

# Sustainability Matters

15<sup>th</sup> March 2018

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 The Global Accounting Profession Is a Catalyst for Achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals

- "Corruption, poverty, inequality and climate change are among a few of the world's most pressing challenges, which can often appear insurmountable.
- "Against this backdrop, public trust in government and business is waning. Government entities are increasingly distrusted and citizens are demanding, with more vigour than ever before, that CEOs lead on issues of change that will advance society at large. Given this backdrop, there is great opportunity to make consistent strides when business, government and society come together with a coordinated global effort to achieve progress.
- "At the top of the UN General Assembly agenda last year was the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aimed at ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring prosperity -- all with specific targets to be achieved by 2030. In order to reach these shared goals, every part of society needs to do its part. The accountancy profession, an essential driver of strong and sustainable organisations, financial markets and economies, has a crucial role in achieving them.
- "Unexpected Champions Of The SDG's: Representing almost three million professional accountants around the world, the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) and our member organisations make up a strong force, with the opportunity and obligation to keep business and government on track to support and progress nearly half of the SDGs.
- "In fact, 8 of the 17 goals are directly supported by the work of accountants. Gender equality, quality education, economic growth, climate action and peace, justice and strong institutions are among the key SDGs that accountants work toward every day in their varying roles. ....
- "Keeping The Peace And Justice: Peace and justice underpin all of the SDGs. ....The profession's capacity to address limitations to sustainable growth directly affects drivers of economic development. In particular, the profession addresses head-on poor governance, fraud and corruption, poor public sector financial management and inadequate accounting and auditing practices.
- "Revitalising Global Partnerships For Sustainability: In order to achieve the SDGs, businesses must work together. Cross-sector collaboration is critical to secure the support and resources needed to achieve these goals.
- "The accounting profession has a unique mandate to hold government and business responsible. With a strong accounting profession, we can help drive the changes needed to transform this globe for the better.

### More:

[www.forbes.com/sites/forbesfinancecouncil/2018/03/02/how-the-global-accounting-profession-is-a-catalyst-for-achieving-un-sustainable-development-goals/](http://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesfinancecouncil/2018/03/02/how-the-global-accounting-profession-is-a-catalyst-for-achieving-un-sustainable-development-goals/)

Source: Karen McWilliams, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018. ❖

## SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP

The short discussion paper *A Plea to the Accounting Profession: Governance for Sustainability* of the Taskforce on Sustainable Development Reporting is a call to action. Published by the then Institute of Chartered Accountants of NZ on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009 it continues to merit reflection. See the link from 'Notes' at [www.sustainabilitymatters.co.nz/resources/books-and-other-media/](http://www.sustainabilitymatters.co.nz/resources/books-and-other-media/). ❖

## New [NZ] Research Confirms Sustainability Drives Growth

- "Improved productivity, lower costs, a strong image and a platform for competitive advantage are just some of the benefits of running a sustainable business.
- "NZI has just released compelling research showing that those who run a sustainable business (taking into account environmental, social and economic factors) are twice as likely to grow as those not engaged.
- "Despite this, one third of kiwi businesses aren't embracing sustainable practices.
- "Donna Williams, NZI's General Manager of Customer Experience and Marketing and a regular on the judging panel for the annual NZI Sustainable Business Network Awards says there's still more work to be done to help more companies get on board.
- "The survey shows most businesses want to be more sustainable, but lots don't completely understand what it means and are putting the concept in the 'too-hard' basket.'
- "Chief Executive of the Sustainable Business Network, Rachel Brown says cost is the main barrier to starting the sustainable journey, which is ironic considering reduced costs is actually one of the main benefits.
- "For those less involved with being sustainable, it's about allaying fears regarding costs and for those more proactive, the sense is it's simply about helping them activate a vision already central to their business.'
- "Sustainable businesses do well financially, and shareholders and staff are happy – it's a positive outcome for all involved.'
- "There are signals from [the new] Government for stronger policies and greater investments that will see sustainability in areas like climate change, renewables, public transport and circular economy receive greater attention.
- "Williams says businesses already operating in this space will benefit as a result.
- "It's time businesses embrace sustainable practices otherwise they're going to be left behind', she says.
- "The sustainability story needs to be told to unlock growth.'

