

# Sustainability Matters

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Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

4<sup>th</sup> April 2019



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## Literally the Worst Bank in the World is .....

"Today [21<sup>st</sup> March] is the day that we reveal some BIG news: we've just released our 10<sup>th</sup> annual *Banking on Climate Change Report Card*, and the results are stunning. Beyond a shadow of a doubt, JPMorgan Chase is literally the WORST bank in the WORLD. That's because Chase has put more money into fossil fuels than any other bank in the world, making climate disaster Chase's business model.

"In the 3 years since the Paris Accord, banks have financed fossil fuels with \$1.9 TRILLION. Chase is the #1 banker of fossil fuels, with \$196 BILLION in fossil fuel funding between 2016-2018 alone. That's 29% more than the second worst bank – Wells Fargo – during the same period of time.

"That means Chase is literally banking on death and destruction. And what's even worse is they're not alone: the top 4 funders in fossil fuels around the world are based in the U.S.: Chase, CITI, Bank of America, Wells Fargo.1

"What would YOU do with \$1.9 TRILLION? Here's some of what the world could accomplish with that much money: We could put solar panels on EVERY house in the world!

"In other words, big banks' financing of fossil fuels in JUST the last THREE YEARS could have made a massive difference in the fight to stop climate change, but instead, the banks have doubled down on funding climate catastrophe. This is YOUR money they're using, so tell the banks what you think of their choices!

"The latest scientific consensus is that we have just about a decade left to avoid the most dangerous impacts of climate change. We've been releasing this report for a decade now, and it's clearer than ever these banks are responsible for the climate impacts we're already experiencing.

**More:** [https://act.ran.org/stop\\_funding\\_the\\_climate\\_crisis/](https://act.ran.org/stop_funding_the_climate_crisis/) plus [www.ran.org/publications/banking-on-climate-change-2019/](http://www.ran.org/publications/banking-on-climate-change-2019/) 110pages, 6.88Mb

**Source:** Rainforest Action Network, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

**Editor:** Who owns these banks? What pressure is being brought to bear on the owners? NZ's Australian owned banks receive poor report cards.

## Climate Change Adaptation Event

"Our climate is changing in profound ways, creating both risks and potential rewards for businesses. How we react and adapt to these will spell our success or failure. It's vital we start now.

"Join us [Climate Leaders Coalition] to hear why adaption is such an important part of our collective climate change response. We will hear from the Minister for Climate Change on New Zealand's approach to climate change adaption and what it means for business; from Westpac and other leading businesses on how they have approached the adaptation challenge; and we will explore the practical issues and actions businesses need to consider.

**When/Where:** 4:00 –7:00pm, 11<sup>th</sup> April; Auckland

**More:** [www.iag.co.nz/latest-news/articles/iag-hosts-climate-change-adaptation-event.html](http://www.iag.co.nz/latest-news/articles/iag-hosts-climate-change-adaptation-event.html) plus [www.climateleaderscoalition.org.nz/who](http://www.climateleaderscoalition.org.nz/who)

**Source:** *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

## Mike Joy - *Biophysical Limits to Growth*

This talk will cover;

- Some indicators of the limits to growth in New Zealand and globally
  - Biophysical realities - planetary boundaries and warnings of overshoot this is the manifestation of the Limits to growth
- Understanding energy how we take it for granted
  - Energy slaves and learning to live without them
- Energy returned on energy invested (EROI), declining EROI and its implications for humankind
- The energy transition away from fossil carbon
  - Energy density and its consequences
  - Possibilities for NZs energy transition

"**Dr Mike Joy** began lecturing at Massey Palmerston North in ecology and environmental science in 2003. He became an outspoken advocate for environmental protection after seeing first-hand the declines in freshwater health in New Zealand.

"He has received a number of awards for his work at the interfac of science and policy in New Zealand. In his new role as senior researcher with the Institute of Governance and Policy Studies at Victoria University, he hopes to work on improving the connection between science, policy and real outcomes to address the multiple environmental issues facing New Zealand.

