

## EMSOL UPDATE APRIL 2020

Emsol's April 2020 Update:



1. **Important information for our clients regarding COVID-19**
2. **Tips for energy saving at home**
3. **Energy Tariffs**
4. **Whakatane District Council carbon savings**
5. **Update on Erin's TA Walk**

### 1. COVID-19

Emsol hopes you are staying safe and keeping well during this challenging time. We are available to be contacted by email, mobile phone, or video meetings. All our staff are working from their homes.

We understand that the lockdown period means some organisations are closed, some are working from home, and many essential organisations are operating in a new and demanding environment.

If your energy demands have changed significantly, please give us a quick call if you'd like to discuss implications related to energy and carbon efficiency. For some organisations, it may be a period to modify the control schedules of equipment and buildings.

### 2. Tips for energy saving at home

With many of us based at home 24/7, our energy use will increase. It is a useful time to consider energy efficiency around our houses. For example, showering early to mid-afternoon when it's warmer can reduce hot water use. Block draughts, close blinds and curtains as soon as the sun sets, defrost freezers, and fill the jug with just enough water for your tea or coffee.



Are you getting the cheapest energy price at home? Check out WhatsMyNumber

<https://www.powerswitch.org.nz/whatsmynumber>

### 3. Energy Tariffs

Futures electricity prices have reduced significantly for the next 12 months. If you have an expired electricity contract, or are on the Spot Market, it is a relevant time for a tariff analysis and to fix your prices for a year or more. In addition, your forecast electricity use profile may have changed, which means a different lines fee may be appropriate.

#### **4. Whakatane District Council Carbon Savings**

Whakatane District Council set a goal in 2018 to reduce its carbon emissions. As part of this goal, Emsol assisted the Council to complete an energy and carbon audit, implement an energy and carbon management plan, and monitor and report its savings. To date, the Council reduced its annual carbon emissions by 125 tonnes.

At its Aquatic and Fitness Centre, the Aquatic Team prioritised the use of heat pumps over natural gas boilers. It did this by optimising water heating trends. Natural gas use reduced by 55% and electricity use increased 3.3%, saving a net \$35,000 per year.

Building on this project, the Council is looking at implementing other energy and carbon saving opportunities that were identified in the audit, as well as additional ideas from their energy and carbon team meetings. This includes its vehicle fleet, which emits more than 12% of Whakatane District Council's carbon.

#### **5. Update on Erin's TA Walk**

Erin has passed the 2,700 km mark on his Te Araroa tramp. With 250 km to go, he decided to postpone finishing the TA and get home to Nelson when he heard from his family that NZ had gone to Alert Level 2.

Erin has been impressed with the variety of outstanding scenery in the back country of New Zealand. Some of these places include Tararuas, Richmond Ranges (photo), Waiau Pass, and Breast Hill Track behind Lake Hawea. He has also enjoyed family and friends walking with him for some of the sections.



Erin appreciates the tremendous support he's had, particularly from his wife, Sue, during the past four months.

#### **Find Out More**

Please contact Carl Newby ([carl.newby@emsol.co.nz](mailto:carl.newby@emsol.co.nz)) or Abigail Zeng ([abigail.zeng@emsol.co.nz](mailto:abigail.zeng@emsol.co.nz)) for more information. [www.emsol.co.nz](http://www.emsol.co.nz).