

# Sustainability Matters

27<sup>th</sup> April 2017

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.**

## Call to Arms: Put the Love Back Into Politics

".....His book *The New Zealand Project* comes out on Monday [10<sup>th</sup> April], outlining ideas to make our country better.

"This work was born out of an instinct that something is not right in New Zealand society, that politics is partly to blame for this, and that collective political action might be able not only to address these challenges but to create new ways of thriving together", he writes in the book's introduction.

"In straightforward language, Harris reflects on New Zealand's place in the world and makes suggestions for dealing with the future of work, climate change, race relations, social infrastructure like health, education and housing and new frameworks for economic policy.

"He uses interviews with academics, experts and activities to add to his own analysis and makes efforts to point out the interconnectedness between specific areas. He says it's not meant to be an 'egotistical manifesto' but it an attempt to amplify others' voices and an invitation to debate. Harris hopes the book will start conversations and make politics more appealing to those who believe it is unimportant in their lives. ....

"When Harris learned how sick he was, rather than draw up a bucket list that included travel and high living, he decided to sit one of the world's hardest exams. The Rhodes Scholar, with degrees in law, arts and public policy, wanted a University of Oxford All Souls Prize Fellowship.

"This would give him seven years of open-ended funding for writing and research. He wanted to devise a plan for a fresh approach to politics which would lead to widespread discussion about how we make our country better.

"I was already scared of death so I figured if there was something that I could contribute that went beyond myself, then I should do it. I thought about setting up some sort of think-tank then I thought maybe I could interview as many people as I could find sticking their heads above the parapet – then I remembered the All Souls Prize and it seemed like a good starting point for me."

"He sat the exam – six hours of writing on a specialist subject, six hours of answering general questions and an interview in front of 50-60 academics – and obtained the All Souls Prize.

"I think more and more, we've become a country that makes it harder for people to get involved, but I believe most New Zealanders have strong opinions and want to express these. I really hope people start having more conversations about the ideas in the book.' ....

"He'll also give the Michael King Memorial Lecture at the Auckland Writers Festival in May.

### More:

[http://m.nzherald.co.nz/entertainment/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1501119&objectid=11832446](http://m.nzherald.co.nz/entertainment/news/article.cfm?c_id=1501119&objectid=11832446), plus <http://bwb.co.nz/books/new-zealand-project>, and <http://books.scoop.co.nz/2017/04/07/release-the-new-zealand-project/>

Source: *NZ Herald*, page A11, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017. ❖

## SUSTAINABILITY GROUP EVENTS

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



Announcements in 'due course'. ❖

## Zero Carbon Act Summary

"The Zero Carbon Act will drive meaningful climate change action in New Zealand. The Act will commit New Zealand to zero carbon by 2050 or sooner, set a legally binding pathway to this target, and require the Government to make a plan.

"Climate change is a pressing global crisis that is already impacting on our homes and livelihoods. The planet has warmed by around 1°C since pre-industrial times, mainly due to human greenhouse gas emissions. The world has agreed that we must limit warming to well below 2°C, and aim for below 1.5°C. This requires global CO2 emissions to reach net zero by early in the second half of the century, along with deep cuts in other greenhouse gas emissions.

"All countries must undergo their own transition to a zero carbon society. While many other countries are reducing their emissions, New Zealand's continue to rise. There is no plan to meet existing national targets. The longer we delay our own transition, the more costly it will be. We also miss out on the many benefits and opportunities of early action.

"Climate change is bigger than politics - we need political parties to work together and look beyond election cycles. Getting to zero carbon by 2050 or sooner is possible. It will require broad political commitment, immediate action, and coherent long-term planning. A clear and stable path will help New Zealand businesses and citizens plan for their future and invest with confidence in low-carbon solutions.

"The Zero Carbon Act is an idea for a powerful new law to get our country on the right track. It is based on a proven concept: the UK's 2008 Climate Change Act. The UK Act has cross-party support and has been adopted in several other countries. The Zero Carbon Act will pursue three key objectives: ...

"The Zero Carbon Act framework is uniquely suited to cross-party agreement. It sets out legally-mandated outcomes and process, without prescribing specific policies. It combines long-term clarity on policy direction with flexibility in its delivery.

