



## MEDIA RELEASE

### 0800 Home Energy Advice Now Available to Horowhenua, Manawatu and Wairarapa Residents

Cold weather and high power bills may be less daunting for some households now that the whole of the Kapiti Coast, and Horowhenua, Manawatu and Wairarapa residents can access free, impartial, expert advice regarding their home energy needs, as from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2008. The Wellington region has been piloting the Home Energy Advice Centre which has been funded by the Ministry for the Environment with co-funding from the Wellington City Council. The service will be extended into other regions around New Zealand over the coming year.

The Advice Centre can help people save money on energy bills and get more value for their energy dollars. Energy Advisor Sarah Free explains, "We aim to help people create a warmer, drier, healthier and more energy efficient home. People may be considering putting in insulation, new heating, or looking to upgrade appliances with more modern, energy efficient alternatives. We are here to discuss each household's individual requirements and to help work out the best solutions. With the Government's new subsidized loan scheme a much wider range of households are now entitled to financial assistance for installing energy saving measures such as insulation, or more effective heating. Our advice is completely impartial, and we do not promote any particular products or brands. We provide information about products and suppliers, and will assist people to decide what will best suit them and their circumstances."

Sarah points out that saving energy is good for the environment too, lowering CO2 emissions and reducing the need for electricity network upgrades in the future.

The toll free number is 0800 388 588, and the service is available Monday-Thursday 10 am to 4pm. Those interested can also visit the website [www.energyadvice.org.nz](http://www.energyadvice.org.nz), or email an energy advisor at [energyadvice@sustaintrust.org.nz](mailto:energyadvice@sustaintrust.org.nz)

**ENDS**

***For more information please contact:***

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Ministry for the  
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Manatū Mō Te Taiao

**Sustainable Management Fund**

**Absolutely**  
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