



MEDIA RELEASE

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ENERGY TRUST DISTRIBUTES \$217,000 TO COMMUNITY

Grants totalling \$217,026 were approved at the December meeting of the Eastern Bay Energy Trust, for community projects throughout the Eastern Bay.

The largest grant was approved for the Whakatane Rowing Club, which is upgrading its building in Landing Road. The \$94,581 grant will cover the cost of installing heat pumps, an insulated ceiling, hot water cylinders, electric roller doors, new indoor and outdoor lighting, and an upgrade of the electrical wiring and kitchen.

Whitianga Marae on the East Coast received a grant of \$57,651 to install a new Marshall water heater to replace their old, dangerous heater, to install heat pumps, and to upgrade the kitchen and laundry.

St Mark's Presbyterian Church in Murupara will be able to install heat pumps and insulation, and upgrade the electrical wiring with a grant of \$13,933.

Kawerau Cosmopolitan Club will have an upgraded, commercial kitchen thanks to a \$32,000 grant from the Trust, and Whakatane's Allandale School has had ceiling and underfloor insulation installed during the school holidays, with a grant of \$18,862.

Trust Chairman Toni Owen said "It is good to see the distributions spread right across the Eastern Bay, so that many communities will benefit. These five community organisations have a combined membership of almost 2000 people, with many other visitors who make regular use of their facilities. The funds approved for their energy-related projects will not only assist them to complete their upgrades without resulting in financial difficulties, but will also provide ongoing benefits to the members and all the other people who visit or make use of their premises, for many years to come".

For further information contact

Toni Owen
Chairman, Eastern Bay Energy Trust
Phone 307 1141

Kaye Jamieson, Manager
Manager, Eastern Bay Energy Trust
Phone 307 0893