

## Day 7 Wellington, New Zealand Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>

We had a lot of meetings planned for today as we all split up into our groups and went to our own meetings. Josh, Carly, Gabi, and I headed out for our meeting with the Sustainability Trust and had some kebabs before the meeting. The rest of the group had planned a meeting with the New Zealand Wind Association. It took us a while to figure out where the place was because it was hidden on a back alley. We met Ian at the Sustainability Trust and I was immediately intrigued and impressed. Ian was far beyond knowledgeable and very passionate, mostly about everything, but mainly about the environment and his job. The Trust was really an interesting operation because they gave advice or even installed installation for heating but mainly for a more eco-sustainable home to have a more energy efficient home. They also had a shop to repair old curtains. They would receive curtains from locals and the curtain bank to repair them for better installation for low-income households. The Sustainability Trust also recycled a lot of electronics, but they basically had anything to make a more sustainable home and world.



Our next meeting was set-up by Carly with the Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority. They mostly work to improve New Zealand's energy efficiency in homes and industrial buildings. The Sustainability Trust also works with EECA to help make New Zealand more energy efficient. The EECA meeting was a great educational experience and very useful for our research projects. They presented on how New Zealand keeps

such low greenhouse gas emissions and even future plans on how to lower it even further. However, the hardest part is to reduce the amount of greenhouse emissions in the agricultural sector, which contributes to 50% of New Zealand's greenhouse gases. The only way to lower it would be to alter the diets of the animals, which is pretty funny in my opinion. The energy sector only accounts for 9%, which is totally different from the United States. I found the meeting very informative and really intriguing. I think it's amazing how New Zealand is one of the "greenest" countries in the world and they are still trying to find ways on how to reduce their greenhouse emissions and wanting to make New Zealand more renewable than it already is.

We then went back to the Sustainability Trust for another meeting with Ian with more classmates and Dr. Elsworth. The meeting went on for a good amount of time because Ian is very knowledgeable and informative about New Zealand's energy market and the problems they face for the future. After the meeting, Josh, Carly, Alex and I went to have another kebab for dinner and did some souvenir shopping. I was pretty addicted to the kebabs by now because they were a slice of heaven every time I ate one. We then went back to the hostel to finally greet Dr. Eser. It was finally great to have him with us! We had a calm evening with some wine and conversation and mostly everyone called in an early night because we were expected to leave before sunrise the next day. Overall, the day was very educational and I learned a lot from the EECA and the Sustainability Trust and we got to explore a whole new city! YONZO!



Caleb Voithofer