

Sustainability Matters

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Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

16th May 2019



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UK Labour Plan to Delist Companies to Force Action on Climate Change

"UK companies failing to tackle climate change would be delisted from the London Stock Exchange under radical plans for greening the economy being drawn up by Labour.

"John McDonnell, the shadow chancellor, said he would consider changing the law if necessary to force UK-listed firms to take adequate steps to fight the 'climate emergency' facing the planet.

"In an interview with the *Guardian*, McDonnell said much of the City was already aware of the need to make faster progress towards a zero-carbon economy, but his proposals were about 'weeding out those that are not taking it seriously'.

"We've got to signal now that we're being serious about tackling climate change. And we're going to use every lever of government we possibly can to enable that to happen', he said.

"The shadow chancellor said as a backbench MP he had proposed that the criteria for a listing a company on the stock exchange should include human rights, trade union rights and environmental policy.

"We're now going to discuss how we can insert tackling climate change as one of the criteria for listing on the London stock market.'

"Asked whether he would delist firms without climate change plans that are already quoted on the stock exchange, McDonnell replied: 'Yes'.

"Labour's proposals are likely to set alarm bells ringing in the City, home to some of the world's biggest natural resource companies. But the shadow chancellor said the measures were justified by the scale of the climate change challenge.

"McDonnell said he thought the finance sector was ready for the changes, as growing numbers of investment management firms signal they will alter investing rules to take account of climate change.

"The debate is beginning to change. The writing is on the wall and they're going to see opportunities in the mechanisms for tackling climate change as well', McDonnell said.

"We want to signal change is coming and we're serious about climate change.'

More: www.theguardian.com/business/2019/may/10/labour-delist-uk-firms-failing-to-fight-climate-change-john-mcdonnell

Source: Malcolm Rands, Facebook share 11th May.

Greta Thunberg to UK's Parliament: Future Sold So Small Group of People Could Make Unimaginable Amounts of Money

Without saying more this speech merits reading and taking on board. It is taken direct from the video which is also provided.

More: <https://cleantechnica.com/2019/04/29/greta-thunberg-to-parliament-future-sold-so-small-group-of-people-could-make-unimaginable-amounts-of-money/>

Source: Editor, 2nd May 2019.

Sustainable Business Network Awards 2019

"The NZI Sustainable Business Network Awards have been running for 17 years. Past winners include corporates, small businesses, not for profits and individuals. They receive nationwide publicity and profile in front of 700 guests at our sell-out Awards night.

"Rachel Brown, CEO of the Sustainable Business Network, says: 'The need to act on social and environmental issues is now more pressing than ever. The business case is clear, but we need examples of the solutions and stories of success to inspire others. That's where these Awards come in.

"The Edelman Trust Barometer shows people increasingly trust their employers, rather than other institutions, to do what is right. So businesses need to step up and prove change is possible. One of the best ways businesses can get credit and profile for their actions is through success in our Awards'

"There are 11 categories:

- Sustainability Superstar
- Communicating for Change
- Hardwired for Social Good
- Partnering for Good
- Going Circular
- Efficiency Champion
- Smarter Transport
- Revolutionising Energy
- Transforming Food
- Restoring Nature
- Millennial on a Mission

"The supreme winner, NZI Transforming New Zealand Award, is selected out of the 11 category winners. This coveted award goes to an organisation which is performing outstandingly well across all areas of the business. In 2018, the supreme winner was City Rail Link.

"The Award judges are all experts in sustainability. They are:

Awards close: 14th June

Finalists announced: Towards end of August

Stage two entries: by 16th September

Awards night: 28th November

More: <https://sustainable.org.nz/sustainable-business-news/awards-open-for-entry/>

Source: SBN, 7th May 2019.

How the World Got Hooked on Palm Oil

"It's the miracle ingredient in everything from biscuits to shampoo. But our dependence on palm oil has devastating environmental consequences. Is it too late to break the habit? ...

"Worldwide production of palm oil has been climbing steadily for five decades. Between 1995 and 2015, annual production quadrupled, from 15.2m tonnes to 62.6m tonnes. By 2050, it is expected to quadruple again, reaching 240m tonnes. ...

