



Take Charge and pollution prevention 2007/08

Key points:

- Significant progress made with Grenada north Business Park audits.
- 35 small to medium businesses have taken part in Take charge audits, with 19 completing the audit process.
- Educational and monitoring initiatives included the Muddy Waters programme, the Regional Environmental Officers Forum (REPO), and the Wairarapa Permitted Water Takes Survey.
- Pollution prevention projects included the Regional Agrichemical Collection.

Introduction

During the 2007/08 financial year Greater Wellington's Environmental Protection Team continued to run the *Take Charge* programme and a range of educational and monitoring initiatives to raise awareness of how to prevent pollution and improve environmental performance.

Take Charge

Take Charge is Greater Wellington's Pollution Prevention Program to assist businesses to achieve compliance with Greater Wellington's regional plans and improve onsite environmental management. The programme targets industry sectors and geographic areas to assist with compliance and cleaner production methods.

A *Take Charge* audit assesses an organisation's facilities, activities and management procedures. Owners/operators are provided with a short report which includes recommendations on how they can improve environmental performance and compliance with Greater Wellington's regional plans. When a business has satisfied the requirements of the audit, a certificate of environmental compliance is issued.

New Co-ordinator

In 2007/08 a dedicated *Take Charge* co-ordinator role was established within the Environmental Protection team. The co-ordinator is responsible for planning and developing the *Take Charge* programme and works alongside the Environmental Protection officers.

Grenada North Area assessment

Repeat pollution incidents in 2006 at the outlet to the Takapu Stream in Grenada North prompted a *Take Charge* area assessment in the Grenada North Business Park (see figure 1). The relative simplicity of the stormwater network meant it would be easier to assess and address impacts from stormwater discharges.

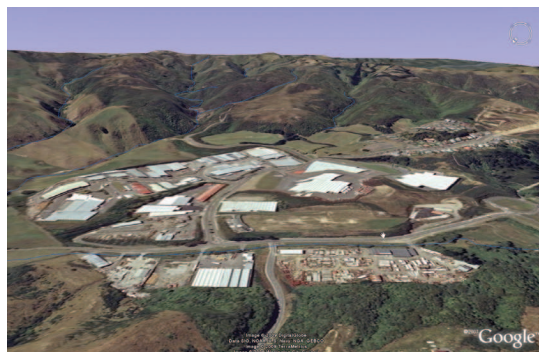


Figure 1: Grenada North Business Park

Preliminary sampling showed both historic pollution in the Takapu Stream and ongoing contamination from the business park.

Of the 62 sites in the stormwater catchment, 32 were considered to pose a medium to high risk to the stormwater network and Takapu Stream. During the 2007/08 reporting period, 20 of these sites were audited, with five completing their *Take Charge* audits and another 15 with actions to be completed.

Wairarapa Service Stations

In 2007/08 the Environmental Protection Team recommenced *Take Charge* audits in the Wairarapa, making follow up visits to service stations which were initially visited in 2004, in order to ensure that all necessary site improvements had been carried out. Many of the required actions focused on making improvements to the storage and disposal of hydrocarbons (see Figure 2). Two service stations successfully completed the *Take Charge* programme in 2007/08.



Figure 2: A waste oil collection system at a Wairarapa Service station

EnviroSMART

Businesses that participate in a *Take Charge* audit may continue on to take part in the EnviroSMART programme, run by Landcare Research to promote sustainable business practice. EnviroSMART helps them achieve Enviro-Mark NZ accreditation (bronze, silver and gold).

Eleven businesses enrolled in EnviroSMART during the 2007/08 intake, including one business from the Grenada North area assessment. The Environmental Protection Team completed EnviroSMART audits for all 11 businesses in 2007/08, (except for two which relocated), and conducted revisits to ensure all recommendations were completed.

As a result of incident response

As well as area assessments, businesses are also referred to *Take Charge* by officers responding to environmental incidents. In 2007/08, four businesses were referred to the *Take Charge* programme and audited. Greater Wellington received a positive response from each business.

Looking ahead to 2008/09?

The following areas are targeted for 2008/09:

- Complete Grenada North Area Assessment
- Continue service station revisits in the Wairarapa

- Commence new industry-based assessment
- Commence new area assessment project
- Continue conducting incident-related business audits.

Our graduates

In 2007/08, the Environmental Protection team developed a Sustainable Business Achievement certificate (see figure 3), to be presented to businesses that successfully complete Greater Wellington's *Take Charge* programme.

Other pollution prevention projects

Media releases, mail-outs and industry-based seminars are also effective pollution prevention tools used by Greater Wellington, helping to raise public awareness of the effects of environmental pollution and non-compliance, and how to prevent it. The following initiatives took place in 2007/08:

- **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 officers forum (REPO)** – Greater Wellington runs this quarterly forum for officers involved with environmental management to meet and discuss relevant environmental protection issues.
- **Permitted Water Takes survey** – officers from the Environmental Protection team assisted in an assessment of water takes in the Otakura/Battersea catchment in the Wairarapa. The purpose of the surveys was to assess how much water was being used by residents in relation to the permitted extraction amount.
- **2007/08 Agrichemical collection** – With assistance from the Ministry for the Environment, Greater Wellington helped to rid the region of nearly 2 tonnes of banned and unwanted agrichemicals from approximately 35 rural properties.



Figure 3: Sustainable Business Achievement certificate



Figures 4 & 5: Unwanted agrichemicals being collected from Kapiti

More information

For more information on how to avoid, reduce or respond to pollution, or to find out more about the *Take Charge* programme, please contact the Environment Helpdesk on 04 802 0355 or the Wairarapa office on 06 378 2484.

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