

# Sustainability Matters

26<sup>th</sup> May 2016

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;

- 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.**

## How to Let Go of the World and Love all the Things Climate Can't Change

"In *How to Let Go of the World and Love All The Things Climate Can't Change*, Oscar Nominated director Josh Fox (GASLAND) continues in his deeply personal style, investigating climate change – the greatest threat our world has ever known. Traveling to 12 countries on 6 continents, the film acknowledges it may be too late to stop some of the worst consequences and asks, what is it that climate change can't destroy? What is so deep within us that no calamity can take it away?

"What we're looking at right now is that we are disastrously late in addressing climate change and that extreme measures need to be taken", Fox says 'Even that won't stop the havoc, but we have to examine our own lives and the way we live.'

"After discovering that climate change is beginning to affect his own backyard, Fox embarks on a journey to interview environmentalists and experts such as Bill McKibben and Michael E. Mann on the harsh realities of rising global temperatures: the stifling heat, relentless storms, and mass extinctions that could soon arrive. Fox admits he was resigned to pure hopelessness before he suddenly shifts tactics and begins seeking out grassroots activists who have found local solutions to climate problems. [125min]

**More:** [www.sundance.org/projects/how-to-let-go-of-the-world-and-love-all-the-things-climate-can-t-change](http://www.sundance.org/projects/how-to-let-go-of-the-world-and-love-all-the-things-climate-can-t-change) plus [www.democracynow.org/2016/1/26/josh\\_fox\\_on\\_his\\_new\\_doc](http://www.democracynow.org/2016/1/26/josh_fox_on_his_new_doc)

**Source:** *sustainNEWS*, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016. ❖

## Impact of Tree Planting – Photos

"Recently one of Trees for Survival's Facebook postings led to their first experience of 'viral' on their Facebook page. If you haven't seen this series of 14 photographs taken near Leigh [Rodney, North of Auckland] over 5+ years starting in 2011 take a look. The last photo was taken in April 2016. 'It's really rewarding to see how those tiny seedlings originally nurtured and planted out by Ponsonby Primary School have grown'...

"As a way of dealing with grass I have good success with cardboard and lawn clippings/mulch. The bigger the cardboard the better it works. Furniture shops, hardware shops and especially glass repairers as they have the biggest pieces of cardboard.'...

**More:** <https://www.facebook.com/treesforsurvival/photos/pcb.1265028866858156/?type=3&theater>

**Source:** Trees for Survival, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016. ❖

## SUSTAINABILITY GROUP EVENTS

Next event – Date of webcast yet to be 'sorted'.



Announcements in 'due course'. ❖

## Inside Syria's Besieged Areas

"A new report from Save the Children reveals that barrel bombs, air strikes and shelling are the biggest issues for the more than a quarter of a million children estimated to be living in besieged areas in Syria. Parents testify to the horror of family life under siege, not only dealing with the psychological impact on children terrified of explosions, but the dire consequences of being deprived of food, basic medicine and clean water.

- 7.5 million Syrian children affected by war – population of Washington state
- 2 million children missing out on school – all school-age kids in NYC, LA and Dallas combined
- 13.5 million Syrians in need of humanitarian aid – population of Illinois
- Nearly 50% of Syrians fled their homes since 2011
- 100 Syrians flee every hour, on average.

### More:

[www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGIpI4E/b.7998857/k.D075/Syria.htm](http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGIpI4E/b.7998857/k.D075/Syria.htm) which links to "Children Under Siege" March 2016, 28 pages, 960Kb

**Source:** Save The Children, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016. ❖

## Sustainability Manager – Waitemata DHB

"The Facilities & Development team provides many of the practical links and support in relation to property matters across the hospital campus and leased properties across the Waitemata DHB district, and for the wider community it serves and supports.

"Sustainability is a vital component of the Facilities and Development portfolio and this role includes continuing with the foundations that have been laid based on sustainable initiatives.

"Reporting to the GM of Facilities and Development, you will lead and direct all sustainability related projects, identifying and driving new initiatives to deliver positive outcomes for the organisation and wider environment. ....

"The ideal person for this role will have a minimum of 5 years' experience developing and implementing sustainability programmes, including waste management and minimisation.

**Closing date:** 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016

**More:** <https://adhbrac.taleo.net/careersection/2/jobdetail.ftl?job=0954>

**Source:** Editor, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016. ❖

## The Waste Levy, a Waste of Time?

"The \$10-per-tonne Waste Levy was created eight years ago to fund waste management innovation and cut landfill. Some say it must increase to be effective. Others claim good progress in the sector amid economic turbulence. So who's right? ... And the trend is upwards...

