

# CEP 2026 CONFERENCE

26th & 27th May  
Claudelands, Hamilton

CEP Celebrating 25 years



## PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME As at 29 April 2026


### DAY 1: TUESDAY 26 MAY 2026

TE RADAR | CONFERENCE MC *Te Radar appears by arrangement with Johnson & Laird Management*

8.00am	<b>Registration and Coffee</b> <i>Industry Exhibition Area</i>		
	<b>Session 1   Conference Opening and Welcome</b> <i>Heaphy 2&amp;3</i>		
9.00am	<b>Mihi Whakatau</b>		
9.10am	<b>Welcome and Housekeeping</b> <b>TE RADAR   MC</b>		
9.15am	<b>Welcome to Hamilton</b> <b>TIM MACINDOE   MAYOR OF HAMILTON</b>		
9.20am	<b>Welcome from CEP</b> <b>CEP BOARD MEMBER / MIKE HOPKINS</b>		
9.25am	<b>Keynote</b> <b>TO BE CONFIRMED SOON</b>		
10.15am	<b>The Role of Gas in New Zealand's Energy Future</b> <b>DAVID PRENTICE   CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GAS INDUSTRY CO</b> Gas plays an essential part in New Zealand's energy sector today and will continue to into the future. It is essential to the reliability, flexibility and security of New Zealand's energy supply and is critical in providing the flexibility needed to support a managed transition towards the renewable energy future we all want for New Zealand		
10.45am	<b>Meet the Exhibitors</b> <b>2 MINUTES EACH</b>		
10.55am	<b>Networking Break and Morning Tea</b> <i>Industry Exhibition Area, Heaphy 1</i>		
	<b>Session 2a  </b> <i>Heaphy 2&amp;3</i>	<b>Session 2b  </b> <i>Brooklyn 1</i>	<b>Session 2c   Workshop</b> <i>Brooklyn 2</i>
11.25am	<b>From Influence to Impact: Elevating Sustainability on the Board Agenda</b> <b>AISHA PUNGA   CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, TOITŪ ENVIROCARE</b> Sustainability professionals play a key role in driving climate action, yet elevating these priorities	<b>Taranaki Geoheat Discovery Challenge; Assessing Geoheat Potential in Legacy Petroleum Assets</b> <b>EVELIEN WALLACE   ARA AKE</b> In this presentation, Evelien will introduce Ara Ake's Taranaki Geoheat Discovery Challenge, which explores the potential to reuse legacy petroleum	<b>Energy Efficiency Right Sizing Workshop</b> <b>JONATHAN POOCH   DETA CONSULTING</b> <b>BEN THOMSON   LUMEN</b> <b>BEN FISHER   SILVER FERN FARMS</b> <b>TIM EDMONDS   HEAD OF ADVISORY, SIMPLY ENERGY</b>

	to the Board level can be challenging. This session explores how to bridge that gap by translating technical insights and operational initiatives into strategic narratives that influence governance decision-making. Drawing on real New Zealand case studies, Toitū CEO Aisha Daji Punga will showcase how sustainability initiatives can be positioned using credible data and alignment with business strategy, and how these approaches help Boards shift from high-level commitment to active leadership.	assets for geoheat. The initiative is assessing the scope to provide reliable low-carbon heat for transitioning industries, reduce geoheat development costs, and extend infrastructure life. The session will share early scoping insights, project objectives, and next steps.	
11.55am	<b>Quantifying Nature Capital – Best Practices</b> <b>LUIS FILARDI   HEAD OF SUSTAINABILITY ANZ, BSI</b>	<b>Circular Economy in Action: Opportunities and Barriers</b> <b>ZOE BURKITT   SECTOR MANAGER BUILT ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND WASTE TOITŪ</b> <b>PHILLIP ALEXANDER   SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER, GLIDE</b> Glide’s re-refining of lubricating oils illustrates both the potential and the practical challenges of circular economy implementation. The presentation examines system-level constraints, energy hotspots, and infrastructure limitations, alongside lessons from other sectors. A holistic, end-to-end perspective is used to show how greater emissions reductions, resilience, and value retention can be achieved across New Zealand industry.	
12.25pm	<b>STUDENT PAPERS</b>		
12.45pm	<b>Networking Break and Lunch</b> <i>Industry Exhibition Area</i>		<b>Proudly sponsored by</b> <b>LUMEN</b>
	<b>Session 3a  </b> <i>Heaphy 2&amp;3</i>	<b>Session 3b  </b> <i>Brooklyn 1</i>	<b>Session 3c   Workshop</b> <i>Brooklyn 2</i>
1.45pm	<b>Decarbonising Rail: from Strategy to Action</b> <b>MICHELLE DEELY   SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER, KIWIRAIL</b> KiwiRail will outline its Carbon Reduction Plan, including targets, pathways, and practical initiatives delivered through its Carbon Zero Programme. Examples span electric shunt vehicles, efficient train-driving software, energy audits, low-carbon construction, and more. The session also covers	<b>Biogas Projects in Practice: Navigating Feedstock, Certainty, and Variability</b> <b>ABBEY ROBERTS-LI   ASSOCIATE – PROCESS ENGINEERING, BECA</b>	<b>Building Electrification Workshop</b> <b>LANCE JIMMIESON   MANAGING DIRECTOR, JACKSONS ENGINEERING</b>


