

Power for the People!!

Christine Rupp, Chair, Counties Power Consumer Trust

chair@countiespowerconsumertrust.co.nz

This is a follow up on last month's article from Counties Power Consumer Trust which holds the shares on behalf of all Counties Power consumers.

There has been some exciting developments lately which the trustees would like to share with you.



Counties Power has received funding from EECA (Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority) for projects to provide Franklin with smarter energy solutions. One project is the creation of a battery system made from used electric vehicle batteries to store energy. This will provide power to remote areas if there is a power outage. Another project uses a similar system to power new electric vehicle chargers at Mercer. The funding aims to fast track the use of electric vehicles and sustainable energy solutions in New Zealand. More information on this can be found on the company website <http://www.countiespower.com/news>

Photo: Counties Power team involved with the recycled battery system.

Last year the Trust was at the Counties Power Pukekohe Show (A&P Show) at the Counties Power stand providing five free LED lightbulbs to consumers. We also provided LED lightbulbs to go into food packages at Pukekohe later last year with a brochure on saving power. This year the Show was cancelled due to Covid-19, so we have applied for government funding to supply further LED lightbulbs and energy saving advice. If successful, this trial will target older housing areas more likely to be using inefficient bulbs. The government is concerned about power poverty and as Trustees this is a way we feel we can assist in addressing this in our consumer area.



Photo: Handing out LED lights and talking about energy efficiency at the Counties Power Pukekohe Show – Christine Rupp Trust Chair with Chris Mardon from EcoBulbs

We would have liked to report on the Deloitte Energy Excellence Awards for which Counties Power was a finalist but unfortunately this was postponed to May due to Covid-19 restrictions. Watch this space!

The Trustees Alan Eyes, Phil Beston, Don Thomson, David Spratt and myself continue to monitor Counties Power to the benefit of you as consumers.