More: <http://zerocarbonact.nz/about>

Source: Stephen Kavermann, Facebook like, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017. ❖

## Are You EDS's New Resource Management Policy Advisor?

"10<sup>th</sup> Apr 2017. The Environmental Defence Society (EDS) will be shortly embarking on a major project to review New Zealand's entire resource management system and identify options for fundamental reform. This will include canvassing emerging resource management challenges, reviewing innovative approaches internationally and tapping into the collective knowledge and experience in New Zealand. We are seeking to employ a Resource Management Policy Advisor for 18 months to assist with this challenging project, based in our Auckland office and working with our Policy Director, Raewyn Peart.

"Responsibilities will include: ....

"Candidates should have relevant professional and/or post graduate degree or degrees relevant to resource management. Ideally they should be admitted to the High Court and have resource management litigation experience. ....

"The contract will initially be for an 18 month period ....

**Applications Close: 5pm Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017.**

More: [www.eds.org.nz/our-work/policy/media-statements/media-statements-2017/im:5944/](http://www.eds.org.nz/our-work/policy/media-statements/media-statements-2017/im:5944/)

Source: Editor, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017. ❖

## Free Workshop – Measuring the Financial ROI of Environment & Sustainability Training

“Do your bosses and clients continually ask you to justify the cost of your environment and sustainability training?”

“Are you struggling to align your training with business outcomes?”

“In these challenging times, you need to clearly articulate to your bosses and clients the business case for your environment and sustainability training.”

“Clare Feeney is the Sustainability Strategist and she is running a no-cost workshop on the financial return on investment of environment and sustainability training.”

“Find out how:

- One company clocked up a **\$150k loss** from one small spill
- Another firm with 1000 staff made **\$4m in savings** in one year from better induction training!

“You will use Clare’s **unique checklists** to track the TRUE costs to your company of even small environmental incidents – and learn how to calculate the **REAL Return On Investment** of your environment and sustainability training.”

“As well as cutting hidden costs, good environment and sustainability training yields significant financial benefits by growing staff engagement and retention, as well productivity, profitability and company value. Count the dollar impact on your business bottom line and you’ll realise that every firm needs to be doing this.”

**When/Where:** 8.30am – 12.30pm, Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> May, The Quality Inn, Parnell, Auckland (free parking on site)

**Registration:** eMail [clare@clarefeeney.com](mailto:clare@clarefeeney.com)

**More:** [www.clarefeeney.com/roi](http://www.clarefeeney.com/roi)

**Source:** Clare Feeney, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2017. ❖

## Stories Create Empathy and Empathy Helps Drive Change

“The People’s Mental Health Review was an innovative and powerful project aimed at improving Aotearoa New Zealand’s public mental health system by letting those within the system share their stories.”

“Although everyone would hope to live in good mental health, the reality for one in six New Zealand adults is very different – and for them and their families, the expectation that they should be able to get help when they need it is vital.”

“Unfortunately, there are signs the public mental health system designed to offer this help is in crisis.”

“Those most in need are experiencing long waiting times for support; the lack of resources is leading to an increased reliance on the use of isolation as a form of care; and the country is experiencing alarmingly high levels of suicide.”

“The Ministry of Health has rejected repeated calls for a Government review of the public mental health system, so we decided to run our own.”

“The *People’s Mental Health Review* was designed to allow anyone involved with mental health in New Zealand – from mental health professionals to those with either personal or family experience of the system – to tell their story. We launched it in September 2016 with zero advertising budget, and over the space of three months collected 500 stories.”

“This website, and the associated People’s Mental Health Report are the result of that project.”

“What you will find:

- An online and downloadable report [3 pages 7.67Mb] summarising the key themes raised in more than 500 stories submitted to the *People’s Mental Health Review*.
- Four key recommendations for Government based on those themes.
- An invitation to [sign up to an open letter](#) calling on the government to implement our recommendations.

“Our hope is that the courage of the 500 people who submitted their stories to this process will be rewarded by seeing their concerns taken seriously, along with their hopes and recommendations for a better future for mental health services in Aotearoa New Zealand.”

**More:** [www.peoplesmentalhealthreport.com/](http://www.peoplesmentalhealthreport.com/)

**Source:** Action Station, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017. ❖

## Delivering Procurement with Impact

“Organisations across Australia are exploring innovative new approaches to achieving social objectives through procurement, as part of their commitment to the triple bottom line and corporate social responsibility.”

