

# Sustainability Matters

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Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children



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## ***The Way Between and The Lost Heir***

"This newsletter begins with two book reviews (really, rolled up into one). This is the first time I have included an extensive review about a publication(s) that is commercially available. I have done so because *The Way Between* and *The Lost Heir* are about teaching nonviolent conflict resolution within an action adventure. They were specifically written for young people. Having just said they are written for young people this 64-year old had his 'to do' list waylaid until I finished my nonstop page turning.

"In Rivera Sun's own words: *The Way Between* is a story for our times (and *The Lost Heir*). It offers the younger generations- and the older ones – the values of peace and nonviolence, anti-bullying, compassion, inclusion and belonging. It challenges war, violence, discrimination and prejudice. The story has all the beauty of the great stories of old: adventure, action, challenges, courage, secrets, and mysteries, surprises, friendship, and connection; but without the outdated glorification of war and violence.

"In our modern world, we need stories, heroes and heroines, myths and legends, which offer the viable, amazing skills of peacebuilding, unarmed peacekeeping, restorative justice, conflict resolution, nonviolence and nonviolent action. Around the world, there are hundreds and thousands of stories of real people making change and confronting injustice through these skills. Our literature must rise to the times. Every schoolchild should be dreaming about civil disobedience instead of sword fighting; boycotts instead of bombs.

"As an author, my pen is bent to this task, flying across the page to rewrite the cultural mythologies in our literature. If our children and populace are to be trained for the world that is emerging, then we must put the tools of peace and active nonviolence in their hands, hearts, minds, dreams, and stories today.'

"Job accomplished Rivera! I highly recommend gathering the children around you and reading *The Way Between* and *The Lost Heir* so your cherished babies may enjoy and embrace these masterful told exciting adventures of our red-haired Heroine.'

**More:** [www.riverasun.com/the-lost-heir-is-here/](http://www.riverasun.com/the-lost-heir-is-here/) plus [www.riverasun.com/the-way-between/](http://www.riverasun.com/the-way-between/)

**Source:** PeaceNow, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019. 

## **As High-Tide Flooding Worsens, More Pollution Is Washing to the Sea**

"The impact of worsening high-tide flooding on pollution levels in rivers, bays, and oceans. As sea levels rise, so-called 'sunny day' flooding is becoming a growing problem in many parts of the globe, with some cities on the U.S. East Coast now experiencing 50-plus days of high-tide inundation annually. Now, Morrison reports, new research by scientists in Norfolk, Virginia shows that these floodwaters contain high levels of toxic pollutants, faecal matter, garbage, and excess nutrients – all of which ends up in waterways as the tides recede.

**More:** <https://e360.yale.edu/features/as-high-tide-flooding-worsens-more-pollution-is-washing-to-the-sea>

**Source:** *Yale Environment 360*, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019. 

## **In Focus: Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures**

"As investors become aware of the threat posed by climate change to their portfolios, companies are under increasing pressure to disclose climate impacts on their businesses.

"However, few are doing so in a clear and consistent way. Investors are looking for climate-related data that is materially relevant to companies' financial returns, yet in 2017 nearly three-quarters of companies worldwide failed to acknowledge climate change as a financial risk.

"In order to close this gap and to help investors understand the resilience of their investments, the G20's Financial Stability Board formulated The Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). In June 2017, the taskforce launched its final recommendations report, calling for a structured approach for companies to report on both the risks and the opportunities of climate change. The objective? Better, more consistent and reliable disclosures with material climate-related information forming part of companies' mainstream financial filings.

"Since the launch of the TCFD, the recommendations have been supported by more than 500 public and private organisations, including financial services companies responsible for nearly \$100 trillion in assets. Ratings and rankings agencies such as CDP and Dow Jones have aligned their environmental questionnaires with the TCFD recommended areas of disclosure and other investor focused organisations such as Moody's Investor Services and BlackRock are also calling on companies to disclose in line with the recommendations. ...

- Country Adoption ....
- Corporate Challenges ....
- Towards Full Disclosure .....

