

CEP 2026
CONFERENCE
 26th & 27th May
 Claudelands, Hamilton

CEP Celebrating 25 years



PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME
As at 31 March 2026

DAY 1: TUESDAY 26 MAY 2026

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

8.00am	Registration and Coffee XXXXXXXXXX		
	Session 1 Conference Opening and Welcome XXXXXXXXXXXX		
9.00am	Mihi Whakatau		
9.10am	Welcome and Housekeeping TE RADAR MC		
9.15am	Welcome to Hamilton TIM MACINDOE MAYOR OF HAMILTON		
9.20am	Welcome from CEP CEP BOARD MEMBER / MIKE HOPKINS		
9.25am	Keynote TO BE CONFIRMED SOON		
10.15am	The Role of Gas in New Zealand's Energy Future DAVID PRENTICE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GAS INDUSTRY CO 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	Meet the Exhibitors 2 MINUTES EACH		
10.55am	Networking Break and Morning Tea <i>Industry Exhibition Area</i>		
	Session 2a XXXXXXXXXX	Session 2b XXXXXXXXXX	Session 2c Workshop XXXXXXXXXX
11.25am	From Influence to Impact: Elevating Sustainability on the Board Agenda AISHA PUNGA CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, TOITŪ ENVIROCARE Sustainability professionals play a key role in driving climate action, yet elevating these priorities to the Board level can be challenging. This session	Taranaki Geoheat Discovery Challenge; Assessing Geoheat Potential in Legacy Petroleum Assets EVELIEN WALLACE ARA AKE In this presentation, Evelien will introduce Ara Ake's Taranaki Geoheat Discovery Challenge, which explores the potential to reuse legacy petroleum assets for geoheat. The initiative is assessing the	Energy Efficiency Right Sizing Workshop TO BE CONFIRMED SOON

	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.	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	Quantifying Nature Capital – Best Practices LUIS FILARDI HEAD OF SUSTAINABILITY ANZ, BSI	Circular Economy in Action: Opportunities and Barriers ZOE BURKITT SECTOR MANAGER BUILT ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND WASTE TOITŪ PHILLIP ALEXANDER SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER, GLIDE 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	STUDENT PAPERS		
12.45pm	Networking Break and Lunch <i>Industry Exhibition Area</i>		Proudly sponsored by LUMEN
	Session 3a XXXXXXXXXXXX	Session 3b XXXXXXXXXXXX	Session 3c Workshop XXXXXXX
1.45pm	Decarbonising Rail: from Strategy to Action MICHELLE DEELY SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER, KIWIRAIL 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 tools developed to support customer carbon reporting.	Biogas Projects in Practice: Navigating Feedstock, Certainty, and Variability ABBEY ROBERTS-LI ASSOCIATE – PROCESS ENGINEERING, BECA	Building Electrification Workshop LANCE JIMMIESON MANAGING DIRECTOR, JACKSONS ENGINEERING

2.15pm	Zespri's Climate Change Transition Plan TO BE CONFIRMED SOON	Woody Biomass for Bioenergy can Support Decarbonisation, Security and Affordability ZARA BALADOR SENIOR SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTANT, WSP OLIVER HOWITT EECA	
2.45pm	Adaptable Air Bases ROSIE EVANS ESTATE STRATEGIST - DEI, DEFENCE ESTATE AND INFRASTRUCTURE, NZDF	Hydrogen BARRY PRINCE VICE PRESEIDENT, HYDROGEN, FABRUM RYAN MCDONALD HEAD OF NEW BUSINESS, HIRINGA ENERGY	
3.15pm	Networking Break and Afternoon Tea <i>Industry Exhibition Area</i>		
	Session 4 XXXXXX		
3.45pm	Political Panel In election year, hear the latest in policy statements and ask your questions of representatives from New Zealand's main political parties		
4.30pm	Integrating Sustainability from Design to Delivery: Lessons from City Rail Link DOUG BODDY ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER, LINK ALLIANCE 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.		
5.00pm	Te Kanapu Future Grid Blueprint – Transpower's Initiative to Enable Aotearoa to Grow and Electrify JOHN CLARKE EGM FUTURE GRID, TRANSPOWER 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.		
5.30pm	Days Wrap Invitation and Welcome to Networking Drinks		
5.30pm – 7.30pm	Networking Drinks <i>Industry Exhibition Area</i>	Proudly Sponsored by  Tonkin+Taylor	

