The Energy Centre is an interdisciplinary research and education centre. Based in the Department of Economics in The University of Auckland Business School, the Energy Centre was established in 2005 to provide research, policy analysis, and educational programmes to help business and government confront energy issues of national significance to New Zealand.

**THE ENERGY CENTRE’S MISSION IS TO:**
- undertake energy research and business and policy analysis and reviews that examine energy-related issues important to New Zealand’s future
- report results and observations to the energy sector, government, and academic communities
- provide energy-related education
- offer a neutral venue for dialog about critical issues and problems confronting New Zealand’s energy future

The Energy Centre’s programme is supported by the Energy Education Trust of New Zealand and several energy sector sponsors.

**Research**

The Energy Centre’s research programme is focused on three broad areas:

1. Energy Markets
2. Resource and Environment Markets
3. Transport Economics

However, research priorities can be developed in conversation with partner companies, the energy sector, and government about energy-related issues facing New Zealand.

With a core team consisting of economists and engineers, the Centre nurtures active cooperation with other University disciplines and centres like the Transportation Research Centre, the Centre for Supply Chain Management, and the Electricity Power Optimization Centre. The Centre’s research programme spans the core areas of electricity markets, transportation, and climate change. Located in the Department of Economics, the Centre has particular expertise in the parallel areas of public policy, competition, and market regulation, (spatial) econometrics, and environmental economics.

**Education**

Academic staff teach courses in resource and environmental economics, regulation and competition policy, environmental economics, and energy economics and policy. Currently, five PhD and eight honours students are working on energy-related topics. The Centre contributes to education in energy and environmental economics in the Business School’s MBA, Post Graduate Diploma in Commerce, and an interdisciplinary course offered to final year students in the School of Engineering. The Centre provides input on courses run in Continuing Education, Geography, and the Civil Engineering.

**Outreach**

The outreach programme serves two functions. First, a seminar programme provides a vehicle for disseminating information from energy research. These seminars are open to academic staff, business, and government officials. Second, workshops are convened on demand with the view to exploring energy-related issues and assisting with developing the Centre’s research programme. Short courses are also offered through the Business School.
The Energy Centre brings together academics, policy makers and industry representatives.

Director Professor Basil Sharp says “We are blessed with water, minerals, land and an equable climate, but we need to manage them smarter. There are possibilities for harnessing new finds in the under-explored Great South Basin, the Taranaki Basin and elsewhere including the development of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) export industry and electricity generation. New Zealand has the world’s fourth-largest exclusive economic zone, but more needs to be done to develop appropriate business models to develop the country’s resources”.

### Key academics working at the Centre include:

- **Professor Basil Sharp**  
  Director and Chair in Energy and Resource Economics
- **Bart Van Campen**  
  Research Fellow
- **Dr Judith Wang**  
  Post Doctoral Research Fellow
- **Dr David Young**  
  Post Doctoral Research Fellow
- **Dr Rob Kirkpatrick**  
  Manager External Relations
- **Dr Steve Poletti**  
  Department of Economics
- **Dr Golbon Zakeri**  
  Engineering Science

### The University of Auckland

The University of Auckland is New Zealand’s leading university and is the only one ranked among the world’s top 200 universities by the Times Higher Education World Rankings of Universities. It is also the highest ranked New Zealand university in the QS World University Rankings and the Shanghai Jiao Tong Academic Ranking of World Universities.

The University of Auckland is an international centre of learning and academic excellence. It is New Zealand’s pre-eminent research-led institution and has key linkages with many of the world’s top research intensive universities.

Based in the heart of New Zealand’s largest and most diverse city, The University of Auckland has the most comprehensive range of courses in the country. The University’s mission is to be a research-led, international university, recognised for excellence in teaching, learning, research, creative work and administration.

The University actively seeks to work with government, other universities, research organisations, businesses and commercial consultancies in research, development and education.

### Auckland UniServices Limited

Auckland UniServices Limited is the largest research and development company of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere and a wholly owned company of The University of Auckland.

By connecting its clients with The University’s brightest academic minds, UniServices provides commercial organisations the innovative technologies they seek, and governments the national programmes they need. The results can mean huge strides in a company’s international competitive edge, or in a country’s health, education and welfare capability.

UniServices manages all of The University’s intellectual property and is responsible for all research-based consultancy partnerships and commercialisation.

UniServices open innovation and world-class thinking can change the world.

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<td>Analysis of economic data relating to cost of different forms of energy and its extraction</td>
<td>Integration of wind energy into the electricity market</td>
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<td>Building economic models that analyse data, e.g. on the determinants of passenger use on buses in Auckland</td>
<td>Working with partners such as the NZTA and regional bodies to understand impacts on transport and energy use</td>
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<td>Economics of hybrid motor vehicles</td>
<td>Understanding switching costs to use alternative/substitute fuels</td>
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<td>Research to inform policy</td>
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<td>Analysing the impact of Emissions Trading Scheme</td>
<td>Assisting firms and Governments account for and manage New Zealand’s climate change obligations</td>
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<td>Econometric analysis of trends at firm/sector level e.g. energy audits</td>
<td>Provide insights to review policy and help firms meet their commitments to ETS and reduce energy costs</td>
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