**More:** <https://radar.sustainability.com/issue-19/in-focus-taskforce-on-climate-related-financial-disclosures/>

**Source:** *Radar*, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019. 

## **Reading List: The Tipping Point in Sustainable Finance**

"With so many exciting new developments happening at the intersection of finance and sustainability, we follow the path of sustainable finance growth through a curated list recent reports, articles and books.

- *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, by Yuval Noah Harari
- *How Change Happens*, by Duncan Green
- *Who Cooked Adam Smith's Dinner*, by Katrine Marçal
- *8 Borders, 8 Days*, documentary; 88 minutes
- *We Do Things Differently: The Outsiders Rebooting Our World*, by Mark Stevenson
- *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*, by J.D. Vance
- *3%*, a Netflix series
- *Hidden Brain*, various podcasts.

**More:** <https://radar.sustainability.com/issue-15/on-our-radar-winter-reading-list/>

**Source:** *Radar*, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019. 

## Wide Interest in Waikato River Authority's \$100m Investment Plan

"The Waikato River Authority's \$100 million investment plan into organics looks set to becoming a reality after receiving an overwhelmingly positive response from investors since its launch in November.

"WRA chief executive Bob Penter said he had been 'blown away' by the response so far. ...

"Converting 12-18 farms to organic dairying within the Waipā catchment could halve the Waikato Regional Council's 10 year pollution reduction target.

"That literally could be next week. The model is sitting there ready for somebody to take it up.'

"The funder would also have to be prepared to underwrite the bond during the low cashflow period while the organic certification occurred.

"That first two to three years where you have to go through that purchase acquisition setup certification phase is the tricky bit and we need to have a funder that's prepared to take a longer view.' ...

"The offer required \$100 million in hybrid bonds from investors to get the project off the ground. It was an impact investment targeted mainly at large-scale investment companies similar to the Super Fund and Kiwisaver.

"The project has the backing of the Maniapoto Maori Trust and if it finds investor support, would be the first large scale environmental impact investment project of its type in New Zealand. ....

"We have had the whole of the [dairy] supply chain come and touch the opportunity.' ...

**More:** [www.stuff.co.nz/waikato-times/news/110861599/wide-interest-in-waikato-river-authoritys-100m-investment-plan](http://www.stuff.co.nz/waikato-times/news/110861599/wide-interest-in-waikato-river-authoritys-100m-investment-plan)

**Source:** Waikato River Authority Newsletter, 8<sup>th</sup> March. 

## Historic Supreme Court Win: World Bank Group Is Not Above the Law

"WASHINGTON, DC – In a historic 7-1 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court decided today in *Jam v. International Finance Corporation (IFC)* that international organisations like the World Bank Group can be sued in U.S. courts.

**More:** <https://earthrights.org/media/historic-supreme-court-win-world-bank-group-is-not-above-the-law/>

**Source:** *Fossil Free News* (350.org), 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019. 

## The Political Economy of Sustainability

Fred P. Gale, 2018. Review by Dr. Kuntal Goswami (South Asian Institute of Sustainable Development, Adelaide).

"This book is an intellectually stimulating academic work on the political economics of sustainability. It covers a great range of topics making it a valuable academic resource for a university's master's level course and for any academic research work. Although Professor Gale took an academic approach, the book is also meant for a quick pick-up at any airport bookshop and will be a great treasure for someone's personal library and is a must-read for a policymaker.

"The title itself will attract a reader's attention as it conveys a message. The book critically answers the 'why' question and explains the reasons for which the sustainability agenda has not been able to spread out its wings fully even though the agenda has noble intention and is embedded in good values and principles. The author succinctly describes the standpoint of 'political economy of sustainability'. He mentioned that: ....

**More:** Register at [www.researchgate.net/publication/331243075\\_Fred\\_P\\_Gale\\_The\\_Political\\_Economy\\_of\\_Sustainability](http://www.researchgate.net/publication/331243075_Fred_P_Gale_The_Political_Economy_of_Sustainability) plus [www.elgar.com/shop/the-political-economy-of-sustainability](http://www.elgar.com/shop/the-political-economy-of-sustainability)

**Source:** CSEAR, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

**Editor:** I have a copy of the full review. 

## Mindset Coaching Programme for Professional and Personal Growth

"Do you ever have the experience that no matter what you try, there is one issue that you just can't seem to make progress with?

