



# Solar Protection Policy 2005

Wanganui District Council



## Introduction

The Wanganui District Council recognises that New Zealand has one of the world's highest rates of skin cancer. This is related to high levels of ultraviolet (UV) radiation that are present throughout the year and especially during the summer months. The Council acknowledges that local government has an important role in minimising exposure to UV radiation and can play a significant role in reducing the burden of skin damage from exposure to UVR and act to prevent it. Maximum protection from solar UVR can best be achieved through a combination of personal and environmental strategies, primarily shade.

**Note:** Shade planning is an especially complex issue in New Zealand due to the need for cool shade for a short summer period and warm shade for the rest of the year.

## Objective

- To increase solar protection by ensuring that it is an integral part of Council's planning processes

## Community Partnership

Working in partnership not only has the potential to enrich peoples lives but can all deliver tangible results for the community of Wanganui.

It is envisaged that the Wanganui Cancer Society and the Wanganui District Council partnership will be the best driver to achieve the outcomes in the Solar Protection Policy with the Cancer Society providing a valuable resource as a working partner in this policy area.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Solar Protection Policy to the "Under Cover Guidelines for Shade Planning and design' (Cancer Society of New Zealand 2000) or such guidelines that supersede it.

The objective of this policy can be achieved by acting in four roles:

### 1. As managers of parks, gardens and recreational facilities

	<b>Desirable Actions/Outcomes</b>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give guidelines on solar protection to organisations which book out the recreation facilities in the Parks booking system.</li> <li>• Provide information to organisations which book outdoor recreation facilities about the opportunities for the Cancer Society to provide umbrellas and sunscreen for the event.</li> <li>• Encourage contractors and employees to be role models for users of parks and gardens.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage sun-smart outdoor events in conjunction with the Cancer Society.</li> </ul>
Shade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When designing Council facilities and in the development of open spaces, consideration is given to the provision of sufficient and specific shade opportunities.</li> </ul>
Shade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look for opportunities to plant trees or build shade structures where required</li> </ul>
Shade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider in the Long Term Council Community Plan to provide for solar protection needs.</li> </ul>
Short term shade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of shade umbrellas at events in Council parks</li> <li>Provision of sunscreen at Council's outdoor swimming pools</li> </ul>

## 2. As employers of outdoor workers and contractors

The Wanganui District Council employ many staff (directly or indirectly) who work some or all of the day in an outdoor environment. Outdoor employees can include parks and gardens staff, road maintenance workers, engineers, parking officers, environmental health officers and others.

Solar Protection is an important workplace health and safety issue and there is a responsibility for employees to provide a safe environment for its employees under the Wanganui District Council Health and Safety Policy

	<b>Desirable Goals/Outcomes</b>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide solar protection information to employees.</li> <li>Provide a training module on skin cancers for outdoor workers: include this in the induction process of any employees.</li> </ul>
Clothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide outdoor employees with access to protective clothing e.g. hats and sunscreen where necessary.</li> </ul>
Sunscreen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage volunteers to use SPF30+ broad spectrum sunscreen or have available; and to wear appropriate outdoor protection clothing.</li> </ul>

### 3. As community educators

	<b>Desirable Goals/Outcomes</b>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remind the public about the need to cover up and minimise exposure to the sun at outdoor swimming complexes and announcements made on the public address system.</li> <li>• Provide brochures on the importance of sun protection at the Customer Service and Visitor Information Centres.</li> <li>• Include appropriate images of sun-smart behaviour in Council publications.</li> <li>• Post information about solar protection on Council's website.</li> <li>• When granting Community contracts, provide appropriate information on Sun-Smart Practices adopted by the Cancer Society. This can be in the way of a brochure to be included to the recipient.</li> <li>• Promote the benefits of polycarbonate materials for outdoor shade.</li> </ul>

### 4. As a consent authority (Non-statutory Method)

	<b>Desirable Goals/Outcomes</b>
Shade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage owners of outdoor eating venues to provide shade (such as umbrellas, canopies and awnings) for patrons.</li> <li>• Provide an advice note on applications for resource consents in order that applications make best use of existing shade and to consider best solar protection for that usage.</li> <li>• Ensure planners and building inspectors have access to information on the best solar protection practice(refer to the Undercover: Guidelines for Shade Planning and Design 1998.</li> <li>• Provide information on solar protection to people prior to making application for consent to Council.</li> </ul>
Policy Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain a street tree policy to ensure appropriate selection, planting and maintenance of street trees.</li> <li>• Investigate provisions to increase solar protection in permits for new cafes and restaurants (or permit renewals for existing facilities)with outdoor eating areas.</li> <li>• Support the outcome in the Community Strategic Plan for a "safe and healthy community".</li> </ul>

## Review

This policy should be reviewed by 2010. After five years to reinforce education and cancer awareness with Council staff.

During the review period, there may be actions identified that are still relevant or new goals and actions may appear in which case the policy will need to be revised.