

Sustainability Matters

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Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

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Attenborough Warns Financial Leaders to Not Waste Nature's 'Capital'

"Iconic British broadcaster and environmentalist Sir David Attenborough has warned world financial leaders overconsumption of the world's natural resources is unsustainably cutting into its ecological 'capital'.

"Financial systems have a lot in common with natural world systems. Both are economies', he said during the spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

"If you deal with your investment it's fine if you can take the profit, you take the investment, but you wouldn't be so silly as to eat into the capital, but that is what we're doing with the natural world all the time', newsagency AFP reports.

"The BAFTA winner and long-time presenter of BBC wildlife documentaries spoke with IMF chief Christine Lagarde.

"Europe can expect even greater migratory pressure from Africa unless action is taken to prevent global warming, Sir David also said in a strongly worded warning to policymakers time is running out to save the natural world from extinction.

"He said on current trends parts of the world would soon become uninhabitable and populations would be forced to move.

"Sir David, 92, said it was vital countries met their commitments made in the 2015 United Nations sponsored Paris Agreement to reduce carbon emissions because time was fast running out for the planet.

"Asked by the IMF managing director, Christine Lagarde, whether there was a link between migration and climate change, Sir David said: 'It is happening in Europe. People are coming from Africa because they can't live where they are.'

"AFP reports he said human beings and their domesticated animals now accounted for 96% of the global mass of all mammals.

"We've eliminated the rest', he said. Seventy per cent of all bird species have gone. We are in terrible, terrible trouble.'

"I find it difficult to exaggerate the peril that we are in. We are in the process of a new fresh extinction which we know all about from geological time', said Sir David.

"This is the new extinction, and we're halfway through it.'

More:

- <https://meetings.imf.org/en/2019/Spring/Schedule/2019/04/11/imf-seminar-one-on-one-lagarde> with 26:18 video interview
- <http://econews.com.au/60686/attenborough-warns-financial-leader-do-not-waste-natures-capital/>
- www.theguardian.com/business/2019/apr/14/world-leaders-ignore-david-attenborough-at-their-peril
- www.newyorker.com/culture/on-television/with-the-netflix-series-our-planet-david-attenborough-delivers-an-urgent-message ; 'Over the phone, he spoke like someone with financial systems on his mind. 'The principles by which you deal with the natural world are very like the way you deal with finance', he said. 'If you have a system producing you an income, you are very foolish if you take so much of the profits you start eroding your capital – you're heading for a disaster.'

Source: *eco-News*, 15th April 2019. ©

The Planet Is in Peril, But is Not Dying

"Last night a young friend wrote me in some distress.

"He'd been at an impact investment event at which I'd spoken. An audience member had asked the panel how they dealt with climate skeptics: did they still promote the climate protection philosophy behind their portfolios?

"Predictably, the others equivocated.

"Which pissed me off. 'This, I growled, is why 'impact investing' is getting a bad name. It's trying to be everything to anyone who might let you manage their money.'

"I described how Change Finance, the ETF company I advise, takes a very different approach: we tell the truth.

"The world is in a global climate crisis. If you don't believe this, we don't want you as our owners.'

"I continued, 'Don't do this, because it will put you in a very bad mood, but you can read the latest climate science from the IPCC, or the Deep Adaptation report a science journal just refused to publish saying its readers would need therapy after reading it. Then decide for yourself if you want your money managed by people who don't think global warming is real or who don't see the opportunities to be seized from investing in companies that are creating the future, instead of clinging to past assets that are about to be stranded.'

"Last evening,

More: <https://natcapsolutions.org/planet-in-peril/>

Source: Hunter Lovins, 25th April 2019. ©

Degrowth: A Call for Radical Abundance

"When orthodox economists first encounter the idea of degrowth, they often jump to the conclusion that the objective is to reduce GDP. And because they see GDP as equivalent to social wealth, this makes them very upset.

"Nothing could be further from the truth.

"I reject the fetishization of GDP as an objective in the existing economy, so it would make little sense for me to focus on GDP as the objective of a degrowth economy. Wanting to cut GDP is as senseless as wanting to grow it.