**When/Where:** 5:50-7:30pm, 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2019; Wellington

**More:**

[www.fabians.org.nz/index.php?option=com\\_civicrm&task=civicrm/event/info&reset=1&id=471&Itemid=44](http://www.fabians.org.nz/index.php?option=com_civicrm&task=civicrm/event/info&reset=1&id=471&Itemid=44)

**Source:** *Tieke: ECO Alerts & Events*, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

## Follow the Money: Sustainability Goes Mainstream

"In the last two decades, sustainability reporting has gone from an exercise for the largest companies to a necessity to attract investors and meet local and international regulation. But the main benefit of sustainability reporting remains that companies best understand their impacts and can improve their bottom line along with the world around them.

- The origin story ....
- A niche no longer ....
- Why has this trend accelerated so quickly? ....
- The need for Standards ....
- Challenges ahead ....
- The need for policy ....

"In the end, it's not about the report. The ultimate purpose of ESG information is to improve outcomes – financial, social and environmental (the so-called triple bottom line). Whether you are an investor, environmental or labor activist, media or just an interested bystander, ESG information provides essential insights into a company's operations.

"If we get this right, we will leave an even better world for our children and grandchildren.

**More:** <https://medium.com/@GlobalReportingInitiative/follow-the-money-sustainability-goes-mainstream-9eff0ff8d7f1>

**Source:** GRI, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019.

## Key Competencies for Sustainability Degree Programs

"Every year, new sustainability degree programs are launched at colleges and universities across the country [USA], joining a global trend of sustainability degree programs. The 2017 National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE) Research Report '*Scope of Interdisciplinary Environmental, Sustainability, and Energy Baccalaureate and Graduate Education in the United States*' [2017] found the number of interdisciplinary environmental, sustainability, and energy (IESE) degrees increased by 15% from 2012 to 2017, for a total of 2,361 degrees offered by 872 higher education institutions.

"This effort raises important questions for the field of sustainability in higher education related to quality and standards, processes of program development and administration, and communicating the skills and abilities sustainability graduates would have to potential employers. In early 2018, NCSE launched a Community of Practice focused on 'key competencies' in sustainability degree programs. The goal of this initiative, through an expert-based Delphi-Study and additional professional meetings, is to create a 'consensus statement' on sustainability competencies.

"Join this free webinar to learn about the significance of core competencies to academic programs, especially those in rapidly developing fields.

**When/Where:** Wed, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 1:30 p.m.-3 p.m. US Eastern time; webcast **NB: = NZ 6:30am, Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> Apr**

**More:** [www.ncseglobal.org/reports](http://www.ncseglobal.org/reports) plus [www.ncseglobal.org/communities-practice](http://www.ncseglobal.org/communities-practice) and [https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/3115531755538/WN\\_M300ocGgTu-seoI4eqit8w](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/3115531755538/WN_M300ocGgTu-seoI4eqit8w)

**Source:** NCES, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**Editor:** The topic would seem to merit attention of teaching institutions in NZ and Australia and professional membership entities such as CA ANZ. NCSE has advised the webinar will be **recorded** and uploaded to the NCSE website afterwards. 

## New Zealand – the World's Innovative Lab for Climate Change

"New Zealand is a respected global leader and has the opportunity to be a climate change 'innovation lab' for the rest of the world, in addressing climate change in a forward thinking way, according to international planning expert and former US political candidate Sue Minter. She is speaking ahead of the NZ Planning Institute's Conference (NZPI), *Weaving the Strands* in Napier in April.

"Minter said 'Climate change is a global threat that knows no boundaries. Lessons learned in one country must be shared and applied elsewhere. This includes best practices around resilient design, disaster recovery and adaptation. Developing strong, resilient communities is critical'.

"A resilient community is one which comes together and bounces back after disruption rather than falling apart; has the capacity to re-imagine itself, adapt, and chart a new course for the future which may look different than the path it was on previously; foresees and prepares for future disruption in order to lessen the impacts of climate and extreme weather.

