

# Sustainability Matters

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Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

25<sup>th</sup> July 2019



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## Interim Climate Change Committee – Two Reports Released

"The independent Interim Climate Change Committee's report Action on agricultural emissions was released today [16<sup>th</sup> July] by the Minister for Climate Change, Hon James Shaw and the Minister of Agriculture, Hon Damien O'Connor.

"Built on a year-long evidence and analysis-based inquiry, the Committee recommends a series of actions the Government should take to reduce emissions of the agricultural greenhouse gases, methane and nitrous oxide.

"The independent Interim Climate Change Committee's report on Accelerated Electrification (also released 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019) by the Minister for Energy and Resources, Hon Dr Megan Woods.

"Following a year-long evidence and analysis-based inquiry, the Committee recommends a series of actions the Government can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, using renewable electricity to reduce transport and process heat emissions.

"The Interim Climate Change Committee recommends the Government should prioritise accelerated electrification of transport and process heat over the goal of achieving 100% renewable electricity by 2035.

There are press releases for both, plus report the reports and supporting material.

**More:** [www.iccc.mfe.govt.nz/our-news/updates-from-the-chair/iccc-says-its-time-for-action-on-reducing-agricultural-emissions/](http://www.iccc.mfe.govt.nz/our-news/updates-from-the-chair/iccc-says-its-time-for-action-on-reducing-agricultural-emissions/) and [www.iccc.mfe.govt.nz/our-news/updates-from-the-chair/independent-climate-change-committee-calls-for-accelerated-electrification/](http://www.iccc.mfe.govt.nz/our-news/updates-from-the-chair/independent-climate-change-committee-calls-for-accelerated-electrification/)

**Source:** Editor, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

## Radical Action to Tackle a Radical Problem

"My lifelong hero (have I mentioned that lately?) Sir David Attenborough recently warned the UK House of Commons that they must take radical action to meet its climate change targets, but that ministers must carry the public with them because of the financial cost of meeting the goals.

"We cannot be radical enough in dealing with these issues', he told MPs when asked if the UK should bring forward its new target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. But he said the real issue was what is politically possible.

"In my less than humble (and in fact quite shouty) opinion, the reason we suffer global paralysis on expeditious climate change action is because we have never decoupled tangible action from political policy. The more business waits for their central government masters to provide non-partisan policy certainty within which they can make knowable long-term investment decisions, the worse the problem gets, the more the glaciers melt, the more real and present the extremity becomes. ....

"When it comes to meaningful political leadership on climate change, I believe Sir David would agree, we really cannot be radical enough.

**More:** <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/radical-action-tackle-problem-gerri-ward-1c/>

**Source:** LinkedIn 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

## Public Consultation: Earth Building Standards

"Public consultation on earth building standards listed below has now started:

- DZ NZS 4297 *Engineering design of earth buildings*
- DZ NZS 4298 *Materials and workmanship for earth buildings*
- DZ NZS 4299 *Earth buildings not requiring specific design*

"The revised earth building draft standards continue to be a core resource and reflect advances in earth-building practice, research, changes in referenced standards, and changes in building legislation: the Building Act 2004 and the New Zealand Building Code (NZBC). They have been prepared with the intention of being referenced in the NZBC Approved Documents as acceptable solutions for relevant parts of B1, B2, C1-C6, E1, E2, E3, and H1 by the building regulators within the Ministry of Building, Innovation and Employment (MBIE).

"Commentary clauses are provided throughout to explain methodologies and provide additional information. ....

Available for public comment for 8 weeks.

**Closing date:** 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**More:** <https://shop.standards.govt.nz/default.htm>.

**Source:** Ritesh Anand, Standards New Zealand, 17<sup>th</sup> July.

## Senior Policy Advocate – Business reform

"Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand is a professional membership body supporting 120 000+ diverse, talented and financially astute members. We employ over 350 people in 14 locations across Australia, New Zealand, UK and Asia. When you join us, you have an opportunity to develop great skills & strong networks and do something different and fresh with your career.