“This comprehensive one-day course is designed for all of those undertaking or interested in social procurement. The course brings together international best practice, local case studies and practical step-by-step guidance to support social procurement practice that drives real social and local economic benefits as part of a robust procurement framework.”

“The course is the first in an on-going series, being delivered in a unique partnership between two of the founders of Social Procurement Australasia (SPA);

- Social Traders, Australia’s leading social enterprise development organisation; and
- ArcBlue, one of Australia’s leading procurement consultancy and training companies, and specialists in social procurement

**When/Where:** 3<sup>rd</sup> May Wellington, 4<sup>th</sup> May Auckland

**More:** [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/social-procurement-training-series-tickets-31340076011](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/social-procurement-training-series-tickets-31340076011)

**Source:** SBN, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017

**Editor:** The course is being run in NZ by Akina Foundation. ❖

## World Bank Ignores Land Grabbing – Dead Donkeys Fear No Hyenas

**More:** [www.deaddonkeysfearnohyenas.com/](http://www.deaddonkeysfearnohyenas.com/) 1hr 30min released 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017 plus [www.ipsnews.net/2017/04/world-bank-ignores-land-grabbing/](http://www.ipsnews.net/2017/04/world-bank-ignores-land-grabbing/)

**Source:** Kit Withers, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017. ❖

## Growing the Future: Urban Biodynamics Conference

“The conference features a pre-conference workshop Thurs/Fri 18<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> May, *Biodynamics: Bringing Life to Urban Gardens* with Rachel Pomeroy and Colin Ross.”

“Conference begins afternoon of Fri 18<sup>th</sup> and finishes Sun. afternoon

“From backyards in the ‘burbs to farms on the fringes, our 2017 conference dishes up nourishing food for growing cities.”

“Over the last few years we’ve seen an increased demand for information about biodynamics on a micro-scale. This conference is our response, with an exciting line-up of experts and activities demonstrating how to integrate biodynamics into city living.”

“The programme includes talks by leading biodynamic practitioners, including a keynote presentation by Diane Watkin from Australia. Take part in hands-on workshops and enjoy field visits to gardens and orchards around the Auckland region. ....

**When/Where:** 19<sup>th</sup> –21<sup>st</sup> May, Michael Park School, Ellerslie, Auckland

**More:** [www.biodynamic.org.nz/news-events/urban-biodynamics-conference-2017](http://www.biodynamic.org.nz/news-events/urban-biodynamics-conference-2017)

**Source:** *Tieke: ECO Alerts & Events*, 19<sup>th</sup> April. ❖

## Coal Museum Switches to Solar to Save Money

“A Kentucky museum devoted to the history of coal is abandoning its namesake for a simple reason: coal’s too expensive.”

“The Kentucky Coal Mining Museum in Benham features an exhibition coal mine; artifacts from miners and their families; fossils; a 2-ton block of coal cut especially for the museum as a photo backdrop; and even items from the personal collection of country music star (and coal miner’s daughter) Loretta Lynn.”

“It also will soon have 80 solar panels on its roof to generate the electricity the facility needs, with the excess helping to power the town of Benham. The switch to solar is expected to save the museum between \$8,000 and \$10,000 a year on its energy bill....

**More:** [www.cnet.com/news/solar-panels-to-power-coal-museum/?ftag=CAD-04-10aae9d&bhid=20649041918701843615481038445637](http://www.cnet.com/news/solar-panels-to-power-coal-museum/?ftag=CAD-04-10aae9d&bhid=20649041918701843615481038445637)

**Source:** *CNET Insider*, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017. ❖

## IIRC Welcomes Significant Endorsement of Integrated Reporting by IFAC

"The International Federation of Accountants has released a paper stating 'Integrated Reporting is the way to achieve a more coherent corporate reporting system, fulfilling the need for a single report that provides a fuller picture of organisations' ability to create value over time.'

"The paper sets out IFAC's strong support for the IIRC and the implementation of the <IR> Framework. It states IFAC 'believes the integrated report can be used as an 'umbrella' report for an organisation's broad suite of reports and communications, enabling greater interconnectedness between different reports.'