	tools developed to support customer carbon reporting.		
2.15pm	<p><b>Decarbonising Shipping: Powering Change from Aotearoa New Zealand</b>  <b>BLAIR CULPH   GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN DEVELOPMENT MANGER, ZESPRI INTERNATIONAL</b>  As a globally exposed, New Zealand-based exporter, shipping is one of Zespri’s biggest climate challenges - and one of its greatest opportunities for change. This session shares insight into Zespri’s supply chain, how they are tackling shipping emissions and why this matters for long-term competitiveness. It explores Zespri’s climate change transition plan, near-term targets to 2030, collaboration with global shipping partners on alternative fuels, and the long-term ambition to re-shape how fresh produce moves to market on a net-zero pathway to 2050.</p>	<p><b>Woody Biomass for Bioenergy can Support Decarbonisation, Security and Affordability</b>  <b>ZARA BALADOR   SENIOR SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTANT, WSP</b>  This presentation summarises a life cycle assessment of woody biomass pathways for bioenergy in New Zealand. It compares short rotation forest and plantation timber forest systems supplying chips, white and black pellets for industrial heat and electricity, assessing global warming potential, and wider environmental impacts to identify optimal pathways for decarbonisation.</p>	
2.45pm	<p><b>Adaptable Air Bases</b>  <b>ROSIE EVANS   ESTATE STRATEGIST - DEI, DEFENCE ESTATE AND INFRASTRUCTURE, NZDF</b>  This presentation explores the Defence Estate Climate Change Adaptation Planning initiative, a nationwide effort to strengthen the resilience of NZDF’s camps, bases, and training areas amid escalating climate risks. It highlights how dynamic adaptation pathways, deep stakeholder engagement, and alignment with organisational risk frameworks enable effective resilience planning in complex organisations. The session shares transferable lessons for safeguarding critical infrastructure in an increasingly uncertain climate future.</p>	<p><b>Hydrogen</b>  <b>BARRY PRINCE   VICE PRESEIDENT, HYDROGEN, FABRUM</b>  <b>RYAN MCDONALD   HEAD OF NEW BUSINESS, HIRINGA ENERGY</b></p>	
<b>3.15pm</b>	<b>Networking Break and Afternoon Tea</b>		
	<i>Industry Exhibition Area</i>		
	<b>Session 4  </b>		
	<i>Heaphy 2&amp;3</i>		
3.45pm	<p><b>Political Panel</b>  In election year, hear the latest in policy statements and ask your questions of representatives from New Zealand’s main political parties</p>		
4.30pm	<p><b>Te Kanapu Future Grid Blueprint – Transpower’s Initiative to Enable Aotearoa to Grow and Electrify</b>  <b>JOHN CLARKE   EGM FUTURE GRID, TRANSPOWER</b>  This session will talk to Te Kanapu—Transpower’s initiative to enable economic growth and electrification of industry with a future grid blueprint for Aotearoa in 2050. Highlighting key themes, including those relevant to CEP members, from our final energy scenarios. It includes insights on the energy mix and how it evolves as electricity plays a larger role and the critical value of electricity networks in a more decentralised power system.</p>		

