

# SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

The Earthcheck™ Sustainable Communities program is a worldwide network of proactive communities that are aiming to achieve world-leading sustainability outcomes. Underpinned by the Earthcheck™ benchmarking, certification and performance improvement system the program assists communities to measure, monitor and achieve sustainability outcomes, learning from the experiences of others.

The Earthcheck™ Sustainable Communities Program is built on international standard with the Earthcheck™ *science inside* to help communities respond to the major environmental problems facing the planet, including climate change, waste reduction and non-renewable resource management.



## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES:

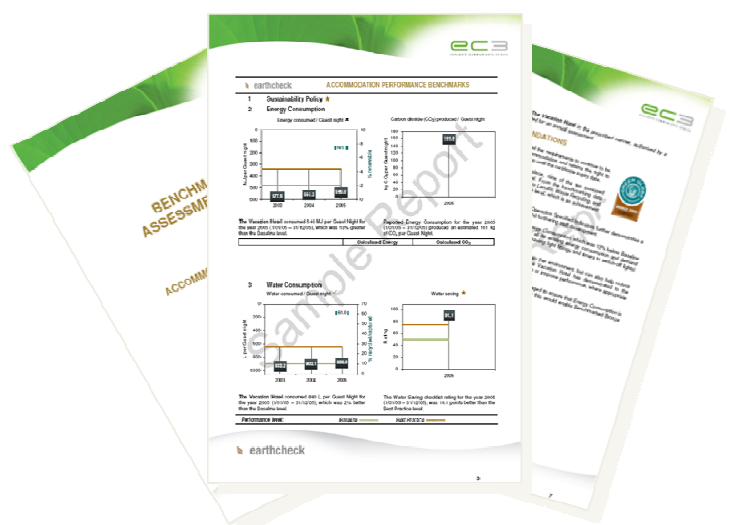
- Is a global **network of dedicated communities** with participants in Australia, New Zealand, Iceland, Mexico and the Caribbean;
- Uses **globally recognised indicators and measures** of sustainability monitored through the Earthcheck™ *science inside*;
- Provides ready access to **baseline and best practice comparisons**; ; and
- Provides an opportunity to gain 'certification' through an **independent third party auditor**

## YOU CAN'T MANAGE WHAT YOU CAN'T MEASURE!

Any community tackling the challenges of climate change and sustainability needs to be able to report on its progress and achievements. The Earthcheck Sustainable Communities Program is **THE** tool that will help you to not only measure your progress, but benchmark your performance against other communities and global baselines and provides the opportunity for certification against an international standard.

Members of the Earthcheck™ Sustainable Communities Program gain access to:

- A user-friendly online data-entry, measurement and benchmarking tool that is regularly updated;
- A workshop for key stakeholders facilitated by experienced staff with hands-on sustainability experience;
- Technical support from a dedicated Relationship Manager over the phone and online assistance;
- A trained, independent third party auditors to assess their performance against an international standard; and
- Annual benchmarking reports, including comparisons against baseline and best practice performance.



## KAIKOURA DISTRICT COUNCIL

***Kaikoura District Council was the first local authority in the world to achieve Sustainable Communities Certification***



The Sustainable Communities Program was adopted by the Kaikoura District Council of New Zealand in 2001 as their framework to reduce the environmental impact of the community and the visitors. Kaikoura has a stunning environment which is important to the community and attracts close to 1 million visitors each year. Looking after this precious environment is important for the community, its visitors and future generations.

The Earthcheck™ Sustainable Communities Program helped the Kaikoura community to reduce and measure their impact on the environment, and since 2001 Kaikoura has been able to **reduced waste sent to landfill by over 50%**.

By measuring the impact they are having, they are able to manage it and work to reduce the negative effects. The Council has adopted an Environmental & Social Sustainability Policy and every day activities focus on leading the community towards sustainability.

Further details about Kaikoura's journey can be found at: [www.kaikoura.govt.nz/green\\_globe/index.htm](http://www.kaikoura.govt.nz/green_globe/index.htm)

### BECOMING AN EARTHCHECK SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY IS EASY

- ✓ Register online for the Sustainable Communities Program at [www.ec3global.com](http://www.ec3global.com)
- ✓ Once you join you will receive access to “My EC3”, your online portal to all the online material and assistance;
- ✓ EC3 Global will arrange a one-day Scoping Workshop, including a one day rapid appraisal of your preparedness to undertake benchmarking
- ✓ You are given a dedicated Relationship Manager, providing you invaluable support and advice specific to your community
- ✓ Your staff undertake online benchmarking and receive a Benchmarking Assessment Report
- ✓ If you choose you can have a third –party audit of your adherence to the international standard, including an onsite certification audit by a trained auditor.

For more information, please contact:

Mark Olsen  
General Manager, Consulting Services  
Phone: +61 7 3238 1910  
Email: [mark.olsen@ec3global.com](mailto:mark.olsen@ec3global.com)