"A recent study led by prominent New Zealand climate scientist Dr Jim Salinger reveals the summer of 2017/18 was the warmest in 150 years. Temperatures were, on average, two degrees higher – leading to significant ice loss in South Island glaciers, the death of farmed salmon in the Marlborough Sounds, and unusually early grape harvests in the Marlborough wine region. Dr Salinger's study suggests such conditions may be typical of the average New Zealand summer climate by 2100.

**More:** [www.nzpiconference.org/speakers](http://www.nzpiconference.org/speakers)

**Source:** *Tieke: ECO Alerts & Events*, 20 March 2019. 

## Become a Climate Reality Leader

"Join former Vice President Al Gore at Climate Reality Leadership Corps training in Brisbane and learn how you can lead the global fight for climate solutions.

"Give us three days. We'll give you the tools to change the world.

"At Climate Reality Leadership Corps trainings, individuals ready to make a difference in our planet's future spend three days working with former Vice President Al Gore and world-renowned scientists and communicators learning about the climate crisis and how together we can solve it.

"Join us and gain the skills, knowledge, and network to shape public opinion, influence policy, and inspire your community to act at this critical time.....

**When/Where:** 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> June. Brisbane. **Apply by 18<sup>th</sup> April**

**More:** [www.climaterealityproject.org/training](http://www.climaterealityproject.org/training)

**Source:** *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019. 

## ROI of Climate Action – Workshops

"Is your business ready for the low carbon economy?"

"We're seeing an unprecedented shift in the business environment – from consumers increasingly demanding environmentally friendly products, to businesses demanding sustainable action in their supply chain. Is your business ready for the shift to a low carbon economy?"

"Join our team for a 2-hour workshop which will explore the return on investment in decarbonising your business. The session will include several local case studies of businesses managing their carbon footprint, becoming more efficient in the process, saving money and communicating their achievements with credibility.

**When/Where:**

- Nelson Workshop: Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 at Trafalgar Park Pavilion, Nelson.
- Wellington Workshop: Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 at The Terrace Wellington Conference Centre.

**More:** eMail, [info@enviro-mark.com](mailto:info@enviro-mark.com) to register

**Source:** Ashish Kundalkar, Enviro-Mark Solutions, 27<sup>th</sup> Mar. 

## Discover Your Impact on the Planet

"Just before the Auckland Climate Conference this week [3<sup>rd</sup> week of March], Auckland and Wellington City Councils released *FutureFit*, NZ's first ever game-based carbon footprint tool to help consumers measure and reduce their carbon footprints. And at the conference, Auckland Council presented new research looking at the risks for Auckland from climate change.

"*FutureFit* is a simple yet powerful and proactive way for you to engage with climate change. *FutureFit* provides a snapshot of your impact on the planet and helps you make some really positive changes in the way you live to help reduce your footprint. ....

"What is a Carbon Footprint? ...

"How is your Carbon Footprint measured? .....

"Does size matter? ...

"What is Future Fitness? .....

**More:** <https://www.futurefit.nz/>

**Source:** *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

**Editor:** This tool has carbon calculators which are primarily based on work conducted by the Motu Economic and Public Policy Research adapted for *FutureFit*. Links are provided to various resources.

A perspective of one well informed *Sustainability Matters* reader is a number of questions/options don't work or don't make sense. However, if the main thrust of the tool is to raise awareness of the issues then those are not especially important. Also, that some potential users may be put off by having to register. 

## State of the Climate in 2018 Shows Accelerating Climate Change Impacts

"The physical signs and socio-economic impacts of climate change are accelerating as record greenhouse gas concentrations drive global temperatures towards increasingly dangerous levels, according to a new report from the World Meteorological Organization.

"The WMO Statement on the State of the Global Climate in 2018, its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition, highlights record sea level rise, as well as exceptionally high land and ocean temperatures over the past four years. This warming trend has lasted since the start of this century and is expected to continue.