**More:** [www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU1803/S00146/new-research-confirms-sustainability-drives-growth.htm](http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU1803/S00146/new-research-confirms-sustainability-drives-growth.htm) plus [https://sustainable.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/NZI\\_Sustainability\\_Presentation\\_FINAL.pdf](https://sustainable.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/NZI_Sustainability_Presentation_FINAL.pdf) 34 pages, 1.58Mb

Source: Rob Campbell, LinkedIn, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018. . ❖

## Do You Derive Benefits from *Sustainability Matters*?

If you do, you may wish to consider making a donation to support the back-office costs and hours of effort. Every contribution is much appreciated. How much? You choose. As a suggestion \$46 would be very welcome. GST receipts provided. Bank account details are;

Sustainability Matters  
A/c No. 123 011 0249104 00  
ASB Bank, Queen Street branch, Auckland.

## Think Resilience Guided Course: March-April

"Join us for this seven-week online course on building community resilience, featuring group webinars hosted by Richard Heinberg.

"Our popular *Think Resilience Guided Course* is back! This online course includes 22 Think Resilience videos PLUS weekly group webinars with Post Carbon Senior Fellow Richard Heinberg. During each group webinar, Richard will share additional insights on the subject matter and answer questions submitted live or in advance.

"By enrolling in the course you'll get access to the online videos, the weekly group webinars, printable transcripts, suggested readings, and discussion forums where you can interact with other participants on the topics covered. Participants are also eligible to receive a Certificate of Course Completion.

**More:** <https://education.resilience.org/course-options/#guided>

**Source:** Post Carbon Institute, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018.

**Editor:** Self-directed course US\$20, guided course 14<sup>th</sup> March to 25<sup>th</sup> April US\$100. ❖

## Thermal Piles for Ground Source Heating & Cooling – Webinar

"The drive to reducing energy consumption and the associated greenhouse gas emissions is now more essential than ever. New technologies are continuously being developed making low-cost alternatives increasingly efficient.

"Tony Sanderson, Principal - Mechanical Engineer from Stephenson & Turner will discuss his work on the recently refurbished Hutt City Council building, which features, for the first time in NZ, a ground source heat pump which uses pipework within the building's structural piles, known as thermal piles.

"These are a low-cost highly-efficient heating and cooling system which reduces overall energy consumption. There are 60 thermal piles used which go around 15-20 metres below the ground, where the earth temperature is very stable at around 10°C.

**When/Where:** Webinar, Wed, 28<sup>th</sup> Mar 28, Noon- 1:00pm

**More:** [www.nzgbc.org.nz/events/Event?Action=View&Event\\_id=615](http://www.nzgbc.org.nz/events/Event?Action=View&Event_id=615)

**Source:** NZGBC, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018. ❖

## Farming Must Respect the Past But Build a Different Future

"As chief executive of a two billion dollar agriculture sector business, I have the job of trying to figure out how we make the transition from a traditional farming business, which has been New Zealand's backbone for over a century, to a new, yet to be fully defined, farming future.

"But before we look to the future, here's a bit of history.....

"The problem is we have now reached the economic, social and environmental limits of how we currently farm and we need a new strategy for creating wealth from our farms and from the land we have been entrusted with....

"We don't yet know all the answers, but at Pāmu we are starting to change the way we farm to ensure our practices meet the expectations of consumers.

"For example, environmental stewardship is central to how we farm. Whether it is stopping the use of palm kernel as feedstock, or the fencing of waterways and riparian planting, or de-intensifying of dairy stocks, we are committed to farming in a sustainable way. ...

"Finally, our reality is we will need fewer animals on our land in the future and more plants. We will need to shift our land uses from farming animals to more forestry and plant products. And to avoid replacing the production of an animal commodity for a plant commodity, our land uses must focus on producing unique plant cultivars that have particular functional health benefits.

"These are challenging but also exciting times in the food sector. It won't be easy but one thing is for sure, food production, including farming, will change – it has to, and we will meet that challenge again, just as we have done over the last 130 years.