"The Senior Policy Advocate Business Reform role will support activities which shape and influence business reform issues of relevance to members, specifically in New Zealand but also in Australia. These issues include insolvency, corporate governance, AML, sustainability, climate change, modern slavery, digital business developments, corporations law and any new areas arising or identified through member engagement.

"Flexible working hours 24 to 32 hours per week.

**Location:** Auckland

**More:** [www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/1332180978/](http://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/1332180978/)

**Source:** Editor, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019, posted about 10<sup>th</sup> July.

## Fashion Produces More Emissions than All International Flights and Shipping Combined

Video 1:17

**More:** [www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/02/future-styles-could-virtual-clothes-reduce-the-damage-of-fast-fashion](http://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/02/future-styles-could-virtual-clothes-reduce-the-damage-of-fast-fashion)

**Source:** LinkedIn, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**Plus:** *Not Fade Away*, making denim for the future at <https://www.pressreader.com/similar/282544429868927> NZ Herald, VIVA supplement, pages 16-17, 10<sup>th</sup> July and *Stockholm Fashion Week Canceled Over Sustainability Concern* at

[www.environmentalleader.com/2019/07/stockholm-fashion-week-canceled/](http://www.environmentalleader.com/2019/07/stockholm-fashion-week-canceled/) *Environmental Leader*, 4<sup>th</sup> July

## Training courses on The Natural Step and Future-Fit Business Benchmark

"Proxima is running a course in Auckland and Christchurch in the coming months on The Natural Step's strategic approach to sustainability and the great new resource based on TNS, the Future-Fit Business Benchmark. These courses are particularly aimed at up-and-coming sustainability practitioners and professionals to support their capability in more strategic and ambitious approaches to sustainable development of business and a true future-fit economy.

"The course will be led by Simon Harvey and Stefan Rüegg. Proxima is an accredited partner of Future-Fit Foundation and Simon is an accredited Senior Advisor with The Natural Step.

"50% of the course will be spent actually applying The Natural Step framework and Future-Fit Business Benchmark tools to increase learning and build confidence.

**When/Where:** 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> August in Auckland and 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> September in Christchurch

**More:** <http://proxima.global/courses/strategic-sustainability-training-AKL.html> and <http://proxima.global/courses/strategic-sustainability-training-CHC.html>

**Source:** Simon Harvey, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019. 

## Ensuring Wellbeing Falls Equitably Across New Zealand

"Deloitte and Victoria University of Wellington have just released the first three articles in their new State of the State series, which looks at addressing the inequities in New Zealand society that can hinder our efforts to grow wellbeing.

"The first three articles are now available, providing an introduction to the topic, a look at wellbeing inequities from a public policy perspective, and civic engagement. Upcoming articles will cover an equitable tax system, inclusive growth, diversity, digital inclusivity and recommendations on a way forward.

"Don't miss these topics and additional content on building a fair future for all – sign up to the series, or download the first three;

- Building a fair future for all: An introduction to State of the State 2019
- Addressing equity in intergenerational wellbeing: Valuing community perspectives
- Civic engagement: Harnessing voices to expand choices.

**More:** <https://www2.deloitte.com/nz/en/pages/public-sector/topics/state-of-the-state.html>

**Source:** Institute of Public Administration NZ, 12<sup>th</sup> July. 

## How Airplane Contrails Are Helping Make the Planet Warmer

"Contributing writer Fred Pearce examines new research which shows condensation trails from aircraft exhaust are playing a significant role in global warming. Though lasting for only a short time, contrails, which trap heat radiating from the earth's surface, have a daily impact on atmospheric temperatures which is greater than all the CO<sub>2</sub> which has accumulated in the atmosphere from a century of aviation. Experts are now concerned efforts to change aviation engine design to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions could actually create more contrails and raise daily temperatures even more.

