

# South Christchurch Library Building

August 2007

www.library.christchurch.org.nz/South/Building

Sustainability was one of the key issues identified by members of the local community during the public consultation phase of planning for the new South Christchurch Library, opened in August 2003. When the Architecture Warren and Mahoney designed complex is finished it will be among the most environmentally friendly buildings in Christchurch. Sustainability features include a focus on minimising waste and energy use, and use of sustainable and non-toxic materials.

## Water use

Rainwater from the roof is collected and stored for use in the toilets and irrigation system. Low water-use plumbing fittings i.e. time-controlled taps, dual flush toilet cisterns, low-flow shower head and waterless urinals further reduce water use.

## Material selection

Timber used is from certified sustainable sources. Where possible, non-toxic materials are used to reduce indoor air pollutants and also to minimise pollution of the environment resulting from their manufacture. Examples include alternatives to CCA and LOSP treated timber and low formaldehyde MDF. Durable materials eg. glass and unpainted zincalume roofing minimise the use of surface finishes such as paint.

## Waste minimisation

Preference is given to the use of building materials with recycled content. Examples include acoustic insulation manufactured from 100% recycled wool scraps, cement manufactured with 75% recycled content and hardcore containing demolition waste.

The building is being constructed in accordance with a waste management plan, drawn up in conjunction with the [Christchurch City Council Target Zero Waste](#) team, to reduce the amount of waste created during the construction process.

## Site Ecology

Roof-top rainwater collection reduces the amount of stormwater leaving the site. Planted drainage swales and retention ponds help to slow down the speed of stormwater leaving the site, while at the same time filtering out pollutants such as petrol and diesel residues from roads and carparks. Design responsive to topography and ecology minimises earth movement and removal of trees (eg. trees retained along Hunter Terrace and Colombo Street).

## Energy use

