

# 10 NEW BUILDINGS – WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

*Katja Lietz*

Strategic Advisor Sustainability Initiatives  
Waitakere City Council, New Zealand

---

Over the last 10 years Waitakere City Council has built a considerable number of public buildings, large and small, from public toilets and community centres, through four libraries, an indoor stadium, a leisure pool complex, to a brand new civic centre, all with the vision of being more sustainable in line with the our EcoCity brand.

We will take you on a whirl wind tour of these buildings and share our experiences, the successes, the frustrations and what we have learned along the way. Over the ten years our understanding of the solutions needed has improved dramatically and sustainable building is becoming more mainstream, however we are still tripped up frequently. There was the grassed car park where no grass ever grew and the impermeable rain garden, but also the successful installation of solar panels, showers fed by rainwater and our stunning green roof on the Waitakere Central building.

So why did some things work and others not? There are definite themes emerging that we are keen to share so others can learn from our mistakes and be inspired by our achievements.

**References:**