"SBN is hosting a global innovator on waste solutions, Tom Szaky, CEO of Terracycle on 30<sup>th</sup> June.

**More:** <http://sustainable.org.nz/sustainability-news/the-waste-levy-a-waste-of-time>

**Source:** SBN, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016. ❖

## Some USA Fracking Facts

"... According to the Energy Information Administration, in 2000, approximately 26,000 hydraulically fractured wells produced 3.6 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) of marketed gas in the United States, making up less than 7% of the national total.

"By 2015, the number of hydraulically fractured wells had grown to an estimated 300,000, and production from those wells had grown to more than 53 Bcf/d, making up about 67% of the total natural gas output of the United States....

**More:**

[www.environmentalleader.com/2016/05/06/companies-are-benefiting-from-fracking-boom-while-greenies-pine/](http://www.environmentalleader.com/2016/05/06/companies-are-benefiting-from-fracking-boom-while-greenies-pine/)

**Source:** *Environmental Leader*, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016. ❖

## Printing Costs – Habitual, Often Mindless Choices

"Printing costs. Habitual, often mindless choices. Wasted money. Wasted energy. Wasted paper. Wasted labour. When it comes to office printing, the sources of cost and waste are often hidden. The invoice we get from our Managed Print Services (MPS) provider is one symptom of the problem which only accounts for 10–15% of the total cost of printing. Worse, this bill is the result of printing activity that has already happened, and doing nothing dooms us to repeat the same thing next month.

"The hard costs of printing are well understood and include elements such as: Device cost, Device consumables (ink/toner), Break/fix service, Paper.

"So if the hard costs only account for 15% of the total cost of printing, what's in the other 85%? How do we get a different perspective on these hidden costs? Wouldn't it make sense to think differently about print by looking at it through a lens of sustainability? Consider the following sequence of events, which suggests a better way to lower your total cost of ownership ....

- Condition: An overly complex device fleet (having too many different manufacturers and models in your device fleet) ....
- Condition: Device under-utilisation ....
- Condition: Unmonitored, non-essential print volume ....
- Condition: Unmonitored, colour print volume ....
- Condition: Single-sided print in excess of industry benchmarks ....

"In these common conditions, are you seeing some of your own hidden costs that you hadn't considered before? When you look at print through the lens of sustainability, you quickly reach the conclusion that a print strategy that addresses these sustainability metrics will ultimately produce the most financial benefit. When it comes to print, cost savings and sustainability are inextricably linked.

"What COO or CFO would knowingly support an unnecessarily complex device fleet that is also grossly underutilised? Imagine a workforce of informed, engaged employees who get behind your sustainability goals to help drive your print volume down still further. As a result, you are left with a lower demand for print, which in turn reveals an opportunity to reduce the size and complexity of your device fleet even further. Now you are looking through the lens of sustainability, and your previously hidden costs are exposed.....

**More:**

[www.environmentalleader.com/2016/05/17/sustainable-printing-lessons-from-a-cat/](http://www.environmentalleader.com/2016/05/17/sustainable-printing-lessons-from-a-cat/)

**Source:** *Environmental Leader*, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016. ❖

## Lead and Influence Sustainability

"Back by popular demand! If you missed our first sustainability leadership course, here's your chance to enrol when it starts again in July. Upskill yourself and learn from experts – 40 hour commitment over six months.

"Through change and innovation, the role of the sustainability manager or owner is increasingly focused on engaging teams in complex plans, fostering common ground and creating collaborations. As sustainability specialists you may be required to influence your volunteer teams, cross-functional project teams, external stakeholders and senior management teams - all in a day! This course will help you build your own capacity to do this more effectively to create a more robust organisation.

"The course ... covers five practical elements of leadership. The time between each workshop allows you to test and apply key learnings. You will also meet (face to face or remotely) with other participants between the workshops to reflect on learning and coach each other on implementing new skills and tools. There is an online platform to share ideas.

"The Explore workshops run from 9am to 1pm at AUT City Campus, and include an inspirational talk from sustainability leaders over a light lunch.

"... I think the course has been expertly planned and is being professionally delivered with consideration given to the attendees being full time employees or business owners. The course is not only hugely rewarding to all of us attending, it will be hugely beneficial to the future of New Zealand.' Nick Morrison, Innocent Packaging.