"Since the Statement was first published, climate science has achieved an unprecedented degree of robustness, providing authoritative evidence of global temperature increase and associated features such as accelerating sea level rise, shrinking sea ice, glacier retreat and extreme events such as heat waves", said WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas.

"These key climate change indicators are becoming more pronounced. Carbon dioxide levels, which were at 357.0 parts per million when the statement was first published in 1994, keep rising – to 405.5 parts per million in 2017. For 2018 and 2019, greenhouse gas concentrations are expected to increase further. ... [Dramatic' graph]

**More:** <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/state-of-climate-2018-shows-accelerating-climate-change-impacts> plus for comments on NZ specific impacts; [www.scoop.co.nz/stories/SC1903/S00049/global-state-of-the-climate-2018-expert-reaction.htm](http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/SC1903/S00049/global-state-of-the-climate-2018-expert-reaction.htm)

**Source:** *Carbon News*, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019. 

## Are You Well? Are We Safe?: Maori - Non-Maori inequalities as a Moral Challenge for all New Zealanders

"The Government's focus on wellbeing for the 2019 Budget promises a broader focus for public policy. There is however a risk of wellbeing as defined by such things as Treasury's Living Standards framework and Statistics NZ's Indicators Aotearoa becomes so complex and vague it fails to ignite public support for the idea. There is a risk too that the Government is less than precise about what it means by wellbeing so the concept comes to mean everything and nothing.

"To overcome such challenges there is a need to popularise the idea of wellbeing and to be more precise about the policy intentions behind this focus. In particular wellbeing needs to be demonstrated by tangible examples and clarity is required around how this wellbeing focus will address inequalities.

"The Salvation Army in its 2019 State of the Nation report 'Are you well? Are we safe?' has attempted to address these demands. The 2019 report has taken a wellbeing approach to reporting on New Zealand's social progress as a way of popularising the idea. As well, the report has tried to draw attention to the substantial and persistent inequality between Maori and non-Maori with the publication of a gaps table.

"The report's authority Alan Johnson [26<sup>th</sup> March presentation] will outline the report's analysis and findings and consider Maori- non-Maori inequalities as a moral challenge for all New Zealanders.

**More:** [https://ipananz.org.nz/Event?Action=View&Event\\_id=800](https://ipananz.org.nz/Event?Action=View&Event_id=800) plus [www.salvationarmy.org.nz/research-policy/social-policy-parliamentary-unit/latest-report](http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/research-policy/social-policy-parliamentary-unit/latest-report)

**Source:** Tim Marshall 18<sup>th</sup> March, IPANZ, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**Editor:** I have a copy of the *Power Point* (7Mb) presentation. The Maori/non-Maori statistics speak for themselves. 

## Eco Toothbrushes

"Eco' toothbrushes can clean but they may not be as green as they claim.

"If you're keen on reducing the plastic in your home, bamboo toothbrushes promise to help you do just that. Some even come with charcoal-infused bristles which claim antibacterial and teeth-whitening properties. However, some of these products overstate their eco-credentials and health benefits.

"We checked out the claims of five toothbrushes marketed as better environmental choices. Their main selling point is the handles are made from renewable or sustainable materials that are biodegradable or can be recycled.

"Three of the brushes we looked at had handles made from bamboo and two were from plant-based materials. But, like standard brushes, the bristles were made of nylon, polyester, or a mix of plant material and nylon, which isn't easily recycled.

"Buying toothbrushes with handles made from plants reduces plastic waste. But whether the plant materials used come from a sustainability managed source is another question. ....

"Environmental impact. Your old toothbrush may seem like a small contribution to our landfills but the environmental cost of scrubbing our pearly whites adds up.

"If we follow dentists' advice and replace our toothbrushes every three months, we send about 287,640kg of plastic toothbrushes to the tip every year. And that doesn't include the packaging.

"Calculation: One toothbrush = 15g

- Four toothbrushes a year per person = 60g
- Four toothbrushes x population of NZ (4.794m) = 287,640kg of plastic to landfill.