More: www.theguardian.com/news/2019/feb/19/palm-oil-ingredient-biscuits-shampoo-environmental

Source: SumOfUs, 12th May 2019

Editor: Described as a 'Long Read' of in-depth reporting, essays and profiles this article is indeed a long read: www.theguardian.com/news/series/the-long-read

How a Boulder Startup's Innovative Business Model is Fighting Climate Change, Preserving Land, and Improving Livestock Health

"Growing food is an essential human endeavor. But the practices that deliver food to its final point – in the grocery store, market, or restaurant – can be startlingly inefficient and damaging.

"A third of all food grown in the world is wasted or lost – a value of almost \$3 trillion dollars. Americans throw away almost half of all their produce. Globally, we use so much land to grow crops to feed livestock that we could feed an extra 3.5 billion people if those crops fed people instead.

"A Boulder-based agricultural startup aims to change all of that. Bugs for Birds! ... uses an innovative business model to efficiently feed livestock. Its supply chain reduces food waste, sequesters carbon in soil, and lessens dependence on harmful agrochemicals.

"How does it work? Bugs for Birds! partners with a Canadian company which diverts fruit, vegetable, and grain waste from landfills. They use the organic waste as a substrate on which black soldier fly (BSF) larvae grow. The larvae are a great source of protein and essential nutrients for livestock like poultry and farmed fish.

"A square metre of BSF larvae produces as much protein as an acre of soy, making it highly land efficient. It also fights climate change. By using food waste which would otherwise decompose in a landfill, it prevents the release of climate-warming methane.

"Romain has two larvae-based products. The first is a 'treat' – he adds nutritional supplements to the grubs and packages the mixture in compostable bags. They're sold as chicken and wild bird treats

"But Romain's real innovation is his groundbreaking 'complete feed'. Its focus on a regenerative supply chain leaves the earth a better place – and still generates a profit. He calls it a 'climate-beneficial feed'.

"The feed is no-soy and no-fishmeal, instead using grubs as the main protein source. Soymeal and fishmeal – the most prevalent sources of protein in livestock feed – lead to the destruction of virgin forests for soy mono-culture productions, and to the depletion of over-exploited wild fisheries to make fishmeal.

"The rest of the feed's ingredients grow on a farm in Nebraska, run by Steve Tucker, a pioneer of regenerative agricultural practices like no-till and cover cropping. This sequesters carbon, improves soil health, reduces erosion, and lessens the need for chemical inputs. Romain is confident ingredients grown on live soil, without agrochemicals and synthetic fertilisers, yield more nutritionally dense products.

"All told, these traits make BSF larvae an ideal food for chickens, especially since insects are part of their natural diet. The larvae improve feather production. Feedback on his chicken treat product reports stronger shells, deeper egg yolk colors and in one case a doubling of egg production.

"People often wonder what they can do about the complicated problems facing our world, like food shortages, climate change, and inequality. One answer is to support businesses that offer real solutions to those problems. Using Bugs for Birds! feed is a way for consumers to directly sequester carbon, improve soil health, and support regenerative agriculture. Bugs for Birds! provides a working example of how every company, and the entire economy, could operate.

More: <https://natcapsolutions.org/bugs-for-birds/>

Source: Hunter Lovins, 10th May 2019. 

Chernobyl: TV Exposé of the Catastrophic Meltdown

"When the fourth reactor at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant exploded, on April 26, 1986, it – quite literally – radiated shockwaves around the world. It was a catastrophe that threatened to irradiate much of Europe, as chillingly depicted in Chernobyl, Sky/HBO's harrowing portrayal of the disaster. It's a tragedy that Stellan Skarsgard, who stars as Boris Shcherbina, the Russian bureaucrat charged with investigating the tragedy, recalls vividly. ...

"But Watson persisted because she was determined to do the project justice, given its weighty, historical significance and the realisation that these events and the ensuing cover-up have uncanny parallels with today, in the way governments have downplayed the significance of another equally disastrous calamity confronting us: climate change.

"The control of truth and the withholding of information are intensely dangerous. Sadly, it's still happening now, which is why I think it's a story that's not only important but also very relevant, given what's going on in the world today with climate change.

"We're obviously up s*** creek without a paddle and the boat's got a hole in it – but governments are still denying the facts.

