

Transitions to Low Carbon

Practical Possibilities:

- Procurement policies for the Connexion and Parishes to include recycled materials, goods and services using renewable energy, recycle-able, biodegradable and fair trade products?
- An agreement for PAC funds to subsidize renewable energy in churches such as solar panels, wind mills, and rain water tanks?
- A template for church re-build and new builds with checks for renewable energy systems, passive solar, low carbon-emitting materials?
- Planting food and fruit trees on church land?
- Make climate and transitions to low carbon economies an election priority?
- Explore co-operative models of Church support transitions to low carbon economies. The Lotofale'ia Matanikolo housing project can have parallel initiatives for renewable energy



Opening of Matanikolo Housing Project
February 2014



- ? **What are the main uses of energy in your parish**
- ? **What are the costs for different energy uses**
- ? **What changes could be made if resources are available for the costs, eg. solar panels, insulation, water storage**
- ? **Many changes are needed at central government policy level, such as policy to move to 100% renewable energy. Would you make climate change and election priority**

What are your ideas?

Further Actions

You might consider joining one of these organisations:



- [350.org](http://350.org.nz/) - <http://350.org.nz/> campaigning to get CO2 levels down to 350ppm
- Generation Zero - www.generationzero.org/ Youth campaigning for climate change action
- G-Force - gforce.org.nz older people supporting youth action such as Generation Zero

GenZero Street Theatre for Wise Response

People and Planet

Practical actions are imperative! At the same time, our responses to Climate are a matter of a refreshing our relationship with the earth as a living creation of which we are part.

Globally and locally we are in transition from a utilitarian world view to one of a woven universe where all things, all matter is inter-related and interdependent; any action in one part of the system has an effect in the rest of the system.

Many people already live as part of the living universe. Indigenous and early European traditions certainly were born and nourished in laws of the earth as principles to guide human economies.



Water Seminar hosted by Palmerston North PIN group Feb. 2014

Clearly the systems we have in place such as the market economies of the liberal tradition, and industrial capitalism are ringing the death knell of earth's systems as we know them, and that support human life. Climate change, or Climate Chance is a symptom of the systemic impacts of over-consumption of coal and oil, and a myriad of destructive patterns that are part of the high energy, wealth driven global market system. We find that the world is not a vast machine of 'resources' which can be exploited endlessly and as of right.

There is a great turning taking place. It was a joy to see so many people come to a seminar on water in the Manawatu, with concern to recover healthy rivers and find the spiritual refreshment of clear running water with trees that are home to surrounding insect, bird and fish life .

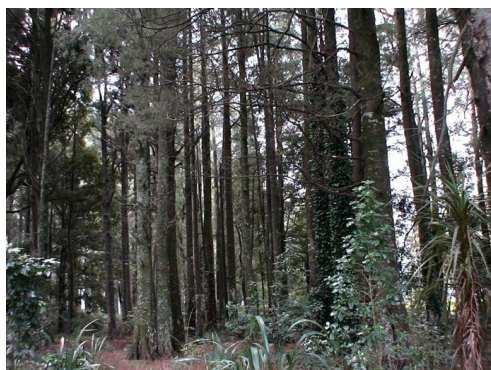
Farmers and business people and local government and conservationists and Iwi alike shared the desire for a healthy river ecosystem.

When earth is understood as Papatuanuku, and as Gaia we are oriented to sustaining the ecological integrity of the living world. Inspiration comes from numerous writers: Thomas Berry, Charles Te Ahukaramu Royal, Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese, Stephen Harding, Vandanna Shiva, Arne Naess, Te Kawehau Hoskins. These ecological and spiritual views have an approach of asking permission of the Creator for the use of trees and oil and coal.

Legal thinking is evolving through the idea of earth jurisprudence to take account of nature. It is a great challenge to turn our systems towards renewable energy, local food, tax systems that incentivize earth-friendly economic business. Practical and political solutions are most likely to flow from renewing our bonds with trees and rivers, and even with coal and oil, on the basis that we all matter in the community of all beings.

Resources

- **Gen Zero A Challenge to our Leaders:**
<http://www.genzero.org.nz/challengetoourleaders.pdf>
- Herald Report: http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11247785



Kahikatea at Lake Rotopounamu, Turangi

