

Sustainability Matters

13th Dec 2007

A fortnightly selection of topical **news and views** about economic, social and environmental issues.
Designed especially for accountants and those who use the services of accountants.

Sustainability Matters is;

- Partly sponsored by members of the **Sustainability Working Group**, a special interest group attached to the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants (NZICA).
- Compiled and published by Ray Skinner of *Sustainability Matters*, providers of specialist services relating to sustainability and business support. **Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children.**

Vibrant New Group

Established about August 2007 with a physical presence currently mainly in Wellington, *Intersect* is a group for young professionals networking in sustainability; you will see what this means when you visit the web site!

"*Intersect* is about fostering sustainability. It brings together young professionals to share ideas, nurture our leadership capabilities and grow our networks. We want to get a wide range of people with different beliefs, backgrounds, experience and levels of understanding to become involved in rich discussion about the sustainability issues that face us.

In his context 'young professionals' are people who have a youthful perspective and are in the first 10 years of their careers and want to be supported and to network around the issue of sustainability.

Among other things their web site has references to a very useful set of resources. See their 'neat' T shirt.

More at: www.intersect.org.nz

Source: Jonathan King. ❖

Jobs Corner

Some recently advertised roles; raising awareness of activity in the market place. E&OE!

- Programme Manager, Healthy Environment. Senior strategic planning role. Committed to sustainability. Christchurch City Council. Closed 7th December
- Climate Campaign Team Leader. Greenpeace. Closes 14th December
- Environmental Educator, teaching school children about renewable energy, energy efficiency, electricity generation and climate change. Genesis Energy. Closes 6th January
- Manager Programmes, Senior/Service Design Advisor, Senior/Technical Adviser, (all Wgtn). 5 Senior/Programme Advisers (various). Implementing and administering agriculture and forestry schemes including emissions trading, forest sinks, afforestation grants. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Closes 14th January.

Source: *NZ Herald*. ❖

EVENT DATES – 2008

Put these dates in your diary – **tentative; subject to change;**

Tuesday 12 th February	Tuesday 11 th March
Tuesday 8 th April*	Tuesday 13 th May
Tuesday 10 th June	Tuesday 8 th July
Tuesday 12 th August	Tuesday 16 th September
Tuesday 14 th October	Tuesday 11 th November
Tuesday 9 th December. ❖	

The 'Inefficient Truth'

Inefficient ICT Sector's Carbon Emissions Set to Surpass Aviation Industry

"A British report into the environmental impacts of the IT industry claims computer servers are at least as much of a threat to the environment as SUV's or the aviation industry. A medium sized server has a similar carbon footprint as a 15 mile to the gallon SUV, and requires as much energy to cool it as to run it. It's estimated that to manufacture one PC requires 1.7 tonnes of raw materials and water and consumes over ten times its weight in fossil fuels. But there are simple ways to reduce these environmental impacts."

Published December 2007; "*An Inefficient Truth* is the first research report produced by Global Action Plan on behalf of the Environmental IT Leadership Team. The Leadership Team is a unique gathering of major UK ICT users from a range of sectors committed to taking practical action to cut CO₂ emissions.

"The report contains four sections;

1. Assesses the environmental impact of the ICT sector which is virtually the equivalent of the aviation industry.
2. Analyses survey results from major ICT users and discovers how quickly and effectively the sector is responding to the environmental agenda.
3. Takes a snapshot look at some case studies illustrating how companies are implementing practical solutions that are reducing carbon emissions and saving them money.
4. A 'Call to Action from Global Action Plan' setting out some of the challenges facing Government, vendors and users in order to move the sector towards a lower carbon future.

"*An Inefficient Truth* is the first part of a longer journey which will see Global Action Plan using its position as an independent practical environmental charity to help cut carbon emissions from the ICT sector.

More at: www.globalactionplan.org.uk/upload/resource/Exec-Summary.pdf

www.globalactionplan.org.uk/upload/resource/Full-report.pdf

Source: *Greenweek*, 7th Dec 2007

PS: www.globalactionplan.org.uk is a very interesting organisation with a sizeable staff and has been operating since 1993;

"*The best organisation to engage people in environmental change is Global Action Plan.*" Sir Jonathon Porritt, Chair, Sustainable Development Commission. ❖

Holiday Reading and Viewing

There is a huge array of books and DVD's which one could potentially engross themselves in over the holidays; actually for a life-time, regarding 'sustainability'. The following is just a smattering and does not include for example any on architecture, gardening, brands, genuine progress, lifestyle, houses, energy, water, supply chain, emission trading, carbon footprints, food miles, taxes, brands, design, deforestation and much more. Some are recent, others go back a few years.

