



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## ENERGY TRUST SUPPORTS COUNCIL PROJECTS

The Eastern Bay Energy Trust has continued its record of supporting district council projects which will result in wide community benefits, by naming those projects for which an application for energy related funding will be accepted during the 2007 – 2008 financial year.

Included in the Whakatane District Council's list of projects is the district wide Christmas lighting programme, which will include Ohope, Taneatua, Edgecumbe, Te Teko, Matata, Kopeopeo and Whakatane, with the Trust engaging a lighting expert to work with the council to produce a 5 year plan for Christmas lighting.

Also included is the under verandah lighting programme for Murupara, Commerce Street, Taneatua, Edgecumbe and Te Teko. The Trust will also accept applications for funding the proposed River Edge Park walkway lighting, solar hot water showers at the Pikowai and Aniwhenua camps, and heat pumps for the Whakatane War Memorial Centre reception lounge.

Included in the Kawerau District Council's list is the installation of a transformer at Prideaux Park for Christmas in the Park and other public events, power supply for a new public spa pool, Stoneham Walk floodlighting, possible lighting of the netball / tennis courts, lighting of the basketball hoops area next to the skate park, and a 5 year plan for Christmas lighting.

The Opotiki District Council list includes Memorial Park tennis / netball court lighting, Waioeka Domain sports field lighting, Rose Garden lighting, heat pumps for the public meeting areas of the Opotiki District Council building, the possible lighting of Pou Whenua (totem poles) and the Waiotahi pohutukawa trees, and a 5 year plan for Christmas lighting.

Trust Chairman Kevin Hennessy said "The Eastern Bay Energy Trust has distributed total funding of \$1,569,534 of funding for energy related projects that have been carried out by the Whakatane, Kawerau and Opotiki district councils over the past 10 years. The Trust and the councils together developed a Relationship Protocol and a policy for local authorities' applications and funding, which ensures that the Trust and the councils work closely together to prioritise projects which the Trust can support, and which will result in wide-spread benefits to the Trust's beneficiaries (many of whom are also ratepayers) throughout the Eastern Bay of Plenty'.

***For further information contact***

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