"In professional and personal life, most of us face something where we feel stuck and struggle to shift a barrier. It could be in any area including:

- Delegating
- Speaking up
- Taking the action needed to scale your business
- Getting fit or losing weight
- Managing a difficult relationship.

"Our beliefs can affect how we make change in both our professional and personal lives. Our mental wellbeing, stress levels, and sense of fulfilment can be impacted deeply and on a daily basis.

"Typically our approach to change is like New Year's resolutions: short lived.

"We might change our behaviour for a while, but it doesn't last unless we change our underlying beliefs and assumptions about the issue. When the going gets tough, we tend to revert to what we already know. Until now.

**When/Where:** Workshops 11 April, 2 May and 23 May 2019, plus two only one-on-one coaching sessions. Auckland

**More:** [www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/mindset-coaching-programme-for-professional-and-personal-growth-3-workshops-11-april-2-may-23-may-tickets-58618059193](http://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/mindset-coaching-programme-for-professional-and-personal-growth-3-workshops-11-april-2-may-23-may-tickets-58618059193)

**Source:** Leanne Holdsworth, Facebook, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019. 

## Carbon Calculators – A Selection

The following calculators may be of value;

- Carbon Neutral NZ Trust – An online calculator or via a PDF form which can be submitted and the calculations will be made off-line for submitters. The site also has various tips for actions. [www.carbonneutraltrust.org.nz](http://www.carbonneutraltrust.org.nz)
- Carbon Footprint (UK) – Calculators for individuals, small business, large business and products. For individuals' house, flights, car, motorbikes, bus & rail, and secondary. [www.carbonfootprint.com](http://www.carbonfootprint.com)
- Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) – The ICAO Carbon Emissions Calculator allows passengers to estimate the emissions attributed to their air travel. It is simple to use and requires only a limited amount of information from the user. [www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CarbonOffset/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CarbonOffset/Pages/default.aspx)
- Enviro-Mark Solutions has a (new) Household Calculator, a Travel Calculator and an Offset Emissions tool. [www.enviro-mark.com/calculators](http://www.enviro-mark.com/calculators)
- Although a bit outdated MfE has a guide on GHG reporting. [www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/climate-change-technical-guidance/voluntary-corporate-greenhouse-gas-reporting](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/climate-change-technical-guidance/voluntary-corporate-greenhouse-gas-reporting)
- Plus SBN uses the MfE guide. <https://sustainable.org.nz/annual-carbon-emissions-calculator/>

**Source:** Kit Withers, Chris Watson, Paul Bruce and Editor, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2019. 

## Index Shows Money Does Not Equal Wellness

".... national health and wellness outcomes are not entirely correlated with gross domestic product, and that some large, wealthy economies are underperforming when it comes to improving the lives of their citizens. The Indigo Wellness Index collated data from more than 150 countries, examining 10 metrics .....

**More:** [www.responsiblebusiness.com/news/asia-pacific-news/index-shows-money-does-not-equal-wellness/](http://www.responsiblebusiness.com/news/asia-pacific-news/index-shows-money-does-not-equal-wellness/) plus <http://global-perspectives.org.uk/volume-one/infographics/>

**Source:** *Responsible Business Weekly*, 7<sup>th</sup> March. 

## When the Circular Economy Meets Aviation

"With booming air travel putting significantly more planes in the sky, aerospace firms and governments have sought ways to replace raw materials with renewable and recycled ones in producing their parts. Here's a look at how the aircraft manufacturing industry has moved towards a circular economy.

"About 400 to 600 commercial aircraft are retired and disassembled each year now, creating mountains of waste that include about 30,000 tonnes of aluminium, 1,800 tonnes of alloys, 1,000 tonnes of carbon fibre and 600 tonnes of other materials.