**More:** [www.consumer.org.nz/articles/eco-toothbrushes](http://www.consumer.org.nz/articles/eco-toothbrushes)

**Source:** *Consumer*, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019. 

## A New Narrative for the Regenerative Hub

"Last week [1<sup>st</sup> week of March] we described Natural Capitalism Solutions' (NCS) vision for transforming the Boulder-Denver region from an extractive economy to a regenerative one. A regenerative economy can provide solutions to the ecological crises we face while delivering shared prosperity for all. But in order to get there, we must exercise our imaginations. We have to tell new stories about what the economy is and what it can be. Fortunately, as it turns out, the facts are on our side.

"Most people think Colorado is prosperous because it is an extractive economy, fueled by such industries as oil, gas, mining, timber and conventional agriculture. Few people realise outdoor recreation, a \$28 billion industry, delivers four times as many jobs (229,000) as oil, gas (which supplies only 39,000 jobs) and mining combined. Natural foods is a \$2.5 billion dollar a year industry, compared to the state's \$1.6 billion conventional agriculture sector. Colorado's entrepreneurial start-up economy is generating far more jobs than all of the state's legacy industries. If you add clean tech, education, arts and culture, the cannabis economy and regenerative agriculture, the new story becomes clear. Colorado is already transforming itself away from extractive enterprises. But the public and political perceptions are stuck in the 1880s.

"The Hub will change that. NCS will use John Fullerton's *Regenerative Capitalism* to offer an alternative to the neoliberal economic thinking of the last century. We will set forth the principles and then actually create a place-based way to stimulate job creation in the industries which pump health into our ecosystem, our agricultural soils, our society, and the well-being of our citizens. ....

**More:** <https://natcapsolutions.org/a-new-narrative-for-the-regenerative-hub/>

**Source:** Hunter Lovins, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019. 

## How to Report on the SDGs

"Recent reports issued by the Australian Senate and the Corporate Reporting Dialogue focus on consistent and transparent SDG reporting. In brief:

- The Senate Inquiry into Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has published 18 recommendations for Australia
- The Corporate Reporting Dialogue have released a position paper supporting the development of better reporting guidelines for the SDGs
- Corporate reporting is key to providing the transparency needed to assess progress against the SDGs in a meaningful way

"The recommendations include the publication of a national SDG Implementation plan and an indicators based assessment every 2 years tracking Australia's performance against the SDGs. The committee also recommends the Australian Government partner with private and tertiary sector stakeholders to develop and disseminate Australian guidance to ensure consistent and transparent reporting and minimise the reporting burden for businesses. The Inquiry also strongly recommends the SDGs are integrated throughout the international development program and to prioritise the commitment to leave no one behind ....

"The paper notes the increasing recognition companies' value creation goes beyond financial value to include environmental and social value amongst others. Further developments support the increasing focus on integration of financial and non-financial information to demonstrate how companies create value for stakeholders over the short and long-term.

....

**More:** [www.charteredaccountantsanz.com/news-and-analysis/news/how-to-report-on-the-sdgs](http://www.charteredaccountantsanz.com/news-and-analysis/news/how-to-report-on-the-sdgs) plus [www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Foreign\\_Affairs\\_Defence\\_and\\_Trade/SDGs/~media/Committees/fadt\\_ctte/SDGs/report.pdf](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Foreign_Affairs_Defence_and_Trade/SDGs/~media/Committees/fadt_ctte/SDGs/report.pdf) *Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee: United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Feb. 2019, 190 pages, 1.64Mb*

**Source:** Karen McWilliams, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019. 

## Welcome to Crazy Town: A New Podcast from Post Carbon Institute

"We need more discussion about the state of our planet, and those of us who recognise the predicament are in dire need of more community – places to regain some rationality.