"The course has exceeded my expectations in terms of content, execution, calibre of guest speakers, actionable outcomes and networking with course participants. The ball is well and truly rolling now on CA ANZ future sustainability strategies. I relish the opportunities, challenges and personal growth that has occurred over the course.' Sarah Fox, Event Manager, Chartered Accountants Australia and NZ.

**More:** <http://sustainable.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Lead-and-Influence-Sustainability-course-programme-July-Dec-20161.pdf>

**Source:** SBN, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016. ❖

## Electric Bikes – Good Info to Know

A February 2016 *'Consumer'* article tells you most things you need to know about e-bikes. It covers;

- Accelerating gently into the future
- Anatomy of an e-bike
- A primer on e-bike styles
- Buying an e-bike
- A snapshot of e-bikes in NZ
- Not quite a free ride
- Power to the people
- Here come the e-bikes
- Legal-ease
- A member's experience.

**More:** <https://www.consumer.org.nz/articles/electric-bikes> – subscription may be required

**Source:** *Consumer*, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016. ❖

## Technical Guide for ISO 14001:2015

Bureau Veritas has produced a free technical guide for the upgraded standard. It provides 'all you need to know' about the changes and how to implement them. 12 pages 4.12Mb

**More:** [www.us.bureauveritas.com/home/our-services/certification/white-papers/iso-14001-2015-technical-guide-landing](http://www.us.bureauveritas.com/home/our-services/certification/white-papers/iso-14001-2015-technical-guide-landing)

**Source:** Environmental Leader, Partner, 25<sup>th</sup> May. ❖

## Growth vs Fixed Mindset: What Does it Mean for Sustainability?

"Growth" is a loaded word in sustainability circles, most often equating to growth of economic activity underpinned by overuse of natural resources and the resulting harms to ecosystem and human health.

"Yet there is growing acknowledgement of the need for growth in good things, not just GDP – which Robert Kennedy described in 1968 as measuring 'everything except that which makes life worthwhile'.

"Consider the need for growth in healthy nutrition and cities in a world where for the first time the obese outnumber the starving and the urban population outnumbers the rural. Consider the need for growth in access to health, wellbeing, literacy, higher education, skills, equity, diversity, arts and culture – things that support self-realization and a meaningful life.

"So how do we foster 'good' growth at the personal level – and beyond? It comes down to our self-beliefs.

"Do you believe it is possible to increase your intellectual ability?" This provocative question opened an article in *Scientific American MIND* magazine showing that students who believe their intelligence can grow learn more, acquire deeper knowledge and do better – especially in hard subjects and in negotiating difficult school transitions – compared with equally able students who believe their intelligence is a fixed trait.

"Enter 'growth vs fixed mindset'. It's an approach to personal and organisational development that enables positive change.

"What could that mean for fostering organisational capability for sustainability and the increasingly urgent need to decarbonise the global economy? [Much more at the URL below – and applies to more than 'merely' 'sustainability']

**More:** [www.clarefeeney.com/growth-vs-fixed-mindset-what-does-it-mean-for-sustainability/](http://www.clarefeeney.com/growth-vs-fixed-mindset-what-does-it-mean-for-sustainability/)

**Source:** Clare Feeney, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016. ✦

## Auckland Sustainable Housing Summit

"Housing in New Zealand faces many challenges – not least reversing the health impacts of low quality homes while meeting exploding demand. How do we resolve these thorny issues to create resilient, liveable homes and communities?"

"The biennial Sustainable Housing Summit is your opportunity to hear about inspiring international and local projects, innovative solutions, and models that work. Join us to be informed and inspired, and to network with like-minded peers around the critical challenges and opportunities facing housing in New Zealand.

Speakers include:

- International Keynote Speaker: Deputy Mayor Andrea Reimer, City of Vancouver, "Greenest City on Earth: Glimpses from Vancouver"
- Adam Beck, Director, Centre for Urban Innovation, Brisbane, 'A New Code for Sustainable Neighbourhoods: Glimpses from North America'
- James Legge, Director, Six Degrees Architects, Melbourne, 'The Nightingale Model: Upsetting the status quo of the speculative multi-residential housing development'
- Kristian Edwards, Project Manager, Snohetta Architects, Norway, 'ZEB Pilot House: Net positive energy house in Larvik, Norway'
- Daiman Otto, Group Manager for Architecture, Hampton Jones

**When/Where:** 8:00-5:00pm, 5<sup>th</sup> Jun 2016, Albert Street.

**More:** [www.nzgbc.org.nz/events/upcoming-events/Auckland-Sustainable-Housing-Summit-2016](http://www.nzgbc.org.nz/events/upcoming-events/Auckland-Sustainable-Housing-Summit-2016)

**Source:** SBN 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016. ✦

## Why More is Too Much, and Less is Beautiful

"Cyriel Kortleven is an award winning, and hugely entertaining international speaker with a passion for creative solutions. His latest book '[Less is Beautiful](#)' provides powerful insights into the paradox of choice, the exaggerated search for efficiency, and how we can achieve better results for ourselves and those around us by simplifying things.