"To make matters worse, with the sharp increase in air travel in the past few decades, as many as 18,000 planes could reach the end of their service life in the 14 years between 2017 and 2030, according to the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

**More:** [www.eco-business.com/news/when-the-circular-economy-meets-aviation/](http://www.eco-business.com/news/when-the-circular-economy-meets-aviation/)

**Source:** eco-Business.com, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019. 

## Have a Million Dollar Electrifying Idea for Liveable Cities?

"12 years is all the time humanity has left to keep global warming below 1.5°C, as the recent IPCC report makes clear. To avoid a global climate catastrophe and build a sustainable future, the world must slash emissions by a massive 45% before 2030.

"That is why *The Liveability Challenge* is reaching out to innovators, start-ups and anyone from anywhere in the world with a ground-breaking solution to speed up transformation in energy and the circular economy for cities in the tropics, where climate change will hit the hardest.

"Share your innovation with us by **5 April 2019**, if your project meets these criteria:

- Must have proof of concept
- At least Technology Readiness Level 6
- Must be applicable to Singapore and urban environments in the tropics

"You'll get a chance to pitch to investors at *The Liveability Challenge* Grand Finale at Ecosperity Week in Singapore for the opportunity to secure up to S\$1 million in grant funding. Other prizes up for grabs include a prestigious crowdfunding campaign for up to S\$500,000 on FundedHere, rare mentorship opportunities with the Circular Economy Club and GoImpact, or an exclusive spot in GoMassive's incubator programme.

**More:** <https://eco-business.submit.com/#/quest/item/10>

**Source:** eco-Business.com, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019. 

## Green Expo and Better Food Fair

"NZ's Largest Sustainable Lifestyle Show Combining with a Street Eats / Food Market - Better Food Fair.

"Organic ~ Paleo ~ Vegan ~ Gluten-Free ~ Raw & more.

"Eco home/building, food and beverages, advisory services, supplements, organic products, health and wellness, beauty and personal care, household products, pet products, gardening, grocery and many more categories are showcased at this fantastic event that is not to be missed!

"A large, diverse range of companies and brands cannot wait to transform your way of life, in favour of the environment and you!

"This show is dedicated to promoting a healthy, environmentally friendly, sustainable lifestyle for New Zealanders.

**When/Where:** Sat, 6<sup>th</sup> and Sun 7<sup>th</sup> April, Auckland

**More:** [www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/auckland-go-green-expo-better-food-fair-2019-tickets-45182585329](http://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/auckland-go-green-expo-better-food-fair-2019-tickets-45182585329)

**Source:** Chris - Arada Promotions, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019. 

## Rabbits More Destructive to Dunes than Climate Change

"Rabbits have been identified as the culprit behind historical damage to the vast dune system that flanks South Australia's Coorong [50 miles from Adelaide. See pics].

**More:** [www.ecovoice.com.au/rabbits-more-destructive-to-dunes-than-climate-change/](http://www.ecovoice.com.au/rabbits-more-destructive-to-dunes-than-climate-change/)

**Source:** eco-Voice, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019. 

## Towards Zero Waste – Construction & Demolition Workshop

"The Sustainable Business Network, Auckland Council, and CivilShare invite the Auckland construction industry to an event to tackle the key issues we face around construction and demolition waste. Hear about solutions which will save your project money, and workshop scenarios applicable to your business.

"Construction and demolition waste represents around half of what's going into New Zealand's landfills, and the recent building boom and population pressure will do nothing to stem this flow. The need for the construction industry to have a sustainability focus is growing, not only because landfill levies and regulations are going to rise significantly, but also because we have a social responsibility to address it.

"Sustainability isn't only about minimising waste to landfill, it is also about optimising resources, equipment and staff. This workshop will give companies and individuals practical information and advice, which will help you understand how to be more sustainable and more profitable.

