



## **New Zealand Green Grants Survey**

In March 2009 Saints Information Ltd on behalf of the Hikurangi Foundation and ASB Community Tryst conducted a survey of non-government grant-makers on their giving to the environment in general and climate change in particular. This is a quick summary of their responses.

### **Who responded?**

- A link to an online survey was sent to 220 grant makers drawn from the membership of Philanthropy New Zealand and contacts from the Funding Information Services' Fundview database
- Seventy-three useable responses were received (although responses per question varied) giving a response rate of about 33%
- Among statutory trusts (community trusts, gaming trust and energy trusts) the response was close to 50%
- Voluntary trusts are therefore somewhat under represented, and the sample does not include the significant number administered by the trustee companies
- All regions were represented in terms of receiving funding

### **General funding information**

- Respondents reported total giving in the last financial year of \$258,818,090
- There was a wide spread of funding from \$4,000-\$35 million but 55% gave away less than a million
- The largest 20 trusts (18 statutory, 2 private) account for 88% of the total funding
- 30% of trusts expect their funding to decrease next year, however these trusts represent 50% of the total funding. This is not surprising as the three largest trusts participating in the survey were in this category.
- 90% do not anticipate any major change in the areas they supported.
- Education and Social Services enjoy the greatest levels of support, both in terms of the number of trusts providing funding in the area and those providing the largest percentage of their funding to the area.
- However if Sports & Recreation and Culture & Arts are combined, they become the area that the most grant-makers listed as their largest funding area.

- This is largely in line with the finding from the *Giving New Zealand 2006* research which found Culture & Recreation and Education & Research to be the areas receiving the most support.

### **Environmental funding information**

- Over half of the trusts surveyed said they provided regular or occasional support to the environment
- Ten percent listed it as their largest area of support
- Of the trusts that indicated that they hadn't given to the environment in the last year, the reasons given were mostly split between:  
*Environment is not one of our current funding priorities (29%)*  
*We received no suitable requests (29%)*  
*We are restricted by our trust deed which does not include environment (26%)*
- Conservation (habitat preservation & land use and biodiversity & species preservation) was the area receiving the highest level of support being supported by 62% and 40% (respectively) of trusts
- Conservation (practical conservation work) was the approach most favoured (68% of trusts)
- Education (environmental education (32%) and public education and awareness (46%)) was the next most popular area to receive funding
- Insufficient data was collected on the number and size of grants going to each area to draw any conclusions
- Total funding reported was \$6,298,366 (from 37 funders)
- Environment is 3.3% of total **for funders that give to the environment**
- Funders tend to give a lot to the environment (100%) or not much (less than 1%-15%). Except for one trust that gave 50% of its funding to the environment, none of the surveyed trusts gave between the two extremes.
- Statutory trusts gave 65% of the total and voluntary trusts 35%, however overall funding was split 89% statutory, 11% voluntary

### **Climate Change funding information**

- Twenty-five trusts indicated that they were providing funding for climate change projects or programmes
- There was more support for indirect projects (which have climate change impacts although it is not the primary aim) than direct ones

- All but two of the funders considered or reported their funding for climate change as support for the environment. These two were supporting 'healthy home' projects
- Of 31 trusts that provided financial information on total, environment and climate change funding – 12 trusts that provide funding to the environment, gave no support to climate change, although only one of these was a significant funder (100%)
- Of the environmental funders who gave to climate change, three gave 90-100%, the rest ranged from 10%-60%.
- Eighteen trusts provided a total of \$2,353,837 for climate change projects. Support includes both indirect and direct support
- Seventy-three percent expected their level of climate change funding to remain constant over the next year

### **Attitudes to Climate Change**

- Funders were asked some questions on their attitudes towards climate change and their role in addressing it, sixty eight responded
- Eighty-five percent agreed or strongly agreed that climate change was a significant economic and environmental issue for NZ, while only 72% agreed or strongly agreed it was a significant social issue.
- More respondents strongly agreed that it was an environmental issue (45%) than an economic one (31%)
- Fifty-five percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that grant-makers can make a difference on climate change, although a large percentage (37%) were neutral on the subject
- The response to whether they should make a difference was less positive, with 46% being neutral and 7% strongly disagreeing
- Only 35% of grant-makers feel confident in their ability to make choices on climate change, while 36% feel that they have access to suitable expertise on the subject
- Note that of those who strongly agreed on their confidence, half strongly disagreed that grant-makers should make a contribution to climate change and were negative or neutral in most of their other answers. Confidence to make choices does not necessarily equate to being actively engaged.