**More:** <https://e360.yale.edu/features/how-airplane-contrails-are-helping-make-the-planet-warmer>

**Source:** *Yale Environment 360*. 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019... the continued surge in flights is increasingly seen as potentially the worst future threat to the climate, not least because there are as yet no carbon-free replacement technologies or international regulations to bring down emissions'. 

## Climate Emergency? Try Revolution

"Why call for an emergency when we could call for a revolution? An emergency, after all, puts us on the back foot. 'Help!' we cry. It's a plea to authorities to take control of the situation.

"A revolution, by contrast, leads on the front foot. It has a vision of a better world and sets out to implement it. From a democratic perspective, it is active rather than passive.

"Nevertheless, it is the language of emergency that dominates today. Local and national governments, in New Zealand and elsewhere, are being asked to declare climate emergencies. It contributes to a growing sense of urgency – which is no small thing. But how prudent is it to depend upon the same authorities who at least permitted, and at worst encouraged, the environmental crises that we face?

"Tellingly, New Zealand's climate emergencies don't look, sound or quack much like an emergency.

"Auckland Council, for example, unanimously agreed to six commitments. Yet none were binding and five began with the words: 'Continue to...' Only the sixth commitment – 'include climate change impact statements on all council committee reports' – was additional to business as usual. Must we declare an emergency for such a basic bureaucratic win? .....



Auckland Mayor Phil Goff and the Auckland Council declared a climate emergency around the same time as welcoming Costo wholesaler coming to Auckland. Image / Rod Emmerson

"Revolutions, on the other hand, promise that 'an entirely new story, a story never known or told before, is about to unfold' (in the words of Hannah Arendt). This captures the scale of change that lies ahead. ....

"But history is not destiny. Our challenge is to move forward with care as well as haste. Urgency should never be an excuse to suspend our duty of care to others.

"The best-known example of this style of thinking is the 'just transition', which treats justice, equity and inclusiveness as integral to planning worker transitions from high- to low-emission industries.

"Disruption is inevitable as regulations bite, new technologies scale up, and investment patterns shift. But a just transition ushers workers toward new opportunities for creating value, which this revolution – like earlier revolutions – will bring.

"This spirit of care is needed across the board: ....

"Ultimately, revolutions only endure if they enjoy the support of the people. That takes care, both for the world we want to protect, and for the people we're protecting it for.

**More:**

[www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=12248570](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12248570) [paywall] plus

[www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/afternoons/audio/2018703504/climate-change-the-revolution](http://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/afternoons/audio/2018703504/climate-change-the-revolution) includes 12' 59"

interview, and <https://www.bwb.co.nz/books/careful-revolution>

Edited by David Hall and

<https://news.aut.ac.nz/around-aut-news/how-should-we-tackle-the-climate-crisis>

*A Careful Revolution: Towards a low-emissions future* has eleven chapters written by eleven experts and edited by Dr David Hall from AUT's The Policy Observatory. ....

**Source:** *NZ Herald*, page A25, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019. 

## Superhome Tour Christchurch 2019

"Come and view NZ's most healthy and energy efficient Superhomes.

"Homes online including virtual tours.

"Home addresses will be released online 22 July.

"Get your hands on an *Abode* magazine for your July tour guide.

"Homes are ONLY OPEN during the specified times and dates.

**When/Where:** 11:00 – 4:00pm Sat and Sun 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July, Christchurch

**More:** [www.superhome.co.nz/events/superhome-tour-christchurch-2019/](http://www.superhome.co.nz/events/superhome-tour-christchurch-2019/) for registration. Plus much more at [www.superhome.co.nz/](http://www.superhome.co.nz/) including 'The Superhome Movement operates as a not-for profit organisation with a number of key activities centred around education and lobbying to support change in the New Zealand building industry. We need support from industry, academia, government, and the public. Get involved now and help us make a real difference in raising standards for healthier, more energy efficient homes.'

Also Regenerative Design workshops in Canterbury, Auckland, Wellington during August.