"There'll be plenty of practical examples from organisations which have implemented the 'Less is Beautiful' philosophy, and some simple tools you can use straight-away to help you master the same approach;

- Become aware of the paradox of choice and the power of 3 principles
- Start to stop – discover the power of focus and learn how stopping activities can lead to more time, money and energy
- Simplify – learn simple methods to ban complexity
- Letting go – dare to trust again to create more space and time in your professional life

AND MORE... learn from two real success stories:

- Kat McDonald: Company Sustainability Leader - Opus International Consultants. *Lessons for future leaders - 3 short stories that have shaped how I work.*
- Steve Counce / Ashlee Franklin: GM Corporate Affairs / NGL & Inspire Programme Director - Fuji Xerox. *Fuji Xerox will share insights about how the company's CSR initiatives fit in with both business development and staff engagement activities.*

**When/Where:** 4:00 – 6:30pm, 9<sup>th</sup> June, Opus Beaumont St.

**More:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/fit-for-the-future-2016-keynote-seminar-less-is-beautiful-tickets-24831355252>

**Source:** TNS, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016. ✦

## Purpose

"Purpose is a unique 2 - day conference coming from Sydney to Christchurch 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> October this year. It's for purpose driven corporations, non-profits, social enterprises, iwi and government agencies. The focus is on how to weave a higher Purpose into businesses – and their cultures – to create economies with Purpose. In other words transform regional problems into meaningful business opportunities, using the principles of conscious capitalism.

"Purpose is the brain-child of the meaningful experience agency Wildwon, a Certified B Corporation from Australia. It ran in Sydney last year and received rave reviews from corporate leaders and social entrepreneurs alike. Purpose is a fusion of clever activations, inspirational speech's from leaders of conscious capitalism, and purpose driven workshops carefully crafted into six main themes.

"The event and workshops are designed for leaders and change agents. Participants are invited to the event on the basis of the impact they could have within their organisation or on a particular theme. The goal is that leaders arrive with a clear purpose of what they want to achieve, and leave with purpose driven collaborative projects to improve the prosperity of their organisation and region.

"The world is changing faster than ever. Power is shifting. There are new rules. How can business be a force for positive change in the world and for ourselves? We're exploring these questions through themes which will be your sign posts on the Purpose playing field. ....

"Contact Gavin Healy if you would like to know more ....

**More:** <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/2-days-give-your-business-purpose-gavin-healy>

**Source:** *LinkedIn Pulse*, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016. ✦

## Leaked Docs Reveal TTIP Unfriendly to Environment, Consumers, Democracy

"Greenpeace Netherlands turned up the heat on the already troubled Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations last week [2<sup>nd</sup> week of May] when it published 248 pages of the negotiation texts, covering 13 of the 17 chapters which are currently being discussed by United States and European Union trade representatives behind closed doors.

"The leak, the largest so far, follows more than two years of TTIP document and information leaks that have alarmed NGOs and the public.

"TTIP is a proposed trade agreement between the United States and the European Union, boosted by its supporters as promoting trade and multilateral economic growth.

"However, the newest leak sheds light on a document that appears to favour business at the expense of the environment, the general public, and democracy.....

"There's also no reference in the leaked texts to any national climate agreements, or enforcement of the commitments recently agreed to as part of the Paris Agreement.

"The texts also fail to mention the EU's Precautionary Principle, which dictates that commercial products must be proven safe before being introduced to the market.....

"The danger of the American method is reflected in the legal battles required to pull DDT, neonicotinoids, and other pesticides from the US market, long after harm is identified.

"Standards are so very different between the US and EU', said Oulahsen, 'It is not sensible to amalgamate these positions, nor is it beneficial.'

"Under the TTIP as now proposed, European businesses – forced by law to comply with rigorous EU standards – would potentially have to compete with a flood of American products not held to the same standards.

"Likewise, with other foreign companies, formerly encouraged to adopt stronger environmental policies or consumer protections to remain viable in the enormous European market – those foreign firms would likely no longer need to comply to compete.