**More:** <http://pureadvantage.org/news/2018/01/22/farming-must-respect-past-build-different-future/>

**Source:** Pure Advantage, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018. ❖

## A Zero Carbon Act for New Zealand: Revisiting 'Stepping Stones to Paris and Beyond'

"The report contains detailed advice to Parliament on plans for a UK-style Zero Carbon Act and independent Climate Commission. It follows on from the *Stepping stones to Paris and beyond* report released by Mr Upton's predecessor, Dr Jan Wright, in July last year.

"The Commissioner has made nine recommendations on what he sees as some of the more critical elements in the formation of the legislation and the ensuing Climate Commission. This includes setting effective carbon budgets, establishing a credible Commission, and ensuring that words are turned into deeds. It also underlines the importance of addressing climate adaptation.

**More:** [www.pce.parliament.nz/publications/a-zero-carbon-act-for-new-zealand-revisiting-stepping-stones-to-paris-and-beyond](http://www.pce.parliament.nz/publications/a-zero-carbon-act-for-new-zealand-revisiting-stepping-stones-to-paris-and-beyond), plus [www.pce.parliament.nz/media/196427/zero-carbon-act-for-nz-web.pdf](http://www.pce.parliament.nz/media/196427/zero-carbon-act-for-nz-web.pdf) 47 pages, 2.34Mb and [www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objec\\_tid=12008123](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objec_tid=12008123)

**Source:** *NZ Herald*, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 ❖

## Rod Oram: A Radical Reinvention of Our [NZ] Economy

"Rod Oram writes in this week's column about the Productivity Commission's looming draft report on how to move to a low emissions economy, particularly now it has more ambitious terms of reference under the new Government

"Next month we'll see the first draft of the most important report on the New Zealand economy in many years. It will recommend myriad ways in which we can make our nation deeply sustainable in economic and environmental terms.

"While these are truly global challenges, each country will find the opportunities best for it. But even if we make the right choices, we'll fail if we only tweak our current systems. To succeed, we need to radically reinvent our business models, avidly adopt new technologies and enthusiastically improve our practices.

"...the shift from the old economy to a new, low-emissions economy will be profound and widespread, transforming land use, the energy system, production methods and technology, regulatory frameworks and institutions, and business and political culture.'

"That was the arresting verdict of the Productivity Commission in its issues paper last August on our transition to a low emissions economy. It received a raft of submissions from companies large and small, and other stakeholders advocating a range of actions.

"As engaged as this response was, National's Climate Change Minister Paula Bennett had given relatively unambitious terms of reference to the commission for the project. Her emphasis was on minimising the costs and risks of cutting New Zealand's emissions by only 11% below 1990 levels by 2030, which is our Paris Commitment, and by 50% by 2050.

"But the election significantly upped the ante. The new coalition government's Climate Change Minister James Shaw sent the commission much more ambitious terms. They reflected its campaign promises such as an independent climate commission to set carbon budgets and the goal of net zero emission by 2050, and with a greater emphasis on the opportunities for the economy created by the transition.

"The new terms have given the commission scope to investigate more widely and recommend more challengingly in its draft final report due next month. Companies and other stakeholders will have the chance to up their game too in their next round of submissions before the commission produces its final report by the end of June.

"But what does radical look like? ....[Lengthy article]

**More:** [www.newsroom.co.nz/2018/03/03/93650/rod-oram-a-radical-reinvention-of-our-economy#](http://www.newsroom.co.nz/2018/03/03/93650/rod-oram-a-radical-reinvention-of-our-economy#)

**Source:** SBN, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018. ❖

## #PressforProgress to End Modern Slavery

### Join the first wave

".... GRI is inviting companies to join the Corporate Leadership Group on Modern Slavery, to engage with investors, media, legal experts and governments and help redefine the way modern slavery is addressed. If you are interested in contributing to #pressforprogress for victims of modern slavery by deciding on the future of sustainability reporting on the issue, join the Corporate Leadership Group on Modern Slavery. To do so you can email Simone Warren at [warren@globalreporting.org](mailto:warren@globalreporting.org). And, if you want to know more about GRI's work on modern slavery, please contact Katja Kriege, at [kriege@globalreporting.org](mailto:kriege@globalreporting.org).

