highlights from recent programme evaluation

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The Enviroschools Foundation has been working with a team of external evaluators to quantify the beneficial outcomes of the programme. A nationwide survey of all Enviroschools was conducted as part of the evaluation process. The survey had a 73% response rate and highlights include:

- *Wide participation* - Schools were equally able to participate in the Enviroschools Programme across all deciles, sectors and regions.
- *All age groups (early childhood, primary and secondary) are taking environmental action* – across a wide variety of areas including waste, water, biodiversity, food production, energy and eco-building.
- *Community collaboration*- Enviroschools fosters significant community collaboration, creating leadership pathways for students and real connections to families, outside agencies and communities.
- *Biodiversity projects are well developed, with clear links to community* – over 90% of respondents had biodiversity projects with 86,859 trees planted in 2014 (86% of which were native trees).
- *Successful water projects* - Two-thirds of Enviroschools are undertaking a range of actions for water quality and conservation, including 19,264 meters of riparian planting in 2014.
- *Zero Waste* – Nearly all Enviroschools have waste minimisation plans and actions in place (98%).
- *Food production* – Most Enviroschools (97%) are growing and harvesting produce from their gardens/trees for cooking, selling and gifting produce.



- *Tackling energy usage* - Two-thirds of Enviroschools are involved in energy projects, including actions for sustainable transport (47%) and energy conservation actions (34%).
- *Enviroschools is contributing to a range of other outcomes* including citizenship, health, cultural understanding, motivated learners and community participation.
- *Depth of practice is related to the extent of outcomes* - Results showed that the depth of practice increases with the length of time a school or ECE centre is involved in Enviroschools. Nearly two thirds of participating schools/centres report 'quite well developed' or 'deep embedded' practice. Further, the survey results show a clear link between depth of practice and the extent to which the programme is contributing to outcomes. This reinforces the value of the long-term approach of the Enviroschools Programme.

"The strength of Enviroschools lies in the collaborations and multiple relationships that have been established and continue to be nurtured through its model of facilitated, networked and distributed leadership, engaging communities, schools and other stakeholders in action aimed at creating sustainable communities." *The evaluators, Kinnect Group*

## Conclusion

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The Enviroschools Programme has a proven track record of being an effective approach for engaging schools and communities in environmental and social action.

With the backbone support of The Enviroschools Foundation, and a network of councils around the country, the programme catalyses learning and action among thousands of young people, their families and communities from early childhood to secondary school. By connecting and coordinating resources and people, openly building and sharing knowledge across communities, widespread action is enabled on a broad scale.

As a funder, the partnership with Enviroschools provides ECAN with multiple points of leverage across the Canterbury community, extending the possible impact of its funding beyond what might be expected with a more traditional approach.

In closing, we would like to acknowledge the excellent job that Andrea Taylor (Youth Engagement Advisor and Enviroschools Regional Coordinator, Communications Team) does as the Regional Coordinator of the Enviroschools Programme in Canterbury.