"The objective, rather, is to scale down the material throughput of the economy. From an ecological standpoint, that's what matters. And indeed some orthodox economists might even agree. Where we differ is while they persist in believing (against the evidence) this can be done while continuing to grow GDP, I acknowledge it is likely to result in a reduction of GDP, at least as we presently measure it. In other words, if we were to keep measuring the economy by GDP, that's what we would see in a degrowth scenario.

"And that's okay.

"It's okay, because we know human beings can thrive without extremely high levels of GDP.

"There are many pieces to this argument,

More: www.filmsforaction.org/articles/degrowth-a-call-for-radical-abundance/

Source: Malcolm Rands, Facebook share 16th April. ©

Message from Mike

"Last year brought alarming new evidence of the risks we face from climate change. Droughts, wildfires and powerful storms claimed lives and caused billions of dollars in damages. We urgently need to do more to confront this growing crisis. Bloomberg is committed to helping lead the way.

"We [Bloomberg] aim to get 100% clean power by 2025. Over the last ten years, we have improved energy efficiency by 45%, which has cut carbon emissions while also producing more than \$116 million in cost savings. Our European headquarters in London has been rated the world's most sustainably designed office building, and we hope it will set an example for other companies.

"We are also helping our clients take action by bringing transparency to markets. We now provide environmental, social and governance (ESG) data for more than 11,500 companies, tools to analyse the growing green bond market and in-depth research on technologies and trends in clean energy.

"The more we can accelerate investment in projects which both reduce emissions and create jobs, the more progress we can make reducing health and economic risks. But companies and investors often lack good data on climate-related risks and opportunities, which prevents them from taking action. Two industry-driven organisations which Bloomberg helped launch – the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) and the Financial Stability Board Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) – are helping to fix that.

"Last year, SASB published the world's first set of industry-specific reporting standards on sustainability issues. Meanwhile, more than 600 companies and financial institutions around the world have endorsed the TCFD recommendations on measuring and reporting risks they face from climate change.

"These efforts go hand in hand with the work our foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, is doing to spur progress on climate change. In partnership with the Sierra Club, we have helped to close more than half of U.S. coal power plants – 286 out of 530, and counting – since 2011. Recently, we set a new goal of retiring every remaining U.S. coal plant by 2030. And we are launching an ambitious new stage of the campaign called Beyond Carbon. It is a grassroots effort to help move America as quickly as possible away from oil and gas and toward a 100 percent clean-energy economy.

"We're recruiting partners from across society to help us reach that goal. Nearly 2,700 cities, states, businesses and universities have committed their support for the Paris Agreement through the America's Pledge coalition which we co-founded with former California Governor Jerry Brown. Last year, through our American Cities Climate Challenge, we awarded grants to help 25 leading U.S. cities significantly cut emissions. And Bloomberg employees contributed over 161,000 hours of volunteering in 2018, including thousands of hours helping to make cities greener and more sustainable.

"We are just getting started. In the coming year, we will continue to ramp up our efforts to fight climate change and build a stronger, more resilient global economy. I hope you'll join us.



More: www.bloomberg.com/impact/message-from-mike/

Source: *ReportAlert*, 11th April 2019. 

Report Signals Nine Top Environmental Issues Facing New Zealand

"A new report shows the way we live and how we make a living are having a serious impact on our environment.

"Jointly produced by the Ministry for the Environment and Stats NZ, *Environment Aotearoa 2019* outlines nine priority issues in need of attention.

"This report provides a health check on our environment and shows it's under pressure in many places – in our towns and cities, and rivers and oceans', Secretary for the Environment Vicky Robertson said.

"If we want to protect the things we value, now and for future generations, we need to focus our attention on the choices we make from here on.'

"*Environment Aotearoa 2019* is the latest in the environmental reporting series that covers the environmental domains – air, atmosphere and climate, fresh water, land, and marine.

"The strength of our environmental reporting system is putting robust, independent, rigorously checked information into the hands of decision-makers – from here we can make informed decisions on what happens next', Government Statistician Liz MacPherson said.

"Ms Robertson said it had taken generations to get to this point and issues won't be fixed overnight. A lot of good work is being done to protect and restore our environment, on our farms, in businesses and homes, and across central and local government, and more is needed.

