

Council's insulation and clean heat funding assistance programme launches this month. Heat Smart Hawke's Bay assists ratepayers with the cost of fitting ceiling and underfloor insulation and replacing non-compliant burners and open fires.

Funding is open to homeowners with properties built before 2000 and options include a non-repayable grant or a loan which is repaid through the property's rates over 10 years. Heat Smart Hawke's Bay funding assistance is extra to that available through the government's ENERGYWISE grants, and applications are made through EECA's approved Service Providers (installers).

Approved 'clean heat' devices, which include low emission woodburners, pellet fires, flued gas heaters and heat pumps, can be found at [www.energywise.govt.nz](http://www.energywise.govt.nz), along with the list of local EECA Service Providers.

For more information about the Regional Council's Heat Smart programme and Hawke's Bay's air quality targets visit:

[www.hbrc.govt.nz](http://www.hbrc.govt.nz)

or call the Heat Smart Info line on 06 833 8080 to have information posted out to you.

## STEPS TO A WARMER HOME

- Contact an EECA Service Provider (installer) for a free assessment of your home insulation and heating.
- Your Service Provider will confirm the level of ENERGYWISE and Regional Council Heat Smart funding assistance you qualify for and help you complete a Regional Council application form.
- They will let you know when your application has been approved so work can begin.

## WHO QUALIFIES FOR ASSISTANCE?

All homeowners qualify for funding assistance on insulation as this must be completed before clean heat can be installed.

Replacing an existing non-compliant woodburner or open fire within the Hastings or Napier airshed qualifies homeowners earning under \$100,000 per year for Regional Council clean heat funding.

Your Service Provider (installer) will direct you on the best clean heat option for your home and ensure any replacement burner meets the emission ratings for each airshed.

## GETTING BETTER INFORMATION ON LAND USE

People across Hawke's Bay have been helping the Regional Council improve the information on our land use register. This register lists properties where industries use, or may have used, hazardous substances, such as paint, solvents and fuel. In no way does a listing automatically imply a site is contaminated.

In August Council wrote to all property owners on an older 1995 Hazardous Activities and Industries List (or HAIL) to tell them their properties were listed and what this meant, and asked them to give us accurate information if they could. This was prompted by an Ombudsman's ruling that we had to give this older list to news media in October.

Council had concerns that this older list was not verified; in other words, large numbers of properties listed had not been investigated or there was no evidence that any hazardous

substances had been on site. The initial list was developed in 1995 and used a variety of sources, mostly telephone books from as early as 1930.

The Regional Council, plus city and district councils and private industry, has done a lot of work since 1995 setting priorities and taking action on the most hazardous sites, eg gas works, petrol stations, and landfills. Regular collections have also removed tonnes of unwanted agrichemicals from the region for safe disposal.

The land use register is continually updated as Council staff talk to property owners, assess hazards on site, and carefully classify the sites so that future owners have good information. All other regional councils in the country are currently doing a similar amount of work on their listings, as a result of official information requests by news media.

## A SIZZLING, SALADY SUSTAINABLE SUMMER

Imagine a sizzling pizza straight out of your cob oven, with a delicious salad brimming with fresh vegetables from your garden ... that's what the Hawke's Bay Environment Centre can help you add to your summer.

The Environment Centre has a great range of courses, events and tours to give you ideas and make a genuinely big difference to your lifestyle and your wallet.

You can learn to build a cob oven (earth pizza oven) by registering for workshops on Sundays November 8 or 22. And if you want a natural way to garden and grow those yummy vegetables, the current October permaculture design intro course is underway, but has been very popular so you are asked to register your interest now for a class in November.

"Permaculture is learning the principles of natural systems so you take your cue from nature to design for energy efficiency, low maintenance and high productivity. And using good design means less work," says tutor Jo Duff.

An organic farm tour on Wednesday 28 October is an all-day trip visiting a sheep and beef farm, a dairy farm and a mixed farm. And bookings are being taken for an eco building tour on Sunday 1 November - a behind-the-scenes tour of homes in Hawke's Bay and Central Hawke's Bay looking at water recycling, composting toilets, solar water and passive heating, and construction with recycled materials, locally milled timber, straw bale and earth brick construction.

**Phone the Environment Centre on 870 4942 or drop in to 220 Russell Street, Hastings.**



## PLEASE: NO BOATING FATALITIES!



**Be prepared:** Hawke's Bay Harbourmaster Charlie Rycroft, centre, with flares and an emergency beacon, is joined by Quentin Swayn from HB Marine Action Outdoors with a VHF radio and his cell phone in a waterproof bag and Andrew Lo, right, from Maritime NZ (showing a new child's lifejacket).

It would be great if Hawke's Bay could stay out of the boating fatality statistics in the coming summer, says Hawke's Bay Harbourmaster Charlie Rycroft.

"2008 was a bad year for recreational boating fatalities nationally, and while boaties are generally blokes that don't like being told what to do, they need to remember that being prepared doesn't just mean dealing with something going wrong with your boat out on the water. It could be anything unexpected such as someone having a medical emergency or falling over and hurting themselves."

Here's has an essential safety equipment checklist you should tick off before putting your boat on the water this summer. As well as carrying a suitable buoyancy vest or lifejacket for everyone onboard, the boat should also have at least two methods of reliable communications.

The communications equipment checklist for a boat of less than 6 metres in length should include the following items, depending on how far offshore you are going:

- A fully charged, handheld, waterproof, marine VHF radio
- An EPIRB (406 MHz) – an emergency position indicating rescue beacon (these beacons communicate via satellite, and are also

available fitted with a GPS receiver which pinpoints your position more accurately).

- A waterproof bag (available free from Maritime NZ) for your cell phone - make sure your phone is fully charged. Remember to phone 111 and ask for the Police in an emergency on the water.
- A flare pack, which includes red hand flares, orange smoke floats (for daylight use) and parachute distress flares. These usually come in a container, not only for ease of storage, but because it will float if your boat sinks.

Keep your speed down to five knots (or about 10 kph) within 200m of the shore or dive flag and within 50m of other boats or people in the water, Charlie says. "Excessive speed on the water is a common cause of accidents, some fatal."

Skippers should also update their knowledge by doing a Dayskipper or Boatmaster's certificate (through the Coastguard) to look after their own safety and the safety of family and friends.

Don't forget to check the weather and go easy on the alcohol – especially the skipper!