

Energy Centre fact sheet

Objectives

The Energy Centre's mission is to provide research, policy analysis and educational programmes to help business and Government confront energy issues of national significance to New Zealand.

We act as a bridge for open and informed dialogue between the energy industry, policy makers and the community.

We also provide energy-related education creating future leaders for academia, business and the public sector.

Background

Based in the Economics Department of the University of Auckland Business School, the Energy Centre was founded in 2004 and its programmes are supported by the Energy Education Trust of New Zealand, internal grants from the University of Auckland and external research funds, including international sources of financial support.

The Centre has strong links to and nurtures active cooperation with other university disciplines and groups, including:

- Electricity Power Optimization Centre (EPOC)
- Electric Power Systems Group, the Transport Research Centre
- New Zealand Centre for Supply Chain Management
- School of Engineering and Faculty of Science

The Centre has well-established links with international energy research institutes.

Ongoing research

The Energy Centre is research-led with a focus on three broad areas: energy markets, resource and environment markets, and transport economics.

As one of the Business School's key strategic research themes, the Centre's priorities are set after consultation with the Energy Education Trust in consultation with partner companies, the energy sector more generally, transport and government agencies. Meetings and seminars provide a vehicle for business and government agencies to engage with the Centre's programmes. Stakeholder participation ensures industry, policy and community relevance.

We are currently engaged in the following projects, many of which are cross disciplinary:

- Electricity, market design, demand side management
- Renewables, wind, solar
- Transport, mode of choice to work, congestion management
- Oil and gas, development, international markets
- Energy efficiency
- Greenhouse gas emission and carbon markets
- Simulations of wind in electricity markets (SWEM)

Outputs

Our main output areas are:

- Education, including two energy economics courses, scholarships, masters and PhD students
- Published research in international peer reviewed journals, focused on New Zealand's energy sector, especially in the areas of electricity, gas and fuels markets as well as transport and climate change
- Outreach to disseminate research findings, initiate discussions and stimulate interest in the area of energy economics through publications and submissions as well as regular seminars, community events, and workshops

