

Hamilton City Council Sustainability Indicators

(Summary)

In 1998, community representatives and Hamilton City Council staff began working together to develop a set of [sustainability indicators](#) to measure Hamilton's progress towards becoming a more sustainable city. More than 150 people representing a wide cross-section of Hamilton's community were involved. A parallel process was conducted by Māori, for Māori.

In 2004, Hamilton City Council established the [My Hamilton website](#) as a tool for reporting on the sustainability indicators. This website has information on **air quality, water quality, water usage, soil health, noise, urban trees, energy and solid waste**.

This website is also a tool for linking this information with actions of what individuals can do to help achieve better outcomes in these areas. This approach reflects that small individual actions as well as community involvement in council all contribute to sustainable development.

(Details)

Hamilton's Sustainability Indicators

Agency: Hamilton City Council

Report Date: 2002

General Approach

Sustainable development approach (Agenda 21); based around desired Strategic Plan outcomes; staff and community workshops to identify and define indicators.

Information on

Indicators across a range of local sustainability topics; benchmark information; comparison of existing information; summary of 'how are we doing' (ie. 'getting better', 'remaining stable', 'getting worse', 'insufficient information').

Topics

Air Quality; Waikato River water quality; Water usage; Hamilton Lakes; Soil Health; Noise; Urban Trees; Energy; Solid Waste; Urban Development; Transport; Housing Affordability; Work; Income; Visitor Accommodation; Historic Structures and sites; Education; Public Involvement in Decision-Making; Youth Well-Being; Partnership With Maori; Crime and Safety; Cultural Well-Being; Community and Recreational Facilities.

Indicators/Information

Air Quality: the level of small-suspended particles (PM10).

Waikato River water quality: water quality of the Waikato River and local streams and tributaries; suitability for swimming in the Waikato River.

Water usage: total water usage, average quantity of water used per person on a daily basis, commercial and industrial water usage per annum.

Hamilton Lakes: the tropic level index of Lake Rotorua.

Soil Health: percentage of confirmed contaminated sites that have been remediated.

Noise: number of excessive noise complaints made to Hamilton City Council's Environmental Health Unit.

Urban Trees: number of exotic and indigenous trees planted and protected in Hamilton; area of significant stands of native trees within Hamilton; number of individuals and organisations undertaking native tree restorations in Hamilton.

Energy: total energy usage by consumer sector.

Solid Waste: quantity of residential and industrial/commercial waste sent to the Horotiu Landfill from Hamilton; quantity of waste per person from the household kerbside collection; total amount of materials collected for reuse and recycling at Council run or co-ordinated facilities and services.

Urban Development: the total number of building consents issued for new houses¹⁷ (in Greenfield areas versus infill areas) and the total floor area of those housing consents; population densities in residential areas; the average size of new houses; the average number of people per house.

Transport: means of travel to work; car ownership per household; total passenger numbers using public transport, distance travelled by all transport modes; length of road and cycle networks.

Housing Affordability: the proportion of dwellings owned or rented by the occupants; home mortgage affordability index; house sale price index; the median rent for houses and flats in Hamilton.

Work: unemployment rate; labour force participation rate; number of job vacancy advertisements; ratio of those in the working age group to those in the non-working age groups (the 'dependency ratio')

Income: average weekly gross income and earnings; average yearly expenditure; personal income levels.

Visitor Accommodation: number of guest nights and occupancy rates for hotels and motels; visitors to Hamilton as a proportion of visitors to the Waikato Region; Origin of guests.

Historic Structures and sites: the number of built heritage and sites of archaeological significance protected within the Proposed District Plan.

Education: enrolments at the University of Waikato and the Waikato Institute of Technology; participation in continuing education courses, highest qualification gained.

Public Involvement in Decision-Making: voter turnout at general and local authority elections; community satisfaction with Hamilton City Council's provision of opportunities for community involvement.

Youth Well-Being: use of youth facilities; number of young people committing or attempting suicide; juvenile offending.

Partnership With Maori: none.

Crime and Safety: burglaries, sexual offences and violent offences per 10,000 population; rate of care and protection notifications to the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services; perceptions of safety in the central business district and in neighbourhoods.

Cultural Well-Being: ethnic composition; number of ethnic groups obtaining citizenship in Hamilton; number and membership of cultural groups; organised cultural activity in the city.

Health: life expectancy of people living in the Waikato Region; the total number of publicly funded hospital discharges in Hamilton residents and the number of those discharges due to 'complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium,' 'infectious and parasitic diseases,' and 'diseases of the respiratory system', the number of hospitalisations of Hamilton residents due to motor vehicle crashes and poisoning, the number of suicides in Hamilton per 100,000 population.

Community and Recreational Facilities: survey of residents on their use of, and satisfaction with, a number of Council owned community and recreational facilities; the total amount of green space in the city.