**More:** [www.globalreporting.org/information/news-and-press-center/Pages/PressforProgress-to-end-modern-slavery.aspx](http://www.globalreporting.org/information/news-and-press-center/Pages/PressforProgress-to-end-modern-slavery.aspx)

**Source:** GRI, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018. ❖

## Green Bonds Do More Harm than Good

"They're designed to fund projects that have a positive environmental impact. But green bonds are being used as a mask for environmental destruction. We should fix this while we still have time, says Assaad Razzouk.

"These days, green bonds seem to feature prominently in the news, with investors from Europe, the US and Asia flocking to them and banks building brand value from their environmental sheen.

"Designed to fund businesses and projects which have positive environmental benefits and around for some 10 years, they account for a tiny 0.4% of the \$100 trillion global bond market. Over-hyped, they are being misused and do more harm than good.

"Consider that Poland recently raised €1 billion from a second green bond, after its 2016 €750 million (US\$927 million) green debut. Poland's 'green' bonds, however, fund token projects that distract from the Polish government's public (and loud) policy to promote coal and deforestation.

"Yet the banks involved apparently were fine with what must be the antithesis of green investing: Using green labels to obfuscate environmental irresponsibility and destruction.

"Or consider Indonesia, the first Asian country to sell bonds labelled 'green' ....

"To achieve the necessary impact, all bonds should be green and what we should be developing are solutions for ensuring this is gradually the case. To get there, green bonds should be phased-out so that the fig leaf investors, issuers and banks are hiding behind to pretend they are making a difference is taken away....

**More:** [www.eco-business.com/opinion/green-bonds-do-more-harm-than-good/](http://www.eco-business.com/opinion/green-bonds-do-more-harm-than-good/)

**Source:** eco-Business.com, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018. ❖

## The Third Industrial Revolution: A Radical New Sharing Economy

"The global economy is in crisis. The exponential exhaustion of natural resources, declining productivity, slow growth, rising unemployment, and steep inequality, forces us to rethink our economic models. Where do we go from here? In this feature-length documentary, social and economic theorist Jeremy Rifkin lays out a road map to usher in a new economic system. A Third Industrial Revolution is unfolding with the convergence of three pivotal technologies: an ultra-fast 5G communication internet, a renewable energy internet, and a driverless mobility internet, all connected to the Internet of Things embedded across society and the environment. This 21<sup>st</sup> century smart digital infrastructure is giving rise to a radical new sharing economy that is transforming the way we manage, power and move economic life. But with climate change now ravaging the planet, it needs to happen fast. Change of this magnitude requires political will and a profound ideological shift.

**More:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=QX3M8Ka9vUA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QX3M8Ka9vUA) 1hr 44 min, with 772,390 views, 17K likes and 1.4K dislikes, with 3,066 comments, with the first being 'We already have gazillions of creative practical solutions that have not been implemented yet', as at 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

**Source:** Pure Advantage, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018. ❖

## Urban Heat: Can White Roofs Help Cool World's Warming Cities?

"It has long been known that installing white roofs helps reduce heat build-up in cities. But as journalist Fred Pearce reports this week at *Yale Environment 360*, new research indicates that making surfaces more light-reflecting can have a significant impact on lowering extreme temperatures, as much as 2 to 3 degrees Celsius – and not just in cities, but in rural areas as well. In Europe, for example, studies have found farmers can increase the reflectivity of their fields by leaving them unploughed after harvesting or by switching crops to more reflective varieties. And in large cities, lowering extreme temperatures could be life-saving, helping to prevent deaths during severe heat waves.

**Source:** <https://e360.yale.edu/features/urban-heat-can-white-roofs-help-cool-the-worlds-warming-cities>

**More:** *Yale Environment 360*, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**Editor:** Yet NZ continues to have a love affair with dark roofs for nearly all new homes. Apart from being ultra-boring it does not make sense. For commercial buildings the opposite applies – 'go figure'. Plus see photo 'Los Angeles has coated several streets in a light gray paint to reduce road-top temperatures by as much as 10 degrees Fahrenheit.' ❖

## China's Public Transport Planners Ponder How to Cope with Rapidly Rising Urban Populations

"China rushed to build costly underground railway systems in many of its big cities as a way to move large numbers of people and to curb worsening traffic congestion and air pollution.

