

## Big plan to reverse global warming

Carbon Neutral Waiheke (CNW), a group committed to addressing climate change and its ramifications, publicly launched their carbon calculator at an event last Friday evening.

The launch was held at Waiheke Cinema where the seats were filled, and \$500 was raised to contribute to the cause.

"Instead of all the top-down stuff, we're trying to generate community responsibility," says Lindsay Jeffs one of the founders of CNW, which is a sub-branch of Carbon Neutral New Zealand.

Lynda Jeffs, another driving force behind the group, said the night was a huge success and the support received was greatly appreciated.

After a brief welcome, attendees viewed a video featuring renowned author and environmentalist, Paul Hawken, who discussed the book, *Project Drawdown*, which is jokingly subtitled the most comprehensive plan ever proposed to reverse global warming - because it's the only plan to do so.

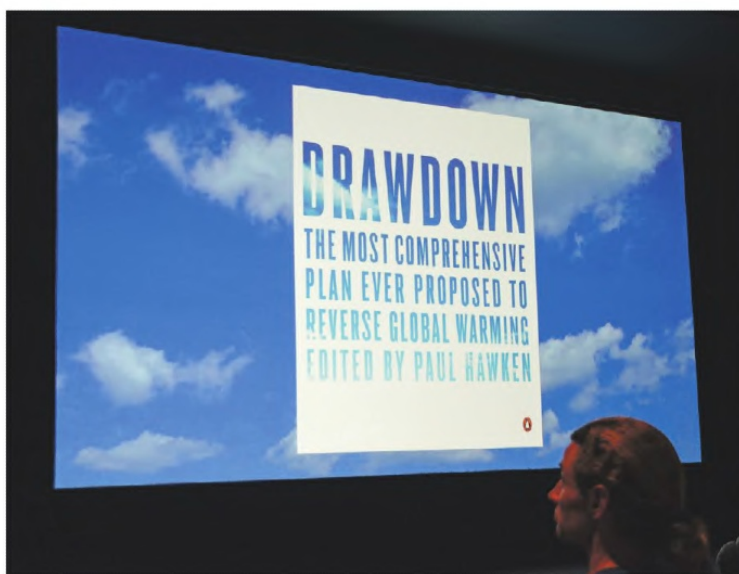
Following the screening, local designer Kevin Lewis introduced the carbon footprint calculator and demonstrated its functions.

"Mark Russell did a great job as MC and arranger of the Project Drawdown video which was very well received," says Lynda.

"Then Kevin Lewis demonstrated the new carbon reduction calculator, which enables users to measure their footprint and to find the best reduction measures that can be taken."

The easily navigable calculator provides simple steps to reduce emissions. If people aren't able to significantly reduce emissions due to something like necessary overseas travel, the website offers options that can be taken to offset emissions such as contributing to tree-planting initiatives or wetland restoration.

"There are a lot of people on the island who realise the best time to take action is now," says Lindsay. "There are so many actions that can be taken, in the areas of



At the launch of Carbon Neutral Waiheke's carbon calculator last Friday, attendees were shown a video detailing the 100 most substantive solutions to global warming from author and environmentalist Paul Hawken's *New York Times* bestselling book *Project Drawdown*.

transport, waste, planting, travel, solar power and food."

The aim of the online calculator is to help people reduce next year's emissions by comparing them to the current year, and the Jeffs hope the tool can help users achieve a 10 percent reduction per annum.

"People feel disempowered when it comes to managing carbon emissions," says Lynda. "We want to demystify it and give the power back to people."

The next Carbon Neutral Waiheke venture is to take part in the upcoming Waiheke Fossil Fuel Free Fiesta Christmas parade on Saturday 15 December. Then early next year, Lindsay Jeffs, along with other cyclists and support people, will ride from Waiheke to Wellington in

support of the Zero Carbon Bill.

In October, 15,000 submissions on the Government's Zero Carbon Bill consultation were publicly released. Over 90 percent of respondents said they wanted a target of net zero emissions across all greenhouse gases by 2050 set in legislation. The establishment of a Climate Change Commission, with an advisory role to Government, was supported by 96 percent of respondents, and 92 percent thought the Bill should include provisions to help New Zealand adapt to the effects of climate change.

To find out how you can reduce your emissions, try out the carbon calculator, designed specifically for Waihekeans at <https://www.carbonneutraltrust.org.nz>  
• Sophie Boladeras



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