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 27 MAY 2026

8.00am	Registration and Coffee		
	Session 5 XXXXXXXXXX	Session 5a Workshop XXXXXXXXXX	
8.30am	Housekeeping TE RADAR MC		
8.35am	Sponsor address SPIRAX SARCO		
8.40am	<p>Energy Efficiency Unlocked: Blueprint for a Resilient and Electrified Industry MIKE UMIKER MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENERGY EFFICIENCY MOVEMENT ASSOCIATION 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 IEA Global Conference on Energy Efficiency with its Brussels CEO Four-Point Action Plan, COP30 business outcomes, energy efficiency barriers and how to unlock the technology that exists. Additionally, insights of our upcoming energy efficiency invest report will be highlighted as well as the role of energy efficiency in the electrification context.</p>	<p>Ground Source Workshop YALE CARDEN DIRECTOR, GEOEXCHANGE NEW ZEALAND ABBIE DEAN NEW ZEALAND GEOTHERMAL ASSOCIATION DEBORAH KISSICK TRAVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an overview of the Geoheat resource and its applications • practical business tools to help you assess the feasibility of switching to Geoheat • real-world examples showcasing successful Geoheat projects across Aotearoa 	
9.30am	<p>Collaboration for a Changing Energy System MARCOS PELENUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE, EECA 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.</p>		
10.05am	Meet the Exhibitors 2 MINUTES EACH		
10.30am	Networking Break and Morning Tea <i>Industry Exhibition Area</i>		
	Session 6a XXXXXXXXXX	Session 6b XXXXXXXXXX	Session 6c Workshop XXXXXXXXXX
11.00am	<p>From Energy Poverty to Energy Resilience: The Tairāwhiti Distributed Energy Programme DAVID WYLLIE GROUP INNOVATION PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, TONKIN + TAYLOR 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</p>	<p>The Electrification of Local Steelmaking ISRAEL MACDONALD SUSTAINABILITY & MARKET DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, BLUESCOPE</p>	<p>Local Government Workshop JÖRN SCHERZER HEAD OF CLIMATE AND SOLID WASTE, HUTT CITY DAVID WATSON PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL BLAIR DICKIE PRINCIPAL STRATEGIC ADVISOR, WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL</p>

	power costs. Local community members are trained to install and maintain the systems, building regional capability through a scalable, community-led energy model.		
11.30am	Exploring Battery Options as a Pathway to Electrification and Decarbonisation BILL HEAPS FOUNDING DIRECTOR, ENERGY FOR GOOD JAMES JOYCE TRISKELION BATTERY PROJECT PRINCIPAL, ENERGY FOR GOOD	Switching to Geothermal: A World-First in Tissue Manufacturing MATTHEW BAIN SENIOR MECHANICAL ENGINEER, ESSITY 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.	
12.00pm	Solar Brewed: Decarbonising NZ's Largest Brewery Through Strategic Collaboration MAGNO SOUZA ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS LEAD, LION NEW ZEALAND LUKE RUNDLE STRATEGIC ENERGY PARTNER, MERIDIAN ENERGY DAVID REID DIRECTOR, REID TECHNOLOGY SAM DICKINS SOLAR VISION 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.	Decarbonising Cement: Golden Bay's Journey to High-Rate Alternative Fuel Substitution RUSSELL DYER ENERGY AND AFR MANAGER, GOLDEN BAY 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.	
12.30pm	Networking Break and Lunch <i>Industry Exhibition Area</i>		Proudly sponsored by 
<i>20+5+5 to change</i>	Session 7a xxxxxxxxxxxxxx	Session 7b xxxxxxxxxxxxxx	Session 7c Workshop xxxxxx
1.45pm	How Batteries are Redefining Electrification and Supporting the Grid	Lighting Our Way to the End of the Tunnel JASON BRETHERTON TECHNICAL DIRECTOR BUILDINGS, WSP	Transitioning Commercial Buildings Away from Gas

	<p>JAMES CARBERRY HEAD OF SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS, SIMPLY ENERGY HAMISH NICHOLSON PROJECT ADVISOR, CENTREPORT</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 Carberry, 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>MARCUS BAKER MANAGING DIRECTOR, APRICUS ECO</p>
2.15pm	<p>Enabling NZ Inc.'s Energy expansion through the C&I Sector TAHIR TARIQ SENIOR MANAGER – ENTERPRISE SALES, GENESIS ENERGY</p> <p>New Zealand's energy transition and growth are increasingly being led by the Commercial & Industrial (C&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"> • Underwriting customer decarbonisation through long-term partnerships and contracting • Championing multi-pathway transitions, including LPG as bridging fuels, electrification, efficiency gains, and enabling new load growth such as data centres and advanced manufacturing. 	<p>Is AI Helping or Hurting the Climate? Assessment, Compliance, and Opportunity JEAN-PHILIPPE EHRET DIGITAL SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTANT, RESILIO</p>	
2.45pm	Student Prizegiving		
2.55pm	To Be Confirmed Soon		
3.20pm	Conference Reflections / Wrap up		
	Conference Close		

Disclaimer: The organisers reserve the right to alter or delete items from the conference programme.

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