"Commenting on this announcement Richard Howitt, CEO, IIRC said:

"This new position paper from the International Federation of Accountants is a very significant endorsement of Integrated Reporting. IFAC recognises the fragmentation that arises from different reporting by companies of different capitals. It rightly sees integrated reporting as the 'umbrella' for other types of reporting, in precisely the same way in which companies and investors in the IIRC coalition do themselves. IFAC is a model forward thinking global organisation – championing a clear direction for corporate reporting and other innovations. We are delighted IFAC has both adopted this new position and recognised the leadership role professional accountants can play in advancing it. We look forward to continuing to work closely with IFAC and the accountancy profession worldwide to ensure Integrated Reporting becomes the global norm for business.'

**More:** <http://integratedreporting.org/news/iirc-welcomes-significant-endorsement-of-integrated-reporting-by-ifac/> plus [www.ifac.org/system/files/publications/files/PPP8-Enhancing-Organizational-Reporting-Jan-2017.pdf](http://www.ifac.org/system/files/publications/files/PPP8-Enhancing-Organizational-Reporting-Jan-2017.pdf) 9 pages

**Source:** CSEAR Newsletter, page 6, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017. ❖

## Empowering NZ

"There are huge opportunities in the electricity sector to improve people's quality of life and help stop climate change. But without leadership, we could miss the opportunities new technologies provide and be stuck with decades of rising power prices and burning fossil fuels.

"Cheaper .....

"Cleaner .....

"Smarter .....

"New Zealand can be a global leader at the cutting edge of energy systems, creating high tech jobs and exporting our clean energy expertise to the world.

**More:** [www.greens.org.nz/policy/cleaner-environment/empowering-nz](http://www.greens.org.nz/policy/cleaner-environment/empowering-nz) plus linked 59 page report *Toward 100% Renewable Electricity: How New Zealand can develop a fully renewable electricity system at* [www.greens.org.nz/sites/default/files/Toward%20100%25.pdf](http://www.greens.org.nz/sites/default/files/Toward%20100%25.pdf)

**Source:** Gareth Hughes, Green Party, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017. ❖

## The Hidden Life of Trees

"Derek Craig, our Restoration Manager has recently read this book and would highly recommend it.

"In *The Hidden Life of Trees*, Peter Wohlleben shares his deep love of woods and forests and explains the amazing processes of life, death, and regeneration he has observed in the woodland and the amazing scientific processes behind the wonders of which we are blissfully unaware. Much like human families, tree parents live together with their children, communicate with them, and support them as they grow, sharing nutrients with those who are sick or struggling and creating an ecosystem that mitigates the impact of extremes of heat and cold for the whole group. As a result of such interactions, trees in a family or community are protected and can live to be very old. In contrast, solitary trees, like street kids, have a tough time of it and in most cases die much earlier than those in a group. Drawing on groundbreaking new discoveries, Wohlleben presents the science behind the secret.

**More:** [www.nytimes.com/2016/01/30/world/europe/german-forest-ranger-finds-that-trees-have-social-networks-too.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/30/world/europe/german-forest-ranger-finds-that-trees-have-social-networks-too.html)

**Source:** Kaipatiki Environment Centre newsletter, 5<sup>th</sup> April. ❖

## Role of Professional Accountants in Enhancing Integrated Reporting

"IFAC strongly supports and encourages the involvement of professional accountants in this important emerging field [of integrated reporting]. The skills and expertise of professional accountants are well suited to advancing organisational reporting, for example, in relation to managing and reporting an organisation's performance, assessing and developing appropriate internal control reporting and governance arrangements, in matters pertaining to measurement and in providing assurance and enhancing the credibility of reported information. Professional accountants are also well placed to facilitate integrated thinking.

"Specifically, professional accountants contribute to advancing organisational reporting in their roles as:

- Professional accountants in business, who play important roles within organisations to develop business cases, manage performance, implement reporting arrangements and systems, and assess and assist in the development of governance and risk management arrangements and strong internal controls;
- Assurance practitioners, who play a critical role in providing assurance on, and hence enhancing the credibility of, organisational reporting by utilising internationally-accepted, high-quality assurance standards; and
- Professional accountants providing professional services who in many jurisdictions, play important advisory and consulting roles for organisations with respect to organisational reporting, especially for small- and medium-sized entities. ....