**When/Where:** 2:00-6:00pm Tues 16<sup>th</sup> Apr 2019, Auckland

**More:** <https://sustainable.org.nz/sustainable-business-events/towards-zero-waste-construction-demolition-workshop/>

**Source:** SBN, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019. 

## Just Transition Summit to Spark Vital Conversation

"The inaugural *Just Transition Summit* to be held in Taranaki in May will be a chance for businesses, workers, Māori, youth and communities to have their say on New Zealand's pathway to a low emissions economy, Minister of Energy and Resources Dr Megan Woods and New Plymouth Mayor Neil Holdom say. ..

"When we talk about a *Just Transition*, we're talking about a fundamental change in the way we power our economy. Taranaki is the perfect region to lead from the front, given our decades of history with the energy sector and the knowledge, skills and expertise we've developed', says Neil Holdom.

"Confirmed speakers include:

- Midnight Oil musician, environmentalist and former Australian Minister for the Environment Peter Garrett;
- *Doughnut Economics* author Kate Raworth, who will speak about the economics of climate change;
- Sustainability, business and innovation expert Peter Bryant who will look at how technology can help us solve the emissions challenge; and
- Director of the Brussels-based Just Transition Centre Samantha Smith, who will discuss the future of work and how businesses are changing the models to meet sustainability challenges ....

**When/Where:** 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019, New Plymouth

**Who:** Businesses, workers, Māori, youth and communities are invited to join with the Government for this exciting two-day event

**More:** [www.beehive.govt.nz/release/just-transition-summit-spark-vital-conversation](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/just-transition-summit-spark-vital-conversation) plus [www.justtransitionsummit.nz/](http://www.justtransitionsummit.nz/)

**Source:** Carbon News, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019. 

## Green Property Summit 2019

"The most influential people in our industry will be in the room at the Aotea Centre, to listen, speak, share, network and collaborate. The *Green Property Summit*, which we co-host alongside our friends at the Property Council, is your Summit, to help decide the direction of our industry towards 2030.

"The Summit boasts a host of awesome orators, from Aoteaora and overseas. They will be talking about the very latest news, developments, politics, policies, and economics of better buildings. ....

"We know you enjoy hearing the latest case studies featuring green buildings, so we've made sure to include a bunch of these in the day's programme, plus important updates on green building tools, and discussions and news about the shift towards zero carbon buildings in New Zealand. ...

**When/Where:** 7:30 am - 6:00 pm, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019, Auckland

**More:** [www.nzgbc.org.nz/Event?Action=View&Event\\_id=704](http://www.nzgbc.org.nz/Event?Action=View&Event_id=704)

**Source:** NZGBC, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019. 

## Renewable Energy Won't Make Bitcoin 'Green,' but Tweaking its Mining Mechanism Might

"The cryptocurrency Bitcoin is known for its massive energy footprint. Now, researcher Alex de Vries, from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in the Netherlands, suggests renewable hydropower production cannot supply the large quantities of energy needed to power machinery used to validate Bitcoin transactions. In a Commentary publishing 14<sup>th</sup> March in the journal *Joule*, he also highlights the vast quantities of electronic waste produced by the Bitcoin network and calls for alternative strategies to curb the cryptocurrency's environmental impact.

"de Vries, a senior consultant and blockchain specialist at PwC and founder of Digiconomist (@DigiEconomist), found Bitcoin's consumption is more than 1,200 times greater than the maximum footprint of a transaction processed by the banking industry. He also estimates that Bitcoin consumed as much electrical energy as all of Hungary in 2018.

"Proponents of this digital currency have argued, even if Bitcoin is using a lot of energy, it's not that harmful because they claim Bitcoin mining facilities use mostly excess renewable energy', says de Vries. 'I decided to deep dive into this claim.'

"The problem lies primarily in the Bitcoin mining mechanism, in which 'miners' use high-powered technology to search for valid numerical signatures which allow Bitcoin blocks (files recording Bitcoin transactions) to join the growing list of Bitcoin transaction records known as the 'blockchain'. In return for their efforts, miners may (but don't always) receive Bitcoin currency. ...

