

Kia ora Suzannah  
thanks for the chat!

I have read (now!) your paper and have distributed to others with the hope that they give you a reply.

In our case, these are the barriers:

Access to the site.

The site is part of a large block of former farmland now owned by NZTA who acquired it for the Gully road project. Approx. half of that acquired is surplus to their requirements. Our preferred site runs along the side of the gas pipeline easement and we need an easement to access and occupy the site. Initially NZTA were supportive but LINZ has now made it clear that we are not covered (as a Crown agency) by the Public Works Act. Energy is no longer covered by this Act since the Bradford reforms. (How stupid is that?) So we miss out on two grounds--we are not included as a community trust and energy production is not an activity covered.

Funding of Resource Consent

We need to raise approx. \$200000 to get the various experts to report to the planners. Once we get the resource consent, we can select a business partner so we can build the turbines (given the amount of interest from potential funders, this later phase is not seen as being difficult!)

We negotiated with the local Council(Kapiti Coast District Council) to have community wind farms included in the District plan. Other local authorities (such as Porirua CC) are not helpful at all for community energy projects.

Negotiation skills

Our concept is twofold: provision of stable long term pricing of locally generated power for the local district and "doing our bit" for climate change . How ever we need to eyeball others who are potential funding partners but have a financial profit driven motive (my words not theirs) We may need a referee!

The role of the Crown is not apparent.

Both the local Council and the regional Council have declared a climate emergency and are taking a great interest in our project. (They both want first dibs at the surplus power) There has been no support from any Crown agency despite various Ministers giving their support. We have had messages of support from overseas Community projects who tell us they could not get off the ground without financial support from Government.

One last thing: Our long term hope is to use income from the turbines to fund the establishment of a solar farm on flat land at McKays Crossing on land owned by DOC... enough already!

All the Best!

Graham Coe

Chair

Paekakariki Community Trust