**More:** [www.ifac.org/system/files/publications/files/PPP8-Enhancing-Organizational-Reporting-Jan-2017.pdf](http://www.ifac.org/system/files/publications/files/PPP8-Enhancing-Organizational-Reporting-Jan-2017.pdf)

**Source:** Page 8 via CSEAR Newsletter page 6, 30<sup>th</sup> March. ❖

## UK Move to Cut Plastic Waste with Innovative Water Balls

"According to a start-up company based in the British capital, London, that manufactures them, small transparent spheres filled with natural or flavoured water could help provide a solution to the world's plastic waste problem.

"With many cities around the world struggling to dispose of vast numbers of used plastic water bottles, the biodegradable 'Ooho balls' have begun quenching the thirst of consumers at special events in San Francisco and London.

"Reuters Newsagency reports the balls, which resemble large bubbles, have a jelly-like membrane made of plant and seaweed extracts.

"The company, Skipping Rocks Lab, said the membranes decompose after four to six weeks if not consumed.

"A report published by the London municipal authorities said more than 4000 plastic bottles had been removed from the River Thames in a one month period last year, demonstrating the scale of the waste problem. ....

"The company aims to target, among other consumers, marathon runners, who will be able to dispose of the Oohos mid-race without concerns about the environment.

"It is also considering encapsulating alcohol for a whole new market. ....

**More:** <http://in.reuters.com/article/britain-water-innovation-idINKBN17F290> with 2:00video clip

**Source:** Angela Toy and *eco-News*, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017. ❖

## Scientists: Global Warming Causes Canadian River to Vanish in Four Days

"It is a first no one really wants to think about, but in a remote region of Canada a glacier-fed river has disappeared in days, and scientists say it is all the result of human induced global warming.

"The vast glacier-fed river which flowed from Canada's Yukon territory across Alaska to drain into the Bering Sea has disappeared in just four days, in what scientists believe is the first observed case of 'river piracy'.....

**More:** <http://econews.com.au/53937/scientists-global-warming-causes-canadian-river-to-vanish-in-four-days/>

**Source:** *eco-News*, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017. ❖

## Finally, a Breakthrough Alternative to Growth Economics – The Doughnut

George Monbiot.

"Instead of growth at all costs, a new economic model allows us to thrive while saving the planet

"So what are we going to do about it? This is the only question worth asking. But the answers appear elusive. Faced with a multifaceted crisis – the capture of governments by billionaires and their lobbyists, extreme inequality, the rise of demagogues, above all the collapse of the living world – those to whom we look for leadership appear stunned, voiceless, clueless. Even if they had the courage to act, they have no idea what to do.

"The most they tend to offer is more economic growth: the fairy dust supposed to make all the bad stuff disappear. Never mind that it drives ecological destruction; that it has failed to relieve structural unemployment or soaring inequality; that, in some recent years, almost all the increment in incomes has been harvested by the top 1%. As values, principles and moral purpose are lost, the promise of growth is all that's left.....

"In *Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist*, Kate Raworth of Oxford University's Environmental Change Institute reminds us economic growth was not, at first, intended to signify wellbeing. Simon Kuznets, who standardised the measurement of growth, warned: 'The welfare of a nation can scarcely be inferred from a measure of national income.' Economic growth, he pointed out, measured only annual flow, rather than stocks of wealth and their distribution.

"Raworth points out that economics in the 20<sup>th</sup> century 'lost the desire to articulate its goals'. It aspired to be a science of human behaviour: a science based on a deeply flawed portrait of humanity. The dominant model – 'rational economic man', self-interested, isolated, calculating – says more about the nature of economists than it does about other humans. The loss of an explicit objective allowed the discipline to be captured by a proxy goal: endless growth.

"The aim of economic activity, she argues, should be 'meeting the needs of all within the means of the planet'. Instead of economies that need to grow, whether or not they make us thrive, we need economies that 'make us thrive, whether or not they grow'. This means changing our picture of what the economy is and how it works.

"The central image in mainstream economics is the circular flow diagram. It depicts a closed flow of..... [Diagrams of economic models]

"I see her as the John Maynard Keynes of the 21<sup>st</sup> century: by reframing the economy, she allows us to change our view of who we are, where we stand, and what we want to be.

