



Take Charge and Pollution Prevention 2010/11

Key points:

- Two new Take Charge assessments and 10 follow up assessments were undertaken.
- The Grenada North Area Assessment was completed
- 15 businesses were awarded a Sustainable Business Achievement certificate for satisfying the Take Charge audit requirements.
- A self-audit tool was developed for IAG New Zealand Ltd: Panel and Paint industry.

Introduction

The purpose of the Take Charge programme is to assist businesses to achieve compliance with Greater Wellington's regional rules in order to prevent environmental incidents.

As part of the audit process a business will undergo an assessment and will be expected to complete any recommended actions to improve its practices and procedures.

2010/2011 developments

During 2010/2011, Greater Wellington carried out a wide range of educational and monitoring initiatives to raise awareness on how to prevent pollution and improve environmental performance. These included ongoing incident referred assessments, the completion of the Grenada North area assessment, and the intensification of work with the panel and paint industry, by way of a formalised relationship with the Insurance Australia Group (IAG) which works closely with that industry in New Zealand.

As industry-based and area assessments can involve a large number of businesses, a self-audit checklist was developed by Greater Wellington, which businesses may complete before a site audit takes place. This allows a business to compile the necessary documentation and make any required changes prior to the site being inspected by Greater Wellington. Self-audits reduce the amount of time a Take Charge officer needs to spend with each business, benefiting both the industry and Greater Wellington in terms of efficiency. It also enables Greater Wellington to certify more businesses in a shorter amount of time, as well as have a greater number of businesses participate in the Take Charge Programme.

Once a business has satisfied the requirements of the audit, it will receive a Sustainable Business Achievement certificate. The self assessment process is currently being rolled out to the panel and paint industry in Wellington.

IAG Panel and Paint

IAG is committed to ensuring their contractors comply with regional rules and improve their environmental performance. In 2010/11 seven of the region's 41 IAG member sites completed the Take Charge programme and received a Sustainable Business Achievement certificate. The remaining sites have been sent the self-audit checklist to complete. Greater Wellington will continue working with IAG during the 2011/12 financial year to ensure IAG sites in the region complete the Take Charge programme.

Area Assessments

Due to a focus on the panel and paint industry and changes within the Take Charge resource base, the scheduled Naenae area assessment was not progressed in the 2010/2011 financial year.

Pollution Solution Newsletters

Educational initiatives are an important part of the Take Charge programme. Pollution Solutions are proactive information sheets targeted at different industry types and/or behaviour to raise awareness of environmental issues and their solutions.

- **Car washing** – Incidents relating to discharges to the stormwater system from poor car washing practices are frequent. A specialised car grooming Pollution Solution Newsletter has been developed as a way of educating and reminding businesses of their responsibilities.



- **Hospitality industry stormwater pollution** – It is common to see bars and restaurants washing and sweeping their exteriors and allowing the waste water and litter to flow into the gutters and enter the stormwater system. A Pollution Solution information sheet and a laminated poster were developed in 2010/2011 for businesses to display next to their cleaning products as a reminder for staff not to discharge contaminants or rubbish off site.

Other pollution prevention projects

Other pollution prevention tools used by Greater Wellington include media releases, mail-outs, and industry-based seminars. Ongoing programmes undertaken by the Environmental Regulation Department include:

- **The Muddy Waters programme** – seminars and workshops continue to be an effective way to promote improvements in environmental practices for contractors and individuals involved in activities that may lead to sedimentation of Wellington's waterways.
- **Regional environmental officer's forum (REPO)** – Greater Wellington runs a quarterly forum for officers involved with environmental management to discuss relevant environmental protection issues and share initiatives.
- **Household Hazardous Waste Collection** – Greater Wellington participated in two waste collections organised by Hutt City Council by providing volunteers and the use of the Hazmobile for processing hazardous chemicals.

Looking ahead to 2011/2012

- Continued focus on IAG Panel and Panel industry assessments
- Evaluation of options for pursuing Naenae and other area-based assessments
- Adaption of the self-audit checklist for use by other business types as required
- Ongoing media and educational initiatives to promote awareness of regional rules and how to avoid non-compliance

Please don't pour or sweep anything into the street gutter

- Liquids → go down the sink
- Rubbish → goes in the bin
- Recyclables → go in the recycling



Greater Wellington 24-hour
Environmental Protection
Hotline 0800 496 734

greater WELLINGTON
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

More information

To advise the Greater Wellington Regional Council of environmental pollution, call the 24/7 Environment Hotline on 0800 496 734.

To find out more about the Take Charge programme, contact the coordinator on 04 830 4089.

For more information on Greater Wellington's environmental regulation activities, visit our website at www.gw.govt.nz