5.00pm	<b>Integrating Sustainability from Design to Delivery: Lessons from City Rail Link</b> <b>DOUG BODDY   ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER, LINK ALLIANCE</b> This session explores how sustainability was embedded from design through delivery on New Zealand's largest transport infrastructure project, City Rail Link. Learn practical strategies for carbon and energy reduction, circular economy leadership, and cultural integration through partnership with Mana Whenua. Doug will share real-world insights, challenges, and lessons from achieving New Zealand's highest verified IS As-built rating and delivering long-term environmental and social value	
5.30pm	<b>Days Wrap   Invitation and Welcome to Networking Drinks</b>	
5.30pm – 7.30pm	<b>Networking Drinks</b> <i>Industry Exhibition Area</i>	<b>Proudly Sponsored by</b> 

## DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 27 MAY 2026

8.00am	<b>Registration and Coffee</b>	
	<b>Session 5</b> <i>Heaphy 2&amp;3</i>	<b>Session 5a   Workshop</b> xxxxxxxxxxxx
8.30am	<b>Housekeeping</b> <b>TE RADAR   MC</b>	
8.35am	<b>Sponsor address</b> <b>SPIRAX SARCO</b>	
8.40am	<b>Energy Efficiency Unlocked: Blueprint for a Resilient and Electrified Industry</b> <b>MIKE UMIKER   MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENERGY EFFICIENCY MOVEMENT ASSOCIATION</b> As the global energy transition accelerates, energy efficiency is emerging as the critical first step - the fastest, most cost-effective way to reduce emissions, manage rising electricity demand, and strengthen energy resilience to drive energy security, affordability, and industrial competitiveness. The key note builds on global momentum from the <a href="#">IEA Global Conference on Energy Efficiency</a> with its <a href="#">Brussels CEO Four-Point Action Plan</a> , COP30 business outcomes, energy efficiency <a href="#">barriers</a> and how to unlock the <a href="#">technology that exists</a> . Additionally, insights of our upcoming <a href="#">energy efficiency invest</a> report will be highlighted as well as the role of energy efficiency in the electrification context.	<b>Ground Source Workshop</b> <b>YALE CARDEN   DIRECTOR, GEOEXCHANGE NEW ZEALAND</b> <b>ABBIE DEAN   NEW ZEALAND GEOTHERMAL ASSOCIATION</b> <b>DEBORAH KISSICK   PRINCIPAL PLANNER, TRAVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL</b> Aotearoa New Zealand is blessed with an incredible natural resource beneath our feet – warm groundwater stretching from the Far North to Invercargill, with temperatures ranging from 15 °C to 180 °C. This renewable energy source, known as Geoheat, remains underutilised by many businesses and communities. This interactive workshop will provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an overview of the Geoheat resource and its applications</li> <li>• practical business tools to help you assess the feasibility of switching to Geoheat</li> </ul>
9.30am	<b>Collaboration for a Changing Energy System</b> <b>MARCOS PELENUR   CHIEF EXECUTIVE, EECA</b> A secure, affordable, and low-emissions energy system depends on strong collaboration between Government, industry, and communities. By accelerating renewable generation, prioritising efficient and flexible energy use, and acting early, we can unlock innovation, productivity, and long-term prosperity. Dr Marcos Pelenur will share insights on pressures facing energy users, EECA's response, and key opportunities to work together to deliver system value.	