"Now we need to turn her ideas into policy. Read her book, then demand those who wield power start working towards its objectives: human prosperity within a thriving living world. ...

**More:**

[www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/apr/12/doughnut-growth-economics-book-economic-model](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/apr/12/doughnut-growth-economics-book-economic-model)

**Source:** Malcolm Rands and Mike Finlayson share, 14<sup>th</sup> April. ❖

## City of Sydney Adopts Net Zero Emissions Plan

"After months of public consultation, the City of Sydney has fast-tracked the adoption of an action plan that will help it achieve net zero emissions by 2050, tackle waste and water usage, and scale up renewable energy use.

"The City of Sydney last Tuesday (28<sup>th</sup> March) adopted an action plan its leaders says will help it achieve carbon neutrality and ensure half of its energy comes from renewable energy by 2050.

The City of Sydney council, governs a 25-sq km area of downtown Sydney including its central business district and inner city suburbs.

**More:** [www.eco-business.com/news/city-of-sydney-adopts-net-zero-emissions-plan/](http://www.eco-business.com/news/city-of-sydney-adopts-net-zero-emissions-plan/)

**Source:** eco-Business.com, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017. ❖

## Master of Social Innovation - AUT

"Social Innovation is a dynamic, interdisciplinary area of study and practice that has gained traction and recognition nationally and internationally. It involves identifying, co-designing, implementing and critiquing innovative responses to complex societal issues. Concerns like climate change, social injustice and inequality, health crises and social displacement require new tools, capability and community-centred understanding to address such problems on many different scales.

"If you're interested in creating new ideas that work in meeting social goals, or developing a novel solution to a social problem that is more effective, efficient and sustainable than existing solutions within the community, The Master of Social Innovation provides the opportunity to further your practice and understanding. The Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma in Social Innovation offer flexible entry options which can serve as a pathway to study at master's degree level.

"This programme will provide you with a network of community and organisational connections as well as ethical awareness, practical skills, technological and design know-how and experience that can then be applied within an organisation, or as a foundation for your own enterprise or venture.....

"Duration: 1½ years full-time

"Start date: 17 July 2017

"Fees scholarship available

**More:** [www.aut.ac.nz/study-at-aut/study-areas/creative-technologies/postgraduate-study/master-of-social-innovation](http://www.aut.ac.nz/study-at-aut/study-areas/creative-technologies/postgraduate-study/master-of-social-innovation)

**Source:** SBN, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017. ❖

## Here, Cutting Down Millions of Trees is Actually a Good Thing

"In the far north of Scotland, an unusual conservation project is underway: the systematic removal of millions of trees. While tearing down forests is generally a bad thing, at the RSPB Forsinard Flows Nature Reserve it is essential to restoring one of the most important ecosystems on the planet. Peatland blanket bogs have been absorbing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere for thousands of years. In this one area of Scotland, the peatlands store an estimated 400 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>—which is more than double the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> stored in all of the United Kingdom's forests put together.

"But in the 1980s, tree plantations began buying up the peatlands in order to grow timber. They planted millions of trees and drained the peatlands of water, causing the peat to break apart and release CO<sub>2</sub> back into the atmosphere. It's estimated that losing just 4% of the CO<sub>2</sub> that is stored in this peatland would equal Scotland's combined household and industrial carbon emissions.

"Though it will take decades for the peatlands to be fully restored, the team at Forsinard Flows Nature Reserve works year round to do just that.

**More:**

<http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/magazine/170411-ngm-scottish-moors-forsinard-climate-change-peat-bog-scotland> plus [www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2017/05/scotland-moors-highlands-conservation-land-management/](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2017/05/scotland-moors-highlands-conservation-land-management/)

**Source:** National Geographic, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2017. ❖

## Hot Apartments: 'If We Need Air Conditioning, We've Designed it Wrong'

"You can almost get it down to iced temperatures; I've been to a couple in North India and it was freezing down there on a 40C day," Kapetas says....

**More:** [www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2017/apr/10/hot-apartments-if-we-need-air-conditioning-weve-designed-it-wrong](http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2017/apr/10/hot-apartments-if-we-need-air-conditioning-weve-designed-it-wrong)

**Source:** Carbon News, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017. ❖

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)