"That's why Asher Miller, Jason Bradford, and I decided to produce Crazy Town, a podcast which explores insanity-inducing topics like climate change, runaway capitalism, and why we're all deluding ourselves. Besides covering the stories, facts, and figures, we try to find the 'ah-ha' moment and offer meaningful calls to action. But don't worry (at least not more than you already are) – we don't take ourselves too seriously. In fact, we prefer to poke fun and laugh, especially so we don't end up crying. What else are you going to do when you're living in a world of overshoot? Please consider joining us and giving the podcast a listen. Who knows? Maybe you'll be inspired to draft a better map that can help you and yours navigate the mean streets of Crazy Town. ....

- Episode 1; *Orangutans, Santa Suits, and Airplanes on Fire*. Can you imagine putting on a Santa Claus suit, not to pull a fast one on the kids and deliver Christmas presents, but to protest Big Oil and climate change in front of your local gas station?
- Episode 2; *Punching Ronnie in the Mouth*. In his 2<sup>nd</sup> inaugural address, Ronald Reagan said, 'There are no limits to growth and human progress when men and women are free to follow their dreams.'

- Episode 3, *One Point Twenty-One Gigawatts*, chips away at one of humanity's greatest failings: our energy blindness. ...
- Episode 4, *My Car Is Bigger than Yours*, pokes fun at the all-too-easy target of cars and car culture. ....

**More:** [www.postcarbon.org/welcome-to-crazy-town/](http://www.postcarbon.org/welcome-to-crazy-town/) plus [www.postcarbon.org/crazytown/](http://www.postcarbon.org/crazytown/)

**Source:** Post Carbon Institute, 29<sup>th</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr. 

## Forget Tesla, It's China's e-Buses which are Denting Oil Demand

"It is not the impact of the much vaunted electric cars from manufacturers such as Tesla which should be concerning the oil industry, rather China and its bus fleet are much more of a worry.

"By the end of this year, a cumulative 270,000 barrels a day of diesel demand will have been displaced by electric buses, most of it in China, according to a report published by BloombergNEF. That is more than three times the displacement by all the world's passenger electric vehicles, a market where Tesla has a share of about 12%.

"Despite rapid growth, the impact on the oil market from electric vehicles remains relatively small. Collectively, buses and electric vehicles account for about 3% of oil demand growth since 2011, and 0.3% of current global consumption, according to BloombergNEF figures and data from the International Energy Agency (IEA).

"Buses matter more because of their size and constant use. For every 1000 electric buses on the road, 500 barrels of diesel are displaced each day, BloombergNEF estimates. By comparison, 1000 battery electric vehicles remove just 15 barrels of oil demand.

"Still, the EV market's impact on oil consumption is only going to grow. By 2040, electric vehicles could displace much as 6.4 million barrels a day of demand, while fuel efficiency improvements will erase another 7.5 million barrels a day, according to BloombergNEF's 2018 long-term EV outlook.

"Its latest forecast shows sales of electric vehicles (EVs) increasing from a record 1.1 million worldwide in 2017, to 11 million in 2025 and then surging to 30 million in 2030 as they become cheaper to make than internal combustion engine (ICE) cars.

"China will lead this transition, with sales accounting for almost 50% of the global EV market in 2025, ...

**More:** <http://econews.com.au/60461/forget-tesla-its-chinas-e-buses-that-are-denting-oil-demand/>

**Source:** eco-News, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019. 

## New Report: Number of Christians Facing Persecution Grows

"Christians all around the world are facing extreme persecution. This month Open Doors, a non-profit organisation monitoring Christian persecution across the globe, released their annual report listing the 50 countries where it is the most dangerous to be a Christian.

"In a chilling fact, the report shows 11 people are killed because of their faith in Christ each and every day. In fact, the number of Christians facing persecution around the world has increased by the tens of millions in the last year alone.

**More:** <https://beheardproject.com/persecuted-church/new-report-number-of-christians-facing-persecution-grows-actj-expands-our-fight-to-defend-persecuted-christians-around-the-world> plus [www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/world-watch-list/](http://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/world-watch-list/)

**Source:** American Center for Law and Justice, 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**Editor:** The later has a sortable list using various criteria with detailed analysis including charts outlining the complexity and drivers of persecution. 