

Signs of Change

A national e-conference showcasing transition

15-16 November 2010

New Zealand National e-Conference

at local centres across the country

The first decade of the 21st Century has confirmed the warnings of the previous fifty years – the historical development path of increased consumption of finite resources is not sustainable. Air, water, energy, soils, forests, fish ... over exploitation enabled by new technology and emboldened by new economies has brought the world's resources, ecosystems, and even the climate to the tipping point. The benefits of profligate energy use, new technology and economic growth are obvious, but may be undermined by costs in degradation of social fabric and environmental viability. But change is happening. **The Signs of Change Conference** will show-case examples of fundamental change in a wide variety of contexts.

The Signs of Change Conference is a national conversation

You are invited to participate! Anyone who wants to join in the process of addressing the sustainability dilemma is welcome: Farmers, engineers, scientists, business people, council workers, educators, students, transition town members Our perceptions and expectations of the future are shaped by our experiences. If we see and hear about signs of change in a direction that is fruitful, restorative, respectful and sustainable, then it can become our reality. This conference provides an opportunity to make connections, share ideas, and learn what others are doing.

Signs of Change will be reported by participants or observers

The Change Reporters will describe how a particular change is fundamental to the break away from 'business-as-usual' and towards sustainability. We anticipate reports from research, innovation, practice, governance, organization, social action and many other fields.

- Farmers who grow soil, biodiversity, and animal wellbeing
- Manufacturers who eliminate toxic waste, foster craft, and integrate locally
- Community groups that grow connections, resilience, interdependence
- Councils that restore the environment and make urban spaces safe for humans
- Energy companies that manage demand growth and invest in sustainable renewable resources to reduce fossil fuel use
- Businesses that sustain value, trade and employ fair, prosper without growth
- Youth who have vision of a sustainable future and new ways to communicate it
- Organisations that restore, protect and grow natural reserves
- Engineers that improve efficiency, reduce waste, protect health
- Physicians who facilitate community well being and grow health

The conference is open to all interested individuals and organisations

Endorsed by: Engineers for Social Responsibility, Sustainable Energy Forum, NZ Centre for Sustainable Cities, Transition Towns Aotearoa, National Energy Research Institute, the Green Party, the Institute of Engineering and Technology, Advanced Energy and Materials Institute

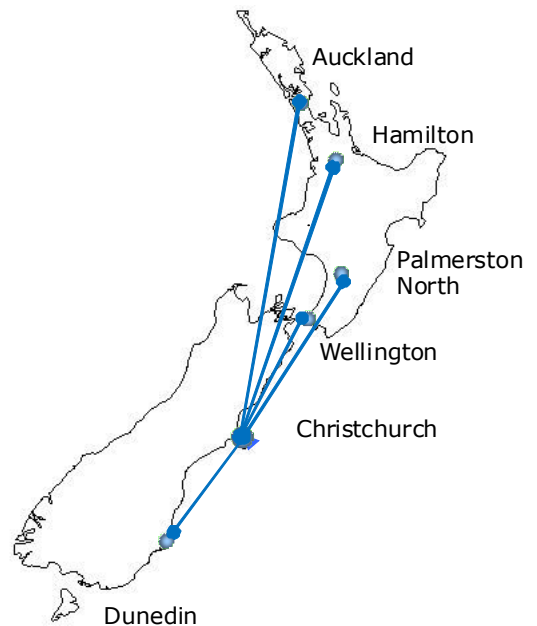
Venues

This conference will showcase low-carbon conferencing by using video links between the nation's top universities.

A Sign of Change

At this conference, travel-related impacts will be minimized and communication will be facilitated through the use of modern computers and video equipment. The whole conference will be an experiment and will serve as a sign of change. By participating, you will be creating a pathway of change.

The organizers will be seeking feedback from participants and some of that information will be used in a research report about running an e-conference.



Conference Design

The conference will run over two days, Monday and Tuesday, and will be organised to absolutely minimise registration costs. The conference will be coordinated in Christchurch and presentations will be streamed live between the other local conference venues at universities across the country. There will be only one presentation stream so that all conference participants can see all the presentations. Tea and lunch breaks will be longer and will facilitate all participants to comment and question. Reports back to the nation from local discussions will be included in panel discussions. The conference will aim to produce a common statement of vision and value.

Sharing expertise, experience, and enthusiasm are the themes of the presentations. The organising committee invites ideas and suggestions for change reports from any area where the transition to sustainable economies and relationships have begun.

- Energy, Efficiency, CO₂ Reduction
- Transport, Reduced Oil Consumption
- Environment, Waste Management
- Society, Well-being, Connections
- Business, Equity, Happiness
- Governance, Law, Honesty
- Agriculture, Land Use, Water
- Economy, Local Asset Management

A number of 'change reports' may be presented as produced videos. If your **Sign of Change** would be better reported by video, contact the organisers for ideas about connecting with young film makers.

Registration Cost

We are keeping the cost as low as possible to enable more people to attend, however there will be a registration fee to cover the venue and technology costs. We anticipate savings on travel and accommodation will offset the new technology costs. Two day registration will be under \$200. Sponsorship and grants are being sought to reduce the registration costs.

www.signsofchange.org.nz or contact the
Conference Organiser: signsofchangeconf@gmail.com