			• real-world examples showcasing successful Geohat projects across Aotearoa
10.05am	<b>Meet the Exhibitors</b> <b>2 MINUTES EACH</b>		
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Networking Break and Morning Tea</b> <i>Industry Exhibition Area</i>		
	<b>Session 6a  </b> <i>Heaphy 2&amp;3</i>	<b>Session 6b  </b> <i>Brooklyn 1</i>	<b>Session 6c   Workshop</b> <i>Brooklyn 2</i>
11.00am	<b>From Energy Poverty to Energy Resilience: The Tairāwhiti Distributed Energy Programme</b> <b>DAVID WYLLIE   GROUP INNOVATION PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, TONKIN + TAYLOR</b> The Tairāwhiti Distributed Energy Programme (TDEP) is a world-first, iwi-led initiative addressing energy poverty, grid vulnerability, and climate resilience. It delivers locally owned solar and battery systems linked through a Virtual Power Plant, enabling peer-to-peer energy sharing and lower power costs. Local community members are trained to install and maintain the systems, building regional capability through a scalable, community-led energy model.	<b>The Electrification of Local Steelmaking</b> <b>ISRAEL MACDONALD   SUSTAINABILITY AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, BLUESCOPE</b> The installation of an electric arc furnace at the Glenbrook steel mill in south Auckland is the largest decarbonisation project in New Zealand, set to reduce direct emissions by up to 1,000,000 tonnes of CO2 annually, through reduced coal consumption and input of steel scrap. This presentation covers the current local process, details on the project and the associated impacts on steel products, construction projects and New Zealand more generally.	<b>Local Government Workshop</b> <b>JÖRN SCHERZER   HEAD OF CLIMATE AND SOLID WASTE, HUTT CITY</b> <b>DAVID WATSON   PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL</b> <b>BLAIR DICKIE   PRINCIPAL STRATEGIC ADVISOR, WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL</b> Local government is where it all happens. Join this interactive workshop to hear from local government veterans, then take part in small group discussions to explore energy transition scenarios in the context of regional energy security and decarbonisation drivers. Future Generation Scenarios in Waikato
11.30am	<b>Exploring Battery Options as a Pathway to Electrification and Decarbonisation</b> <b>BILL HEAPS   FOUNDING DIRECTOR, ENERGY FOR GOOD</b> <b>JAMES JOYCE   TRISKELION BATTERY PROJECT PRINCIPAL, ENERGY FOR GOOD</b> This presentation examines whether distributed electrochemical batteries can provide New Zealand with a resilient, lowest-cost pathway to electrification and decarbonisation. Drawing on an engineering and economic analysis, it compares technologies to identify credible options suited to New Zealand's context. Scenario analysis simulations are used to illustrate how distributed solutions could enable intermittent renewable generation to provide resilient and reliable electricity supply.	<b>Switching to Geothermal: A World-First in Tissue Manufacturing</b> <b>MATTHEW BAIN   SENIOR MECHANICAL ENGINEER, ESSITY</b> Essity's Kawerau tissue mill illustrates how industrial decarbonisation can move from strategy to delivery. Anchored by an Energy Transition Accelerator, Essity has implemented real projects, including the world first conversion of Paper Machine No. 3 to geothermal drying. This session will unpack the journey and look ahead to future plans.	<b>BLAIR DICKIE   PRINCIPAL STRATEGIC ADVISOR, WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL</b> This session introduces the Waikato Regional Energy Strategy as a regionally led partnership pathway to an affordable, resilient, low-emissions energy future under diverse economic scenarios. The strategy responds to price volatility, gas decline, and rising demand by identifying priority renewable energy hubs and proposing the creation of a regional energy forum to align iwi, industry, community, and government partners. Demand Side Strategies <b>JÖRN SCHERZER   HEAD OF CLIMATE, WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY, HUTT CITY COUNCIL</b> Hutt City Council is on a transformative journey to embed carbon reductions across its operations and enable city-wide decarbonisation. This presentation will outline how the city has moved from plans filled with aspirations to tangible outcomes by integrating emissions reduction into decision-making and infrastructure delivery.
12.00pm	<b>Solar Brewed: Decarbonising NZ's Largest Brewery Through Strategic Collaboration</b> <b>MAGNO SOUZA   ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS LEAD, LION NEW ZEALAND</b>	<b>Decarbonising Cement: Golden Bay's Journey to High-Rate Alternative Fuel Substitution</b> <b>RUSSELL DYER   ENERGY AND AFR MANAGER, GOLDEN BAY</b>	