"The choices we have to make to respond to the issues raised are not always straightforward. The economy has been built on our environment, our population continues to grow, and climate change is amplifying many current pressures. Understanding the issues means we can focus our efforts in the places where we can make the biggest difference', Ms Robertson said. 'The report also points out how critical it is that we continue to build and expand our knowledge of our environment.

"We have considerable knowledge in some areas. Understanding our environment as a whole – as a system – is a much bigger challenge. We need to align, coordinate, and leverage efforts across knowledge and reporting systems, so we are better equipped to understand the effects of our actions', Ms MacPherson said.

"The report identifies nine priority issues:

- Our native plants, animals, and ecosystems are under threat
- Changes to the vegetation on our land are degrading the soil and water
- Urban growth is reducing versatile land and native biodiversity
- Our waterways are polluted in farming areas
- Our environment is polluted in urban areas
- Taking water changes flows, which affect our freshwater ecosystems
- The way we fish is affecting the health of our ocean environment
- New Zealand has high greenhouse gas emissions per person
- Climate change is already affecting Aotearoa New Zealand.

More: www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/new-zealands-environmental-reporting-series-environment-aotearoa-2019 plus www.stuff.co.nz/environment/112104189/environment-aotearoa-government-stocktake-describes-new-zealand-environment-on-the-brink and www.energyts.com/single-post/2019/04/26/SnippETS-for-26-April-2019

Sources: Victoria Craig, 18th April *SnippETS*, 26th Apr. 

Preparing for Tomorrow – Embedding Strategic Foresight into Sustainability

"Ports of Auckland, SBC and thinkstep together with Futurist Phil Tate challenge the way sustainability strategies are currently developed in a workshop on 9th May in Auckland.

"Do we need a new approach to sustainability? Given the urgency of the challenges we face today, learning from the past is not good enough. It only gives us only incremental change. We need to completely re-think our approach to sustainability.

"Foresighting is a proven method to boost the understanding of possible futures. It helps to identify scenarios we need to prepare for in order to move towards one direction or to avoid another. Integrating strategic foresight into today's sustainability planning helps us to shape tomorrow's outcomes. It is about building resilience.

When/Where: 3:00 to 6:00pm Thurs 9th May, Auckland

More: www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/strategic-foresight-adapting-sustainability-for-tomorrow-tickets-60231012580

Source: Mathias Nebel, 24th April 2019. 

Fashion Transparency Index 2019

"A review of 200 of the biggest global fashion brands and retailers ranked according to how much they disclose about their social and environmental policies, practices and impact.

"The index, which rates 200 of the world's top brands with annual revenues of more than \$500 million, found several brands showed a large improvement over last year's survey.

"Brands are highlighted in the report for their willingness to publicly disclose a wide range of human rights and environmental policies, commitments and impacts, as well as key information about governance, supply chain traceability, supplier assessment and remediation. The 2019 index marks the first time since its inaugural publication in 2016 brands have scored higher than 60% on the transparency scale.

"Further, the index notes fashion's climate impact is expected to increase 49% by 2030 and 55% of the 200 brands are publishing their annual carbon footprint on their own site. However, only 19.5% disclose carbon emissions in the supply chain, which is responsible for more than 50% of the industry's emissions.

"Almost half (43%) of brands are publishing a strategy on sustainable materials or processes, but only 29% are disclosing the percentage of their products made from sustainable materials. Further, 54% of fashion companies are publishing goals on improving their environmental impact. ...

More: www.environmentalleader.com/2019/04/adidas-reebok-and-patagonia-top-list-of-most-transparent-fashion-brands/ plus https://issuu.com/fashionrevolution/docs/fashion_transparency_index_2019?e=25766662/69342298 3.8Mb, 87 pages

Source: *Environmental Leader*, 25th April 2019. 

Editor: Page 7: "Major fashion brands have the moral imperative and ability to effect change on a global scale for large numbers of people and that puts them in a really powerful position. Having said that we're not going to be able to maintain current levels of production and consumption even if systems are designed to be much more restorative. Simply put, fashion brands will need to innovate as well as use fewer resources, and help their customers to consume less, take better care of their clothes and use them longer. The current model isn't working for the environment, nor for the vast number of people working for poverty-level wages in the supply chain. This can change and leading fashion brands have an important role to play.

For a 'telling picture' see the table on page 31.