Silent Spring; Rachel Carson, 1962. 'The book some say started it all'

Our Common Future; World Commission on Environmental and Development. This is report which contains the 'sustainability' definition which has become the most recognised and adopted world-wide.

Here's some from New Zealand

A New Generation of Business Leaders; Leanne Holdsworth
Accounting for a Clean Green Environment; Obligations and opportunities for NZ businesses and their accountants; Bruce Gilkison and KPMG

Adapting to Climate Change in Eastern New Zealand: A Farmer Perspective; Gavin Kenny. A resource kit

Fighting Globesity; Phillip and Jackie Mills

Reinventing Paradise: How New Zealand is Starting to Earn a Bigger More Sustainable Living in the World Economy. A collection of newspaper columns; Rod Oram

The Poisoning of New Zealand; Merial Watts

The Middle-earth Connection; David Jacobs (3 short DVDs)

Work in Progress: Four Future Scenarios for New Zealand; The Landcare Research Scenarios Working Group, 2007

And here's a 'few' from other places

Accounting & Accountability: Changes and challenges in corporate social and environmental reporting; Rob Gray, Dave Own and Carol Adams

Accounting for the Environment; Rob Gray with Jan Bebbington and Diane Walters

Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic; John De Graaf, David Wann, Thomas Naylor and Scott Simon

Blessed Unrest: How the Largest Movement in the World Came into Being & Why No One Saw it Coming; Paul Hawkin

Business as Unusual; Annita Roddick

Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water; Marc Reisner

Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed; Jared Diamond

Dancing With the Tiger; Brian Natrass and Mary Altomare

Factor Four: Doubling Wealth – Halving Resource Use; Ernst von Weizsäcker, Amory Lovins and Hunter Lovins

Green Ledgers; Case Studies in Corporate Environmental Accounting; edited by D Ditz, J Ranganathan, and R D Banks

How to Live a Low-Carbon Life: The Individual's Guide to Stopping Climate Change; Chris Goodall

International Guidance Document: Environmental Management Accounting; International Federation of Accountants

Continued next column

Mid-course Correction: Toward a Sustainable Enterprise: The Interface Model; Ray Anderson

Peak Everything: Waking Up to the Century of Declines; Richard Heinberg

Profits With Principles: Seven Strategies for Delivering Value with Values; William Baue

The Australian Green Consumer Guide: Choosing Products for a Healthier Home, Planet and Bank Balance; Tanya Ha

The Chrysalis Economy: How Citizens CEOs and Corporations Can Fuse Values and Value Creation; John Elkington

The Civil Corporation: The New Economy of Corporate Citizenship; Simon Zadek

The Ecology of Commerce: A Declaration of Sustainability; Paul Hawkin

The Economics of Climate Change: The Stern Review; Nicholas Stern

The Ethical Investor: Make Money and Feel Good About It; Anne-Marie Spagnolo

The Green Bottom Line: Environmental Accounting for Management; Current Practice and Future Trends; Martin Bennett and Peter James

The Long Emergency: Surviving the End of Oil, Climate Change, and Other Converging Catastrophes of the 21st Century; James Kunstler

The Natural Step for Business; Wealth, Ecology and Evolutionary Corporation; Brian Natrass and Mary Altomare

The Professional Accountancy Bodies and the Provision of Education and Training in Relation to Environmental Issues; Rob Gray and David Collison, with John French, Ken McPhail, and Lorna Stevenson (commissioned by ICAS)

The Profit of Peace: Corporate Responsibility in Conflict Regions; Karolien Bais and Mijnd Huijser

The Sustainability Handbook: The complete management guide to achieving social, economic and environmental responsibility; William Blackburn

The Weather Makers: How We Are Changing the Climate and What it Means to Life on Earth; Tim Flannery

A Few Films/DVD's

11th Hour An Inconvenient Truth (book & DVD)

Amazing Grace – William Wilberforce; slave trade

Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room

End of Suburbia My Father's Garden

Oil on Ice Oil, Smoke and Mirrors

Perfect Storm Total Denial

Troubled Waters Who Killed the Electric Car

WAL MART: The High Cost of Low Price

More at: www.intersect.org.nz/Resources.htm,
www.earthangel.co.nz/shop/bookstore, www.greenleaf-publishing.com, www.connectedmedia.org.nz,
www.griesingerfilms.com, <http://greenplanetfilms.org>,
www.sustainableinsight.com.au, www.amazon.com

NZICA members – don't forget about the NZICA library with access to books and a huge array of articles including via 3rd party databases.

Source: Editor's imagination! ✦

Contributions and feedback are welcomed.

Send your news items, handy hints, case studies, suggestions, comments and questions to Ray Skinner of *Sustainability Matters*.
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