	<p><b>LUKE RUNDLE   STRATEGIC ENERGY PARTNER, MERIDIAN ENERGY</b>  <b>DAVID REID   DIRECTOR, REID TECHNOLOGY</b>  <b>SAM DICKINS   SOLAR VISION</b></p> <p>Lion has long aspired to install solar panels at The Pride brewery; however, it was limited by the availability of a suitable location. The warehouse was designed for maximising internal space, instead of engineered to support the additional weight of the solar equipment. This challenge was overcome through strong partnerships. Meridian provided the commercial support to explore viable solutions and connected Lion with Reid Technology and Solar Vision to deliver the technical design and installation. Together, these partners implemented one of the largest rooftop solar systems in New Zealand.</p>	<p>Golden Bay is transforming cement manufacturing in New Zealand through large-scale adoption of alternative fuels. From early biomass use to tyres and high-calorific industrial wastes, the plant now achieves over 65% coal substitution. Recent upgrades to front-end handling systems allow safe, efficient firing of complex waste streams while maintaining kiln stability. This case study shows how existing industrial assets can be retrofitted for significant emissions reduction and circular-economy gains.</p>	<p>Funding Local Government Decarbonisation: Best Value Options  <b>DAVID WATSON   SENIOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISOR, PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL</b>  Since 2016, Palmerston North City Council has delivered a 25.7% reduction in emissions and achieved \$1.31 in savings for every dollar spent. This session will provide case studies and practical examples to help others understand how to calculate return on investment and marginal abatement cost to achieve their own emissions reduction ambitions.</p>
<b>12.30pm</b>	<p><b>Networking Break and Lunch</b>  <i>Industry Exhibition Area</i></p>		<p><b>Proudly sponsored by</b>  </p>
<i>20+5+5 to change</i>	<p><b>Session 7a  </b>  <i>Heaphy 2&amp;3</i></p>	<p><b>Session 7b  </b>  <i>Brooklyn 1</i></p>	<p><b>Session 7c   Workshop</b>  <i>Brooklyn 2</i></p>
1.45pm	<p><b>How Batteries are Redefining Electrification and Supporting the Grid</b>  <b>JAMES CARBERRY   HEAD OF SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS, SIMPLY ENERGY</b>  <b>HAMISH NICHOLSON   PROJECT ADVISOR, CENTREPORT</b></p> <p>Curious about how commercial and industrial energy users are utilising batteries to accelerate electrification projects whilst also providing resilience and supporting the grid? Gain insights on this fast-emerging space from James Carberrry, Head of Sustainable Solutions at Simply Energy and hear from Hamish Nicholson, Project Advisor at CentrePort who will share a real-world case study on how a 1.5 MWh battery is enabling the Port to accelerate the electrification of its heavy vehicle fleet.</p>	<p><b>Lighting Our Way to the End of the Tunnel</b>  <b>JASON BRETHERTON   TECHNICAL DIRECTOR BUILDINGS, WSP</b></p>	<p><b>Transitioning Commercial Buildings Away from Gas</b>  <b>MARCUS BAKER   MANAGING DIRECTOR, APRICUS ECO</b></p> <p>Natural gas is increasingly expensive and some commercial gas contracts are not being renewed. It's been the mainstay of hot water and heating systems in NZ commercial buildings because of convenience and cost. This presentation addresses what you need to know when considering replacing gas. Understand practical alternatives for commercial buildings using direct electric, heat pumps and pellet boilers, all illustrated with NZ case studies. Presentation delivered by leading decarbonisation company, Apricus Eco.</p>
2.15pm	<p><b>Enabling NZ Inc.'s Energy expansion through the C&amp;I Sector</b></p>	<p><b>Is AI Helping or Hurting the Climate? Assessment, Compliance, and Opportunity</b></p>	

	<p><b>TAHIR TARIQ   SENIOR MANAGER – ENTERPRISE SALES, GENESIS ENERGY</b></p> <p>New Zealand’s energy transition and growth are increasingly being led by the Commercial &amp; Industrial (C&amp;I) sector — through electrification, decarbonisation, and the emergence of new, energy-intensive loads. This session will explore how Genesis Energy is evolving its commercial, contracting, and partnership models to practically enable this expansion and support NZ Inc. The presentation will focus on two pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Underwriting customer decarbonisation through long-term partnerships and contracting</li> <li>• Championing multi-pathway transitions, including LPG as bridging fuels, electrification, efficiency gains, and enabling new load growth such as data centres and advanced manufacturing.</li> </ul>	<p><b>JEAN-PHILIPPE EHRET   DIGITAL SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTANT, RESILIO</b></p> <p>The same technology that could accelerate your decarbonisation goals is quietly draining your clean grid. AI is unmeasured, undisclosed, and increasingly on a collision course with your reporting obligations. This session cuts through the noise in both directions, so the sustainability profession can shape how AI gets deployed in New Zealand, not just inherit the consequences.</p>	
2.45pm	<b>Student Prizegiving</b>		
2.55pm	<b>To Be Confirmed Soon</b>		
3.20pm	Conference Reflections / Wrap up		
	<b>Conference Close</b>		

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