"The leaked documents also show that TTIP would likely undermine democracy. ....

**More:** [www.eco-business.com/news/leaked-docs-reveal-ttip-unfriendly-to-environment-consumers-democracy/](http://www.eco-business.com/news/leaked-docs-reveal-ttip-unfriendly-to-environment-consumers-democracy/)

**Source:** *eco-News*, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016. ❖

## Finding Ways to Stop Spraying Crops

"More US farmers are moving away from growing a single crop on their farms which then requires them to use large amounts of chemicals to enhance the performance of the soil.

"More farmers – even on large commercial farms – are discovering the benefits of planting a special mix of crops, known as cover crops, in between harvests. These crops, such as hairy vetch, barley, sunflower and ryegrass, grow deep roots that break up compacted soil, support healthy microbes and protect against weeds and pests. They 'cover' topsoil and prevent it from eroding.

"Cover-cropping has been proven to increase the amount of water and carbon that soil can store and reduce the need for chemical fertilisers and pesticides.

**More:** <http://earthjustice.org/blog/2016-april/breaking-the-cycle-moving-from-chemicals-to-cover-crops#>

**Source:** Tieke: *ECO*, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016. ❖

## Using Sport to Save Energy Wins Award

"A trust that helps sport to spread the energy saving message has won the top honours at the EECA Awards.

"Also winner of the Community Award, the Project Litefoot Trust was recognised for its LiteClub project which helps community sports clubs become more efficient with energy, water and waste. The money saved on energy is then freed up for equipment, coaching and facilities. So far the trust has achieved \$3.9 million worth of energy savings.

"The LiteClub project is reaching everyday New Zealanders and changing their attitudes to sustainability through their involvement in sports clubs. This is an innovative and well-executed project that makes use of sports stars to get attention and support', said EECA chief executive ....

"Former All Black Conrad Smith, ex-Black Caps skipper Brendon McCullum, golfer Michael Campbell and the Evers-Swindell rowing twins are some of the 10 New Zealand sporting stars who are helping Project Litefoot Trust link sport with the environment.

"More than 710 community sports clubs have signed to LiteClub's free service, and there is now international interest in replicating the model.

"Collectively, the 2016 awards entries will save or generate 1.1 petajoules (PJ) of energy, equivalent to the annual energy use of all households in New Plymouth, and avoid 120,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, about one-fifth of the annual emissions of all households in New Zealand....

"The winners:

- Supreme winner: Project Litefoot Trust
- Business Service Excellence: Energy Solution Providers
- Community Award: Project Litefoot Trust
- Energy Leadership: Dr Viv Heslop, Panuku Development Auckland
- Energy Management: ANZCO
- Innovation Award: Hellers and Active Refrigeration
- Large Energy User: Orora Beverage Cans
- Public Sector: Te Puni Kōkiri and Argosy Property
- Renewable Energy: Antarctica New Zealand
- Small to Medium Energy User: Ceres Organics
- Transport: Charge Net NZ.

**More:** [www.eeca.govt.nz/about-eeca/eeca-awards/the-winners/](http://www.eeca.govt.nz/about-eeca/eeca-awards/the-winners/) - with stories, plus [www.eeca.govt.nz/about-eeca/eeca-awards/](http://www.eeca.govt.nz/about-eeca/eeca-awards/) and [www.voxy.co.nz/business/5/251930](http://www.voxy.co.nz/business/5/251930).

See also *Sustainability Matters*, of 28<sup>th</sup> April

**Source:** *NZ Herald*, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016. ❖

## Revision of AS/NZS ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Management Systems

".... The objective of the revision is to introduce key improvements such as increased alignment with an organisation's strategic direction, proactive initiatives to protect the environment and the inclusion of a life cycle perspective, considering each stage of a product or service, from development to end-of-life. The revised Standard will encourage organisations to consider how external environmental conditions can affect their operations through issues such as climate change as well as identifying the impacts it has on the environment. This will allow organisations to identify broader issues of organisational risk which might compromise their operations and organisation. ...

**Closing Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

**More:**

<https://shop.standards.govt.nz/default.htm?action=viewDraft&mod=drafts&draftId=DR%20ISO%2014001:2016%20CP>

**Source:** Standards NZ, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2016. ❖

Contributions and feedback are welcomed.

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

eMail: [ray@sustainabilitymatters.co.nz](mailto:ray@sustainabilitymatters.co.nz) Phone: +64 (09) 443 0773 Web: [www.sustainabilitymatters.co.nz](http://www.sustainabilitymatters.co.nz)