"It makes you wonder why', adds Watson. 'It makes you wonder how many people, with vested interests in Washington and who knows where else, are quietly ignoring climate science because it's inconvenient.

"It's something I've thought about in the past but [doing] this has really concentrated my mind on it. Also, I've got kids who are very vocal about what's happening to the world. They went on a Climate Change march recently and I accompanied them, because we need to face up to realities – just as we do in this series – and change before we close the door on life as we know it."

More:

www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=100&objectid=12229110

Source: NZ Herald, *Weekend*, page 9, 11th May 2019. 

Coastal Recovery: Bringing a Damaged Wetland Back to Life

"Journalist Jim Morrison examines an ambitious wetlands restoration project underway on Delaware Bay [USA], where scientists are using innovative methods to revive a badly damaged salt marsh [4,000 acres]. The \$38 million project at Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge is one of the largest and most complex wetlands restoration projects ever mounted. And experts say it could be a model for other places seeking to make coastal wetlands more resilient to rising seas and worsening storms.

More: <https://e360.yale.edu/features/the-science-and-art-of-restoring-a-damaged-wetland>

Source: *Yale Environment 360*, 10th May 2019. 

Homestar in Prefab and More

"Come along to the PrefabNZ Cluster and hear some provocative quick-fire presentations and catch-up with others that share an interest in the green urban built environment.

"Sam Archer, NZGBC will be chatting to you about *Homestar* in prefab.

When/Where: Noon-5:00pm, 22nd May, Jasmex, Auckland

More: <https://events.eventzilla.net/e/cluster--22-may--auckland-2138719590>

Source: NZGBC, 8th May 2019. 

Measuring Emissions: A Guide for Organisations

"The Ministry for the Environment has published updated guidance this week [1st week of May] to help organisations calculate their **emissions**. It contains the latest emissions factors and information for New Zealand, and covers more areas including agriculture, construction materials and forestry.

More: www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/guidance-measuring-emissions plus www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate-change/new-zealands-greenhouse-gas-inventory-1990-2017

Source: *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 2nd May 2019. 

UK MPs Have Declared a Climate Emergency. Isn't it Time for Business to Do the Same?

"By John Elkington 2nd May, 2019

"As political leaders give in to a key demand of Extinction Rebellion, John Elkington of Volans explains how a platform of business leaders is now supporting the climate activist group

"..... Whoever does this, and however it is done, the nature and scale of that challenge became a good deal clearer for anyone who read Professor Jem Bendell's open letter [below], itself a response to our letter in *The Times*.

"His five recommended themes for any business embrace of the climate emergency agenda run as follows. First, he wants business to say 'we failed'. Second, 'we were wrong' in believing that markets alone could solve the problems. Third, 'we will learn' from others. Fourth, citizens need more influence than business. And, fifth, business 'must be made to behave'. He explains: 'Praising individual companies doing useful things was never enough. We need state intervention to redesign the economy so we can more swiftly decarbonise and also prepare for the disruptions ahead. That means corporate support for changes in the law, perhaps even introducing a law on ecocide by corporations.'

"Bendell's five asks set out in the letter will make a good deal of sense to any self-respecting system-change activist, but there is

"Meanwhile, three things have struck me forcefully about XR. First, the movement has bridged the generations, in the process pulling in people with no previous experience in activism. Second, the general public broadly sympathised with the protests, with a much better sense today of the growing climate emergency. And, third, while a decade or two ago many protestors would have called for the extinction of capitalism, the demands this time were often more nuanced – and therefore harder to dismiss out of hand.....

"For most people, meanwhile, even within the XR movement, there seems to be a recognition that getting at least some business and financial market leaders on board is now a critical next step towards longer-term system change. That strikes me as encouraging, and something we should now put our collective weight behind. So how long before you ask your own board to urgently consider the political, social and commercial implications of the climate emergency?