The underlying issues could be equally applicable to other sectors. 

Climate Change Food Calculator: What's Your Diet's Carbon Footprint?

"Knowing how and where your food is produced is important, as the same food can have huge differences in environmental impact. For example, beef cattle raised on deforested land is responsible for 12 times more greenhouse gas emissions than cows reared on natural pastures. The average beef from South America results in three times the amount of greenhouse gases as beef produced in Europe – and uses 10 times as much land.

"What we eat is one of the most powerful drivers behind most of the world's major environmental issues, whether it's climate change or biodiversity loss', study researcher Joseph Poore told BBC News. 'Changing your diet can make a big difference to your personal environmental footprint – from saving water to reducing pollution and the loss of forests. It reduces the amount of land required to produce your food by about 75% – that's a huge reduction, particularly if you scale that up globally', Poore explained.

"If you fly regularly, replacing flying with other forms of transport may have a bigger impact on your carbon footprint than changing your diet. A passenger's carbon footprint from a one-way flight from London to New York is just under half a tonne of greenhouse gases. Switching from a regular petrol vehicle to an electric car could save more than double that over a year. Check out the calculator, how it was conceived and what you can do to help.

More: www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-46459714 Interesting graphics. 248 comments

Source: *Tieke: ECO Alerts & Events*, 24th April 2019. 

Tools to Calculate the True Cost of Water

"A few tools have been developed to help companies more accurately price their water use including the Beverage Industry Environmental Roundtable's True Cost of Water Toolkit, Veolia True Cost of Water and a true cost of water tool developed by Rutgers University. Here's a brief description of them:

"They all pretty much do the same thing – you're assigning a value to water. In doing this, it's been really eye-opening because now when we start looking at water conservation projects, we can pretty quickly understand the dollar value to the company', Stainthorp explained....

"Understanding an organisation's true cost of water, while also researching and learning about new water technology solutions, can help sustainability leaders understand and communicate the true ROI of potential water conservation projects and more successfully sell these projects to the company's CFO and leadership team.

More: www.greenbiz.com/article/ideas-using-true-cost-water-sustainability-strategy

Source: *SnippETS*, 26th April 2019. 

The Love Child of Porsche Designers and Croatia's Rimac

"This is the fastest Italian supercar ever produced. And its 100% electric. Check out these stats:

- 1,900BHP
- 350kph top speed
- sub-2-second 0-100 (an F1 does it in 2.6)
- 450km range (really? and who cares, it's not for the daily commute!)
- \$3.9m NZD
- Number to be made 150.

More: www.theverge.com/2019/3/6/18252896/pininfarina-battista-ev-hypercar-photos-geneva-motor-show-2019

Source: ChargeSmart, 17th April 2019. 

Structuring for Impact: Evolving Legal Structures for Business in New Zealand

"Today [17th April] The Ākina Foundation and our partners Russell McVeagh Chapman Tripp Parry Field Lawyers, with the support of The Law Foundation, released our report on *Evolving Legal Structures for Business in New Zealand*. The report looks at our traditional business structures and the barriers they create – not just for social enterprises – but for all businesses working to deliver positive social or environmental impact. There are some exciting potential solutions that could open up our economy to the businesses of the future, including the possibility of a new structure which would allow business to opt-in to delivering impact. The potential implications for the wellbeing of New Zealanders are significant and as is the opportunity for the impact investment and philanthropic sectors. I look forward to the ongoing discussions on we can continue to support impact through enterprise.

"If we create the right settings for social enterprise, we have the opportunity to enhance the prosperity and wellbeing of generations to come in New Zealand.

More: <http://akina.org.nz/news/legal-structures-holding-back-impact/> plus www.newsroom.co.nz/2019/04/17/539070/social-enterprises-frustrated-by-nz-law and www.theimpactinitiative.org.nz/reports/structuring-for-impact 72 pages, 4.14Mb

Source: Geoff Bennett and Penny Nelson, LinkedIn like, 17th April 2019. 

Entries Invited for e360 Video Contest

"The sixth annual Yale Environment 360 Video Contest is now accepting entries. The contest honours the year's best environmental videos, with the aim of recognising work which has not previously been widely seen. Submissions must focus on an environmental issue or theme and be a maximum of 20 minutes in length. Videos that are funded by an organisation or company and are primarily about that organisation or company are not eligible.

