

**Submission
Number:**

2012/2013

For office use only



Draft Annual Plan 2012/2013 - Submission Form

**Please complete
all sections.**

Section 1 – Please **print** your details clearly

Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms (please circle)	Phone (Day):
Andrea Goble	07 838 1583
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Note: *Submissions to the draft plan are public. Your submission will be included in reports, which are available to the public and the media. Your submission will be used only for the purposes of the submission process.*

IMPORTANT:

Do you wish to speak to your submission at a Trust meeting?

Hearings will be held on Tuesday 24 April 2012 from 7.00pm at the Trust office:

Yes

No

Signature:

If you DO NOT tick a box,
we will assume that you
DO NOT WISH TO BE HEARD



Section 2 – (Comments): Please **print** clearly

Where possible please make reference to headings and page numbers in the Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the WEL Energy Trust Draft annual plan 2012-2013.

Community Waikato is about supporting strong communities. WEL Energy Trust is also about supporting strong communities. Community Waikato does that by working one to one with community organisations to support their capacity to provide the best possible services. We work with them on governance, management, financial structures, funding, applications, accountability, legal structures, constitutions, compliance. We offer training to back this up and we provide scholarships to enable people to take up the opportunity to participate in training and to work towards higher qualifications. This in turn brings knowledge and skills to the organisation and results in better services.

We facilitate and support networks because we believe networks provide the opportunity for sharing information, ideas and experience, form relationships, seek advice and support from peers.

We support collaborative projects many of which come from networks identifying a common issue and working together on a solution. These range from local to regional to national but all are designed to benefit people in the Waikato.

We provide information relevant to the sector and to help people in their work and their thinking and we gather information to advocate on behalf of the sector. This includes surveys – State of the Sector 2010 and 2011 that we use to inform the community, report to funders and advocate to government.

We are Tindall Fdn fund managers which gives us a further insight into the work and the needs of organisations that adds to our overall knowledge and overview of the sector.

Comments

Page 6 – Key result area – Financial # 3 Reviewing grant funding mechanisms e.g. community lending, multiple year commitment.

We agree there is a real need for longer term funding for social service organisations so that they are able to plan their services and use the time they would have spent applying for funding in more productive ways e.g. evaluating the services, identifying current needs and how they need to develop to meet the needs and working towards greater sustainability.

Page 7 – Key Result Area: Partnering.

Seed funding is needed for community organisations considering social enterprise as a way of increasing their financial sustainability and their independence. There is little seed funding available and the Trust may wish to consider this when working in partnership with other funding organisations.

Once a social enterprise is established and looks as though it will be successful the need to borrow for development would be a great option – **P.6 reviewing grant funding mechanisms; community lending.**

Page 7 Funding Systems and Processes # 5. Reviewing accountability requirements. We believe that organisations need to be able to show that the funding they receive makes a difference to their community. We are working with organisations on ‘change stories’ or telling about the impact of their work, the difference their work makes. Change, particularly when working with intractable problems such as budgeting services for people who simply don’t have enough money to pay for the basics takes a long time and involves advocacy for systemic change. However there are usually ways that organisations can provide evidence that their service has made a difference. They need also to be thinking about what needs to change to prevent the problems they’re dealing with and that makes their input to strategic and policy planning incredibly important. Then we can work on the prevention aspects too.

This would fit with **P.7 KRA: Funding Systems and Processes: Goal A** ensuring grant funds are employed to maximum effect.

One final comment would be that many funding organisations are now providing less funding and some are moving, or have already moved from many smaller annual grants to a few larger and often longer term grants.

Small and medium organisations make up the bulk of the sector and they are the ones that rely on those small grants. There is a real danger that small and even medium organisations will cease to operate. If we lose these organisations because they are no longer able to access the smaller grants then we stand to lose access to the local services that make local communities viable. We lose opportunities for people to participate, feel needed and feel cared for and there will be an erosion of the social capital built up in local areas through those organisations and the services they provide to their communities.

It is a subject for strategic discussion in consultation with the community.

**Please return completed submission to the Trust office
by 12 noon, Monday, 16 April 2012.**

Additional forms available from **Website** www.welenergytrust.co.nz

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