"John Elkington has been described as the 'godfather of sustainability'. He was recognised with a Lifetime Achievement Award in Ethical Corporation's Responsible Business Awards in 2015. He has co-founded four companies, including Volans Ventures, where he is chairman and chief pollinator. He is the author of 19 books and has served as a member of over 70 boards and advisory boards

More: <http://ethicalcorp.com/uk-mps-have-declared-climate-emergency-isnt-it-time-business-do-same?> plus the open letter at <https://jembendell.com/2019/04/25/an-open-letter-to-business-supporters-of-extinction-rebellion/>

Source: Ethical Corp, 4th May 2019. 

Framework Launched to Deliver Net-zero Built Environment

"The UK Green Building Council (UKGBC) has launched a new framework today (30th April) outlining how developers, designers, owners, occupiers and policymakers can define and deliver a net-zero built environment.

"The report, co-sponsored by Berkeley Group, aims to build consensus on a clearly defined understanding of net zero for the built environment, both in terms of the construction phase and a building's operational energy use.

"The resource outlines short-term and long-term ambitions for organisations in the built environment. Short-term aspirations and requirements will focus on setting minimum energy efficiency targets and limits on the use of offsets while long-term targets will be established over the next 10 years to increase the scope of the framework to encourage more firms to adopt it.

"The UK GBC's senior policy advisor Richard Twinn said: 'The urgency of tackling climate change means businesses must work together to drive down emissions as fast as possible. But this requires a shared vision for what needs to be achieved and the action that needs to be taken. This framework is intended as a catalyst for the construction and property to build consensus on the low carbon transition and start to work towards consistent and ambitious outcomes.'

More: www.edie.net/news/6/Framework-launched-to-deliver-net-zero-built-environment/ 25 pages, 4.89Mb

Source: edie, 3rd May 2019. 

Investing Prophet Jeremy Grantham Takes Aim at Climate Change

Legendary investor Jeremy Grantham is an investor who has grasped the concepts of anthropogenic climate change and limits to growth. He is now trying to bring about change in the investment community, as well as devoting 98% of his net worth to bring about positive change.

"On climate science, the future of agriculture, and his other obsessions, Grantham risks looking like another billionaire dilettante weighing into topics he doesn't understand. But he sees his lack of training as a plus. 'It's a wonderful advantage when you come in fresh as a daisy and question everything', he says, free of not just preconceived ideas but also any career risk that might make him less daring or original. He's spent years urging scientists to raise more of an alarm about climate change – to trumpet the data suggesting its actually accelerating. ...

More: www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-01-17/jeremy-grantham-s-1-billion-plan-to-fight-climate-change

Source: *SnippETS*, 9th May 2019. 

Australia to Cull Over Two Million Feral Cats by 2020

".... While killing such a large number of feral cats may seem excessively cruel, there are reasons why Australia is culling the population. These free-ranging cats were brought to the continent in the 1600s and now cover over 99% of the country. Unlike their domestic counterparts, feral cats survive by hunting in the wild and are extremely good at hunting small critters. According to CNN, experts estimate feral cats have contributed to the wipe out of 20 different mammals over the past 300 years. Given many of the country's native species are not found anywhere else on the planet, this is a major problem.

More: <https://inhabitat.com/australia-to-cull-over-two-million-feral-cats-by-2020/> with a much longer article at www.nytimes.com/2019/04/25/magazine/australia-cat-killing.html

Source: *Carbon News*, 2nd May 2019. 

Australian University Pioneers Urban Mining 'Micro-factories'

"Last year, Veena Sahajwalla's vision of a microfactory which can transform e-waste into its valuable components became a reality. Now, Sahajwalla, director of the Centre for Sustainable Materials Research and Technology (SMaRT) at the University of New South Wales in Australia, is out to prove that it can be run as a commercial operation.

"Whether its electronics or packaging materials, what we haven't thought about is an equally sophisticated way of dealing with the end of life. There is no question: we have to be re-designing with recycling in mind, but the reality is that some products – for example circuit boards – are just so complex ... we can't necessarily unmake them."

"The micro-factory consists of a series of small machines and devices: these could be robots handling broken glass from mobile phones; a small furnace for separating metal components; or a device for reforming plastics into high-quality filaments for 3D printing. And it will need to be agile, depending on the type of product it is receiving.

"One of the key differences to traditional recycling is the fact there isn't just one type of material in electronics. Isolating them may not be as important as transforming them into valuable new materials – what Sahajwalla describes as 'the fourth R', alongside reduce, reuse, recycle.