"It's subway systems now run to 3,100 miles across China, over 20 systems with more than 100 lines. 232 of those miles were built in just five years. The systems have saved millions of car trips and thousands of tonnes of carbon emissions.

"However, the high cost of subway construction is now leading some smaller Chinese cities to create bus rapid transit systems instead of subways. More of these buses are electric and, increasingly, driverless, accompanied by bike lanes and bicycle share schemes. The metro systems are well designed, complementing other forms of transportation.

"Researchers in China have found however that as transport systems become more efficient, traffic volumes increase, because building new rail connections attracts population and economic growth, which in turn drives increase in vehicle use.

**More:** [www.citylab.com/transportation/2018/02/chinas-subway-boom-slows-down/552935/](http://www.citylab.com/transportation/2018/02/chinas-subway-boom-slows-down/552935/)

**Source:** *Tieke: ECO Alerts & Events*, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018. ❖

## What Money Can't Buy

"Should you be able to sell your kidney? Should we auction off the right to immigrate? What about paying people to vote? Is there anything wrong with profiting from a stranger's death? What about scalping tickets to a rock concert – or to a doctor's appointment?

"Harvard Professor Michael Sandel leads twelve exceptional college students from around the world in asking where markets serve the public good, and where they don't belong. What, if anything, is wrong with a world in which everything is for sale? Insights from experts like former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers and Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz pepper the emotional debates, which are alternately heated and humorous.

"Join us as we look inside ourselves to see what kind of society we truly are, and begin to define what kind of society we hope to be.

**More:** [www.ineteconomics.org/perspectives/videos/what-money-cant-buy](http://www.ineteconomics.org/perspectives/videos/what-money-cant-buy) plus 256pages, April 2013, reviews <http://us.macmillan.com/whatmoneycantbuy/michaelisandel/9780374533656>

**Source:** Editor, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018. ❖

## US Government Loses Bid to Halt Children's Climate Change Lawsuit

"A federal appeals court has rejected the United States government's bid to halt a lawsuit by young people claiming that President Donald Trump and his administration are violating their constitutional rights by ignoring the harms caused by climate change.

"By a 3-0 vote, the 9<sup>th</sup> US Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco said the administration had not met the 'high bar' under federal law to dismiss the Oregon lawsuit, which was originally brought in 2015 against the administration of Democrat President Barack Obama.

"Reuters Newsagency reports the potentially far-reaching case is one of a handful seeking to have courts address global warming and its causes.

"Twenty-one plaintiffs, now aged 10 to 21, accused federal officials and oil industry executives of knowing for decades that carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of fossil fuels destabilise the climate, but refusing to do anything about it. They said this has deprived them of their due process rights to life, liberty and property, including to live in a habitable climate. ....

**More:** <http://econews.com.au/57029/us-loses-bid-to-halt-childrens-climate-change-lawsuit/>

**Source:** eco-News, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018. ❖

## Why 'Free Trade' Agreements Serve Corporations First

"Far from spreading benefits across the economy, agreements like the Trans-Pacific Partnership enrich individual corporations by design – at the expense of workers and national economies.

"There's a general sense today that globalisation is not working well. Workers in developed countries complain jobs are moving abroad as inequality worsens; developing countries open up markets only to find themselves subject to the vagaries of international capital and business interests; and almost all national governments feel an erosion of the scope and potency of domestic policies. In a new paper, Harvard economist Dani Rodrik examines what role trade – and in particular trade agreements – have played in fostering globalisation's discontents.

"On the surface, it would seem trade agreements would simply lower barriers to commerce. The traditional economic textbook contends that these pacts make trade 'freer' among nations by eliminating obstacles and preventing mutually harmful actions countries may take in their absence. As a result, the theory goes, prices may come down, nations can import a variety of different goods, and domestic employment may increase. However, as Rodrik notes, that is not what trade agreements of the past few decades appear to be doing. He contends economists see trade in general as a positive, but have disengaged from the ways in which trade agreements play out in reality:...

