



CEWH COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

TE HIRINGA O TE RĀ – COMMUNITY ENERGY WHĀINGAROA

KIA ORA WHĀINGAROA WHĀNAU

It's been a big year for Community Energy Whāingaroa (CEWh)! We've laid strong foundations and made real headway toward a future where more of our energy is generated locally, our homes are healthier, and our community can access the help they need to do energy better.

With the support of partners, funders and local organisations, we've advanced the Whāingaroa Community Solar Farm, expanded our healthy homes and education programmes, and grown our capacity to deliver meaningful local energy solutions.



LOCAL RENEWABLE ENERGY

Solar on Local Businesses

Our supported rooftop solar projects at the Raglan Community House and Xtreme Zero Waste produced:

- **128,000 kWh of clean, renewable power**
- **80 tonnes of CO₂ emissions avoided**

That's like powering 6,500 homes for a day or taking 47 cars off the road for a year, great progress toward local generation and climate goals.

⚡ WHĀINGAROA COMMUNITY SOLAR FARM – FEASIBILITY COMPLETED

The feasibility study for a 2 MW community-owned solar farm at Te Uku is now complete, with support from WEL Energy Trust.

The study confirmed the project is:

- **Technically viable**
- **Commercially feasible**
- **Environmentally suitable**
- **Socially beneficial**

CEWh is now developing an investment business case. Next steps include funding and investment opportunities, engineering modelling, resource consent, iwi and neighbour engagement, grid planning, and Power Purchase Agreement negotiations.



If built, it will become New Zealand's first community-owned solar farm of this scale, generating around 3,000 MWh each year, enough to power about 450 homes.



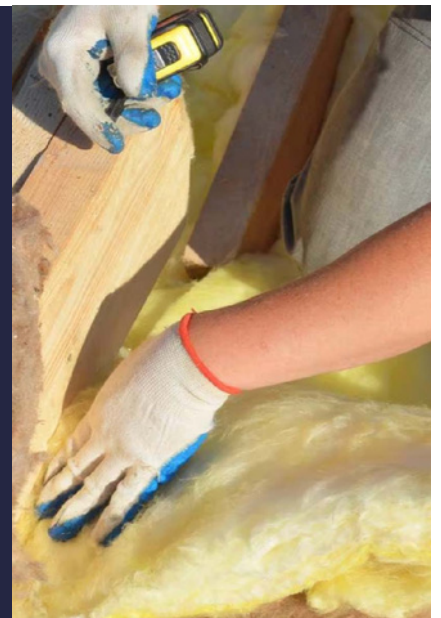
CREATING HEALTHY HOMES

This year we trained:

- Three local builders and one budgeting advisor as qualified Home Performance Advisors.

Together they've delivered:

- 11 free Home Energy Checks
- 16 Healthy Homes Standards assessments
- Free minor and major retrofits for low-income homes - including draught stopping, moisture control, LED lighting, curtains and mould removal.



We also became the local Healthy Homes assessor for the Meridian Wellbeing Programme, helping households most affected by energy hardship.

These projects are helping make Whāingaroa homes warmer, drier and healthier – one house at a time.

💡 ENERGY EFFICIENCY EDUCATION

Our four Energy Mentors were busy this year!

Community Workshops

- 3 Cozy Up community workshops
- 1 for Xtreme Zero Waste staff
- 4 sessions for Raglan Area School students
- Regular Power Savvy Tips and Tricks shared to Raglan Chronicle and Facebook.



These sessions help households:

- Understand power bills
- Choose the right electricity provider
- Keep homes warm and dry
- Access insulation and heat-pump subsidies
- Book free CEWh Home Energy Checks

FREE ENERGY RESOURCES DISTRIBUTED

Hundreds of free resources shared including hygrometers, LED bulbs, draught stoppers, condensation scoopies, mould kits, heaters and curtains.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Regular energy advice at monthly marae clinics
- Weekly Monday drop-ins at Raglan Community House
- Personalised support for over 50 local whānau



TRADIE SECRETS FOR HIGH PERFORMING HOMES

- Two free breakfast workshops for local builders, electricians, plumbers and designers.
- Home Performance expert sharing practical tips for building and retrofitting warm, dry, energy-efficient homes.



LOW ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT STORAGE

Second-Life EV Battery Project

With the help of local engineers – The Infinite Monkey lab, CEWh developed a 50 kW energy storage system using retired EV batteries. This is a step toward showing how circular-economy innovation can lower costs, reduce waste and build community resilience.



RAGLAN COMMUNITY HOUSE RESILIENCE

Raglan Community House now operates with a Tesla battery, powered by the solar system installed by CEWh.

Our renewable generation makes it possible for the battery to charge cleanly, enabling the House to:

- Operate during power outages
- Serve as a Civil Defence hub
- Provide warmth and device-charging during emergencies



A great local example of renewable energy supporting community resilience.



LOOKING AHEAD – 2026 PRIORITIES

1. Deliver the solar farm investment case to funders, investors and the community
2. Secure funding to take the solar farm to construction-ready
3. Lodge resource consent for the solar farm
4. Extend Healthy Home assessment and retrofits to those in need
5. Provide free energy efficiency workshops to schools, marae, businesses and the community
6. Simple low cost off grid solar system workshops
7. Support improvements to rental housing quality in Raglan



THANK YOU, WHĀINGAROA

We're deeply grateful to our partners and supporters :

WEL Energy Trust, Raglan Community House, Te Toi Ora ki Whaingaroa, Stendy Solar, The Values Trust, Xtreme Zero Waste, Lightyears Solar, Raglan Rentals, Ian Mayes, Affordable Housing Project, The Infinite Monkey Lab, Raglan Naturally, Community Energy Network (CEN), our HPA Advisers. Energy Mentors, Co-ordinators, Volunteer Board and local Start up Investors.

Thank you for helping build a cleaner, healthier, community-powered future for Whāingaroa.

If you'd like to get involved, or stay updated, let us know - we'd love to hear from you.

Ngā mihi nui,
The CEWh Team