"The micro-factory on the university's campus has been producing plastic filaments for 3D printing extracted from e-waste such as printers and computers. A local spectacle-frame company is a potential first customer if it can show the filaments are robust. Her team is also prototyping a micro-factory which will turn waste textiles, glass and even mattresses into flat construction panels that could be used for heat and sound insulation, and has already attracted commercial interest.

More: www.ethicalcorp.com/australian-university-pioneers-urban-mining-microfactories

Source: Ethical Corp, 10th May 2019. 

Grounding

"..... Today, it's far too common for people to be disconnected from nature. We get so busy with life, we too often forget we have an abundance of natural wonders in this country. There is a tonne of scientific research online that will tell you, spending time connecting with nature is essential to our wellbeing.

"And your wellbeing is not only good for you, it's good for the rest of the planet too.

"It doesn't have to involve lengthy hikes, campfires or forest nakedness (unless you're into that kind of thing). As a Gulf X supporter, we know you care about water.

"Go to your local beach or waterway. Walk barefoot along the sand or dirt. Feel the warmth of the sunlight on your skin. Close your eyes and listen to the rhythm of the crashing waves or flowing water. Ask yourself, what can I hear, what can I smell? Breath deep. Be aware of your legs and feet. Feel the ground beneath your feet.

"The researched benefits of grounding include:

- Reduced inflammation
- Improved immune response
- Reduced emotional stress
- Improved blood flow
- Elevated mood

More: <https://sustainable.org.nz/sustainable-business-news/grounding/>

Source: SBN 7th May 2019. 

Aiming Even Higher with EPDs

"Lendlease and thinkstep share a 30 minute webinar on the role of EPDs (Environmental Product Declarations) in whole building design and assessment about;

- How EPDs inform design and procurement decisions through whole-building LCA
- The latest developments and news regarding EPDs and their role in the building sector.

When/Where: Thurs 23rd May 2019, 3:00 - 3.30pm NZ time

More:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5089735381270194178>

Source: Matthias Nebel, thinkstep, 14th May 2019. 

Sexy Killers

"A new documentary, *Sexy Killers*, exposing the devastating impacts of the coal industry in Indonesia has gone viral. Nearly 20 million people have viewed it online and over 1000 spontaneous community screenings were held in the two weeks despite attempts by police and local authorities to ban the screenings.

"The film has clearly struck a chord in a country facing huge expansion of a polluting and irresponsible industry that is impacting communities land rights, agriculture, fishing industry, health and safety. A whopping 58 new coal-fired power stations are due to come online between now and 2027.

"The independent documentary exposes corruption at the highest level of the Indonesian government, and the complicity of candidates in the recent divisive Presidential Election with the coal companies and their financiers.

"The Clean Up Indonesia Movement #BersihkanIndonesia is promoting the film to help spark a national conversation about the impacts of coal and how intertwined the industry is with current political leaders. So far, despite mounting public debate, both presidential candidates continue to fend off questions. But how long can that last as millions and millions more Indonesians join the conversation sparked by *Sexy Killers*?

"You can watch the full movie below to find out more about the impacts of coal right across the world's most populous island nation:

More: <https://350.org/sexy-killers-coal-documentary-goes-viral/> 1hr 28:09

Source: 350.org, 3rd May 2019. 

Can Recycling Help Overcome Homelessness?

"Students from Alfriston College in Manakau are doing something they hope will benefit the environment as well as their local community. The team's plan is to create cheap and sustainable temporary houses which they hope can also be used as 'pop-up' shelters for disaster relief, by recycling plastic bottles. ...

"They have found it is difficult to work with complete bottles because they come in different shapes and sizes, so they've been looking at melting the plastic down into building blocks, which also means that they can use up a lot more waste bottles to make a building.

"The team have set up a competition between different year groups in the school, complete with cash prizes, to boost their bottle numbers before starting to build. The next step is to visit inspirational sustainable housing organisations like Habitat for Humanity to fine-tune their architectural plans before beginning construction in October.

More: www.curiousminds.nz/stories/can-recycling-help-homelessness/

Source: Tieke: *ECO Alerts & Events*, 8th May 2019. 