"The first-place winner will receive US\$2,000, and two runners-up will each receive US\$500. The winning entries will be posted on Yale Environment 360.

"The contest judges will be *Yale Environment 360* editor Roger Cohn, Pulitzer Prize winner and *e360* contributor Elizabeth Kolbert, and Oscar-winning documentary filmmaker Thomas Lennon

More: <https://e360.yale.edu/digest/entries-invited-for-the-sixth-annual-yale-environment-360-video-contest>

Source: *Yale Environment 360*, 18th April 2019. 

Climate Challenge Conference

"The Climate Challenge is a national youth-for-youth organisation, founded in 2015 which aims to empower young people to be leaders in their communities and take action on climate change. This Conference will include a range of inspiring speakers, skills workshops, interactive simulations, an MP panel and much more! The conference is open to all high school students with no need for previous leadership experience or knowledge of climate change issues – we are seeking passionate, aspiring young leaders who could benefit from the opportunities this conference offers.

"If you are interested in developing your leadership skills, meeting other passionate young people and looking at what climate change means for the future of New Zealand go to the website for more information.

Where/When: Wellington 18th-19th May, Auckland 25th-26th May, Christchurch May date TBA

More: www.climatechallenge.co.nz/

Source: *Tieke: ECO Alerts & Events*, 17th April 2019. 

Enviro-Mark Solutions' Chief Executive Dr Ann Smith First NZ Fellow of IEMA

"Enviro-Mark Solutions is delighted to announce Chief Executive Dr Ann Smith has been named as the first New Zealand Fellow of IEMA.

"Fellowship to IEMA recognises Dr Smith's distinguished career commitment to sustainability, and her long-term impact and leadership in the field. The majority of IEMA Fellows are UK or European; that Dr Smith has been recognised as such highlights her world-leading experience.

"IEMA is the leading membership organisation for sustainability professionals across the globe. Fellowship to the organisation is considered the highest signifier of professional achievement in the sustainability field. ...

"Dr Smith has been Chief Executive of Enviro-Mark Solutions, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research, for seven years. During her tenure, she has overseen the development and delivery of the carbon and environmental management programmes carbonZeroCert™, CEMARS® and Enviro-Mark®, which are recognised for their scientific rigour, international best practice and business practicality.

"Dr Smith is passionate about enabling businesses to improve their environmental performance to accelerate New Zealand's transition to a sustainable low carbon economy.

"She says: 'We need to significantly increase participation of all sectors, all businesses and all individuals in taking climate action to have the best chance of keeping global warming within a 1.5 to 2°C envelope. Every decision needs to be made through a climate-lens to ensure a positive long-term future that includes achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.'

More: www.enviro-mark.com/news-and-events/news/taking-action/enviro-mark-solutions-ceo-named-iema-fellow

Source: enviro-Mark Solutions, 17th April 2019. 

thinkstep Picks Up B Corp Certification

"thinkstep Australasia recently [April] visited the Melbourne home of B Lab, Australia and New Zealand's 'arm' of B Corp. There they picked up their certification and participated in a three minute video interview.

"thinkstep Australasia achieved formal B Corp certification as a 'for-profit' corporation committed to positive social and environmental goals in June 2018.

"The moment we learned of a coordinated global movement using business as a force for good, we knew thinkstep Australasia had to join', said Barbara Nebel, Managing Director.

"Certified B Corporations are businesses which meet the highest standards of social and environmental performance, public transparency, and legal accountability to balance profit and purpose. B Corps are working to redefine success in business and build a more inclusive and sustainable economy. The community consists of over 2,700 companies worldwide which share best practices and work towards a higher purpose; there are 230 in Australia and 22 in New Zealand.

"As B Corps, we're all assessed by completing the B Impact Assessment every three years, cementing our ongoing commitment to meet higher standards of transparency, accountability and performance. Our B Corp score is in the public domain and can be seen by anyone at any time', said Barbara Nebel.

More: <https://bcorporation.net/> plus YouTube video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_Hq9DILFMg&feature=youtu.be

Source: Matthias Nebel, thinkstep, 24th April 2019. 