**More:** [www.ineteconomics.org/perspectives/blog/why-free-trade-agreements-serve-corporations-first](http://www.ineteconomics.org/perspectives/blog/why-free-trade-agreements-serve-corporations-first)

**Source:** Editor, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018. ❖

## Password Leaks are a Rich Source of Information for Hackers

"During the last several years, hackers have compromised a wide range of organisations and harvested account details from them. The details almost always include usernames or email addresses, along with hashed versions of passwords (or even worse, plain-text passwords). These compromised accounts are often bought and sold on the dark web, but occasionally they're also leaked publicly. ....

**More:** [www.wordfence.com/blog/2018/03/password-leak-attacks-wordpress/](http://www.wordfence.com/blog/2018/03/password-leak-attacks-wordpress/)

**Source:** Wordfence, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018

**Editor:** Although written primarily for WordPress websites the issues and links to tools are of general applicability. ❖

## Sustainable Procurement

"A new website sets out the What, Why and How of Smart Procurement.

"Along with many of our members, SBN has long worked to make procurement more sustainable. That work has now moved into a new improved home at [smartprocurement.org.nz](http://smartprocurement.org.nz).

"Every organisation can win through better integration of sustainability into their procurement. For buyers, more sustainable suppliers save you money and resources. They foster innovation. They strengthen your organisation's sustainability credentials. For suppliers, finding an advantage through sustainability wins business and makes Aotearoa a better place to be.

"The resources on the new site will get you in on the conversation and help you apply sustainable procurement to your business.

"Since early 2018 the SBN Smart Procurement project has been busy forming industry-specific collaborations of businesses from the SBN membership. These collaborations are tasked with delivering sustainability guidance for business customers (procurers) for their given industry, in the form of critical themes and questions for suppliers. The release of the first batch of these guidance documents is expected by April/May 2018. For more information or to get involved, visit web site.

**More:** [www.smartprocurement.org.nz](http://www.smartprocurement.org.nz)

**Source:** SBN, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018. ❖

## The Town that's Found a Potent Cure for Illness – Community

By [George Monbiot](#),

"Frome in Somerset has seen a dramatic fall in emergency hospital admissions since it began a collective project to combat isolation. There are lessons for the rest of the country

"It could, if the results stand up, be one of the most dramatic medical breakthroughs of recent decades. It could transform treatment regimes, save lives, and save health services a fortune. Is it a drug? A device? A surgical procedure? No, it's a new-fangled intervention called community. This week the results from a trial in the Somerset town of Frome are published informally, in the magazine *Resurgence & Ecologist*. (A scientific paper has been submitted to a medical journal and is awaiting peer review). We should be cautious about embracing data before it is published in the academic press, and must always avoid treating correlation as causation. But this shouldn't stop us feeling a shiver of excitement about the implications, if the figures turn out to be robust and the experiment can be replicated.

"What this provisional data appears to show is that when isolated people who have health problems are supported by community groups and volunteers, the number of emergency admissions to hospital falls spectacularly. While across the whole of Somerset emergency hospital admissions rose by 29% during the three years of the study, in Frome they fell by 17%. Julian Abel, a consultant physician in palliative care and lead author of the draft paper, remarks: 'No other interventions on record have reduced emergency admissions across a population.'

"Frome is a remarkable place, run by an independent town council famous for its democratic innovation. There's a buzz of sociability, a sense of common purpose and a creative, exciting atmosphere that make it feel quite different from many English market towns, and for that matter, quite different from the buttoned-down, dreary place I found when I first visited, 30 years ago.

"The Compassionate Frome project was launched in 2013 ...

**More:** [www.resilience.org/stories/2018-02-21/the-town-thats-found-a-potent-cure-for-illness/](http://www.resilience.org/stories/2018-02-21/the-town-thats-found-a-potent-cure-for-illness/)

**Source:** PCI [Post Carbon Institute] 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018. ❖

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)