



# Sustainability Options

Altruistic Report 2016 – No: 3

## Over the last 12 months



1000+ Free Home assessments

Since our founding we have completed over 1000 free home assessments!



250 Heaters

Through the Heater Bank we were able to donate heaters to over 240 families in need!



50 Homes Helped

Through the Blanket Bank we have been able to help over 50 families with young children!



30+ Home Improvement Presentations

We have been able to share our knowledge and expertise with over thirty organisations!

### Overview

What a year we have had! Over the last 12 months Sustainability Options has continued to get involved and found numerous projects dedicated to helping our community. This newsletter seeks to give you a quick heads up on our progress in carrying out compassionate business while working towards improving environmental and social sustainability in as many ways as we can.

### Our 'Banks' of 'Help'



In our last newsletter we mentioned the starting of a new project called the Tauranga Heating Exchange, the aim of which was to receive donated heaters from the local community and pass them on to families in need. Since the commencement of this project we have placed over 250 heaters, helping out more than 240 families. This is thanks to some incredibly generous people who donated many brand new, as well as used heaters. An especially big thanks to the Tauranga Rotary Club for their support.



Throughout the last year we have also continued to grow our Blanket Bank; we have been able to help over 50 homes with young children under the age of eight who suffer from a range of respiratory related concerns.



We have also continued to strongly support the numerous Curtain Banks around the Bay of Plenty, and throughout the next year we will be helping them out by fundraising for new curtain linings.



Our next ‘bank of help’ initiative is a Trade bank – where our objective is to help with repairs and maintenance to cold, droughty and unhealthy homes, where families are in huge need.



## Community Presentations

To help and enable communities is a big part of our sustainable living commitment. Healthy communities create positive environments. In this regard, we have tried to share our knowledge with as many communities as we can, this year we have conducted multiple presentations to over 30 different community organisations.



## Free Home assessments - Our way of giving forward

Whilst it has been a very busy year, we have continued to provide free home assessments. Our latest calculations showing we have performed just over 1000 free home assessments since our founding!

We have also been working on improving our expertise and knowledge around improving housing conditions, building performance and sustainable housing. This has meant we have all invested time in learning as much as possible. We have done this though creating relationships and working with organisations such as; BRANZ, Beacon Pathway, The Green Building Council, The Ministry of Health and various local councils. We have sought to improve our knowledge and expertise in order to be able to pass on this advice to as many people as we can!



## Community Projects

We have been involved in multiple community projects, seeking to improve housing performance and conditions for as many New Zealanders as we can. One large community project that we recently undertook was in Opotiki, where we were involved in helping over 70 homes in the Opotiki community this winter in order to identify ways to help families with repairs and maintenance to make their homes healthier, as well educating them on how to effectively heat, ventilate and care for their homes. During this project, we were able to help co-ordinate 34 homes for better insulation, 22 homes with curtains, 30 homes for repairs/maintenance, 28 homes with heaters, 39 homes with blankets and 32 homes with smoke alarms.



## The Future

The impact of vehicle use on the environment is enormous. When visiting homes with the objective of greater sustainability, it’s hard to ignore our use of vehicles... so this year we ‘looked to the future’ and decided to be a catalyst for alternative forms of transport. We have been involved in organizing a regional approach to establish an electric vehicle infrastructure. And it doesn’t stop there. We have been putting up our hand for helping advance better cycleways and we have established a way for local BOP people to procure electric vehicles.

*Keen to help? Or just want some more information?*

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