"However, de Vries believes these sustainability concerns can be averted by replacing the mechanism used to mine Bitcoin. An alternative 'proof-of-stake' mechanism already used by the cryptocurrencies Dash and NXT (and soon to be used by Ethereum, which is transitioning away from a mining mechanism similar to Bitcoin's) does not depend on computing power to build the blockchain. This adjustment would cut Bitcoin's energy consumption by a striking 99.99% and would eliminate the need for specialised, non-repurposable hardware. ....

"Ultimately, Bitcoin is just software', says de Vries. 'The mining mechanism can be replaced. The challenge is the entire network needs to agree to this change.'

**More:** [www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2019-03/cp-rew030719.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2019-03/cp-rew030719.php)

**Source:** *Carbon News*, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019. 

## 'Divestment Isn't a Badge of Honour – It's a Failure of Engagement'

"Martin Wright explains why the Climate Action 100+ group of investors are prioritising carrot over stick as they seek to push the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitters to address climate risk

"It sounds appealingly simple. Cut off the flow of funds to the bad boys – the coal companies, say, or the tar sands extractors – and watch them collapse from capital starvation, then lie back on your halo.

"Cue some rather extravagant claims around divestment (or disinvestment – to all intents and purposes the same thing). It makes for good copy, but the truth is more subtle, and in some ways more dramatic. Yes, the stick of divestment is there, but there's also a hefty carrot. It takes the form of that old, familiar phrase 'constructive engagement'. Whether it's divest, or engage, or (more commonly both), it's clear that, driven by a healthy mix of ethics and self-interest, investors, lenders and insurers are getting stuck in as never before, and coal is the first casualty. ....

"Insurers may be at the sharp end, but it's increasingly apparent anyone investing for the long term is vulnerable to climate disruption. Aviva's *Climate Change Stocktake (2018)* report sums it up: 'If we do not take urgent action to limit global temperature increases, the impacts upon the economy, society and our business will be nothing short of devastating. Aviva ..... In fact, it is a business imperative.' ...

"As Waygood puts it: 'Divestment isn't a badge of honour; it's a failure of the engagement process'. Robust engagement can be a lot more effective. 'Imagine you're running a listed coal firm. You're concerned about your re-election at the AGM, concerned about your pay packet, concerned about keeping your job ... And if large institutional investors are coming to you and saying 'you are not doing your job in relation to climate change, so we are going to withhold support, table a resolution at the AGM, vote against you, against your pay package' – these are much harder problems to deal with than someone just divesting.' ...

**More:** [www.ethicalcorp.com/divestment-isnt-badge-honour-its-failure-engagement](http://www.ethicalcorp.com/divestment-isnt-badge-honour-its-failure-engagement)

**Source:** Ethical Corp, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019. 

## Art with Impact

"If people were scared of plastic, maybe they wouldn't use so much of it. That's the idea behind *Plastikophobia*, an art installation launched on Thursday [7<sup>th</sup> March] in Singapore and which invites people to walk through a claustrophobic sculpture made entirely out of throwaway plastic cups.

"Eighteen thousand single-use plastic drink cups were collected from Singapore's famous hawker food centres to make the sculpture, a three and a half metre high tunnel of plastic lit up with LED lights.

"The exhibit's creators, Canadian duo Benjamin Von Wong and Laura François, want to get the word '*Plastikophobia*' – which means a fear or aversion to plastic – into the English dictionary, and jolt people into being aware of the waste generated by the country's Unesco-nominated street food stalls.....

"That number is the starting point for the sculpture. 'We wanted people to actually walk through the amount [of hawker centre waste], to experience the number', she says.

"As just 22 hawker centres get through 18,000 plastic cups in two days, Singapore's 144 hawker centres produce roughly 118,000 cups in that time. Assuming hawker centres are open every day of the year, that's about 21.5 million cups wasted annually. ... [See pics.]

**More:** [www.eco-business.com/news/plastikophobia-aims-to-scare-singapore-into-consuming-less-plastic/](http://www.eco-business.com/news/plastikophobia-aims-to-scare-singapore-into-consuming-less-plastic/)

**Source:** eco-Business.com, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019. 