



Vijaya Vaidyanath
Chief Executive
Waitakere City Council

Vijaya Vaidyanath was appointed as CEO, Waitakere City Council the Eco City and the fifth largest City in New Zealand in early 2008. She was the former CEO of Rodney District Council the fastest growing district in New Zealand.

Vijaya's appointment to head the Rodney District Council and now Waitakere City Council are high points in her career to date. "The acknowledgement and recognition of my role as CEO in transforming and influencing New Zealand communities is a big plus. I have found my niche" Vijaya said.

Vijaya is operating an entity with assets worth billions of dollars, leading hundreds of professional staff, managing a range of services from roads, bridges, water supply, sewerage, parks and reserves to preserving the environment, enforcing statutes, monitoring of Waitakere communities outcomes, visioning, planning and shaping the future of the City.

Vijaya is professionally aligned to the Society of Local Government Managers, New Zealand Institute of Management, Chief Officers Group Australia/New Zealand, International Country Managers Association USA, Local Government New Zealand and is currently the Chair of NZ Strategic Leadership Group – Local Government.

Vijaya is a member on the Massey University Business Advisory Board, Auckland Region Advisory Board, Local Government Industry Training Organisation Board and Economic Development Centre, Auckland University of Technology.

Vijaya holds three degrees, including an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh in the USA with a Dean's Placement for Academic Excellence. She is also a Senior Executive Fellow from the John F Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, USA.

She has previously worked for large entities such as the Reserve Bank of India and Syndicate Bank. Vijaya has had career postings all over India when she was working for Reserve Bank of India. She has also consulted in the United States of America. In New Zealand, Vijaya began her Local Government career as Director of Corporate Services in South Taranaki and Palmerston North Councils. One of her key roles in both Councils was to negotiate the sale and investment of Power Companies proceeds.

In the 1990s while Vijaya was with the Reserve Bank in India, she was selected from a national pool to pursue higher management studies in the USA with a full scholarship.

Vijaya went to the UK and the USA in 2006 to pursue further education. She was the recipient of the SOLGM/Jardine, Lloyd Thompson 2005/2006 award to visit the UK Local Authorities. She presented a paper "Leading Communities" at the Society of Local Authorities Chief Executives 2006 Conference in Manchester, UK.

Vijaya gained her Senior Executive Fellowship from John F Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, USA in November 2006.

A consummate professional in everything she does Vijaya states "My career is not just a job; it is an expansion of my enthusiasm and commitment to shape and deliver our communities aspirations. Being part of Waitakere the Eco City of New Zealand helps me in focussing on sustainable principles for local governance".

