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HCC candidate name: Max Coyle – HCC West Ward

1. Have you personally been involved in any group, organisation or activities that relate to sustainability? Please give details and outcomes.

Worked for the Western Community Centre, planting hundreds of fruit trees on peoples properties for free all over West Hamilton and in public spaces.

Campaigned/lobbied for separated cycleways, trains, better urban design and a more livable city for years in Hamilton as an individual, as part of CAN and as a founder of the Hamilton Future Foundation.

Project managed and got \$25000 worth of solar panels funded for the Western Community Centre, saving \$6000 a year in power bills and have gone on to use the solar panels teaching local community and children about them and how others can harness solar for themselves.

Para Kore Waste Minimization Officer, successfully reduced waste output through recycling, worm farms, composting and education for Western Community Centre and its staff and venue users.

Run worm farm education and low cost worm farm and worm sales to the community, helping people get their farms started and helping when things go wrong :D

Campaigned against seabed mining at protests.

Worked with the Conservation Corps doing gully restoration and pa site cleanup, track maintenance and noxious plant cleanup in Tauranga and the greater Bay of Plenty.

2. Please rank, in order of (1) to (7), what you consider to be the most pressing needs for sustainability today, (1) being the most pressing and (7) the least. Please also add one of your own ideas.

Adapting to the impacts of climate change Rank: 6

Reducing our contribution to climate change Rank: 1

Sustainable economic growth Rank: 7

Sustainable transport options Rank: 4

Sustainable urban design Rank: 5

Water quality in our rivers and lakes Rank: 3

Other (Shifting away from animal agriculture): Rank: 2

Comments: I have added shifting away from animal agriculture, as recommended by experts worldwide. Removing animal agriculture from the region will clean up our waterways and shrink our carbon footprint as a region/city massively. Adapting to climate change is the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff. We must reduce transport and agricultural emissions and rebuild our cities to prioritize active and social transport.

3. In your view, what is the most effective thing Council could do to improve wellbeing for those of lower socioeconomic status in our city?

Free and accessible public transport. Not install water meters but instead focus attention on water conservation and treating water as a taonga. Invest in purchasing and redeveloping inner city buildings into mixed use with residential high quality, well insulated healthy apartments using the 23 top storeys, then offering them on a rent to own basis for those desperately seeking a first home. Funding Community Centres and organisations that work with those at risk and guaranteeing multiyear funding grants to give the agencies peace of mind so they can get on with the good work they do.

4. What do you see as future priorities for transport in Hamilton City and what benefits do you believe these changes will bring?

Light rail from University to Chartwell/CBD (reopen the CBD underground) to The Base.

Fully separated cycleways on all main roads and on main arterials.

Pedestrianise the CBD from Hood St to London St, Anglesea to Victoria. This will allow shoppers and CBD visitors and residents to enjoy the CBD as it should be. Accessible and safe!

Light rail from new Peacockes through to CBD then light rail line from CBD to Rototuna/Northern Suburbs.

5. What sustainable water management strategies do you think Council should implement?

Riparian planting and cleaning the Waikato river. Funded gully and creek restoration across City. Runoff policing by enforcement officers. Water use reduction education strategies for residents and businesses. Subsidies and encourage rainwater collection (main system) on all new builds and subsidizing retrofitting existing builds for rainwater collection for outside/toilet flushing systems. Actively fixing leaks and replacing all infrastructure mesh block by mesh block.

6. Do you see the Council as having responsibility towards managing native biodiversity within the city? If yes, what policies would you like to see in place to support this? If no, please explain.

Yes. I would like to see Council's funding and supporting the groups which already do a great job of helping encourage and protect biodiversity in this City and for Parks and Gardens to work alongside these groups in conjunction with experts and academics to ensure we become an icon for City biodiversity in the Southern Hemisphere.

7. What strategies do you think Council should employ to minimise the City's waste?

HCC needs to follow in Raglans footsteps and head towards a zero waste policy, expanding the dump shop, advertising it better and more importantly investing in plant to recycle all plastic numbers or where not viable, shipping other plastic numbers to facilities in Auckland via electrified rail. HCC needs to reimplement an inorganic waste pickup.

8. How can Hamilton celebrate cultural diversity while helping to strengthen cross cultural ties?

I would like to see Council's funding and supporting the groups which already do a great job of helping encourage and protect cultural diversity in this City and for Community Development to work alongside these groups in conjunction with experts and academics to ensure we become an icon for City cultural diversity in the Southern Hemisphere.

9. Do you think Council has a role in supporting businesses, schools, families and individuals to make more sustainable choices? If no, why not and if yes what ideas do you have to support this?

Yes by providing the resources as requested to assist those businesses by using best practice sustainable methods and working alongside the Waikato Environment Centre to provide expert assistance. I would also like to see more education campaigns from Council's back up by civic awards to encourage.

10. Do you think Council has a responsibility to have policies to mitigate climate change and manage its impacts? Could you please give some examples?

Yes. When it comes to policy, I would like to see HCC develop a policy alongside Sustainable Waikato to have their full input on how best to implement a Carbon neutral Council.

11. Suppose that your Council is considering a proposal for economic development. The development would increase regional GDP and create a significant number of jobs. It would also add significant pollution to waterways and further degrade their ecosystems. Would you support the proposal or not? What is your reasoning?

No I would not. We cannot eat money.