



Media Statement

19 August 2009

Hundreds benefit from warmer drier healthier homes.

More than 300 Kaikoura families are benefitting from warmer, drier and healthier homes this winter thanks to the Warm-up Kaikoura Project, a whole-town energy efficiency project funded by MainPower in partnership with EECA's Energywise™ programme.

"We chose Kaikoura because it is a Green Globe Town and 'Warm up Kaikoura' would assist the town to build on its Green Globe success factors", says Julie Battersby, Community Relations Manager for MainPower. "The benefits of having a town more energy efficient are the residents are warmer and healthier and use less energy to heat their homes".

"We have had really good feedback from people who have had their homes insulated." One person said: "*I could feel the difference in temperature the day after the installers had been*".

"The project was a great success and installed more than 50,000 square metres of insulation", says Julie Battersby. That is equivalent to 8.5 rugby fields, or stretched in one long line along the highway, covers the 118 km from Omihia Road to Kaikoura. Measures included ceiling and under floor insulation, under floor moisture barrier, cylinder wraps and exterior door draught stoppers.

To date MainPower's wider Warm Homes programme has installed insulation and other home energy efficiency measures in close to 1000 homes in the North Canterbury and Kaikoura region.

MainPower contracted Canterbury charitable trust Community Energy Action (CEA) to install the insulation in Kaikoura homes. "CEA are aware that the insulation situation in smaller towns can be worse than in the main centres. That is why we were delighted to be contracted by MainPower for this project" says Bede Martin, Chief Executive of CEA.

CEA found some marked differences from homes they insulate in Christchurch, where assessors usually find that many of the homes have too thin a layer of insulation. "Many homes in Kaikoura had no insulation at all. These people must have been freezing over many winters," says Mr Martin.

Mike Limmer, team leader for the CEA installation teams said the CEA installers received overwhelming hospitality from the people of Kaikoura. "We often got coffee and scones and were taken on hunting and fishing trips. We were even invited for tea once!" Mr Limmer says.

With the recently announced changes to government funding for insulation, there is now even greater opportunity for home owners to insulate and warm up their homes.

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