**Source:** *Christchurch Newsline*, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019. 

## Wave Energy, Bus Stops and Mattresses

"..... blue economy project developers Simply Blue Energy and CorPower have signed a strategic collaboration agreement aimed at delivering 'a significant number of' wave energy projects across the coasts of the UK and Ireland. Simply Blue Energy has identified a number of development areas suitable for commercial wave energy project deployment and, under the partnership, will have exclusive rights to use CorPower's technology in these zones.

"The collaboration will specifically investigate integrating floating wind farms with floating wave power, in a bid to help Simply Blue Energy achieve its vision of producing and exporting electricity from wave power in 2024. ....

"Dutch city of Utrecht, has seen 316 of the municipality's bus stop roofs replaced with alternatives which play host to wildflowers and grasses. Undertaken by the city's local council, the scheme aims to boost biodiversity – specifically by attracting bees - and reduce air pollution. The bus stops have also been fitted with rainwater capturing technology, energy-efficient lighting and bamboo benches.

"Utrecht already provides subsidies and support for households and businesses looking to install their own 'living roofs', but its council hopes the bus stop scheme will boost uptake. Moreover, it serves to highlight the city is targeting 'completely clean' public transport by 2028, starting with an order for 55 fully electric buses, due to be delivered later this year.

"With 7.5 million mattresses being sent to landfill or incineration in the UK every year, an early success story comes from Bensons for Beds, which this week revealed it had recycled almost 40,000 beds since the launch of its new take-back scheme 10 months ago, diverting more than 1,800 tonnes of mattresses from landfill. Under the scheme, bed bases are sent to be chipped into fuel for biomass facilities, while mattresses are sent to a specialist recycling bank for deconstruction. The textile components are separated ready for use in new mattresses, fashion and furnishings, while the springs are used in new mattresses or for tin pile production, depending on their condition. ...

**More:** [www.edie.net/news/7/Toyota-s-solar-Prius-and-bee-friendly-bus-stops--The-sustainability-success-stories-of-the-week/](http://www.edie.net/news/7/Toyota-s-solar-Prius-and-bee-friendly-bus-stops--The-sustainability-success-stories-of-the-week/)

**Source:** edie, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**Editor:** Potential for similar initiatives in New Zealand? 

## UN Expert Warns World Faces 'Climate Apartheid' Risk

"Climate change 'threatens to undo the last 50 years' of development, global health and poverty reduction, a United Nations expert has warned, citing the risk of a new era of "climate apartheid" where the rich buy their way out of rising heat and hunger.

"Even if current targets are met, tens of millions will be impoverished, leading to widespread displacement and hunger', said the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Professor Philip Alston.

"Underscoring climate change will have the greatest impact on the most vulnerable, he added 'it could push more than 120 million more people into poverty by 2030 and will have the most severe impact in poor countries, regions, and the places poor people live and work.'

"Even in the best-case scenario of a 1.5 degree Celsius temperature increase by 2100, extreme temperatures in many regions will leave disadvantaged populations food insecure, with less incomes and worsening health.

"Moreover, many will have to choose between starvation and migration, he said.

"Perversely, while people in poverty are responsible for just a fraction of global emissions, they will bear the brunt of climate change, and have the least capacity to protect themselves', Professor Alston flagged.

"We risk a 'climate apartheid' scenario where the wealthy pay to escape overheating, hunger and conflict while the rest of the world is left to suffer.' ....

**More:** <http://econews.com.au/61462/un-expert-warns-world-faces-climate-apartheid-risk/>

**Source:** *eco-News*, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019. 

## A Letter to the Future upon the Demise of a Glacier

"Iceland is mourning the loss of one of its famous glaciers, Okjökull Glacier, in an official memorial ceremony that will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> August. Following an 'Un-glacier tour' led by two Rice University anthropologists, the attendees will install a special plaque with a sombre inscription, 'a letter to the future', which will commemorate the sad occasion.

"The formerly-massive body of ice, commonly referred to simply as 'Ok glacier', lost its glacier status in 2014 after melting down to only 0.386 square miles, or 6.6% of its original 5.8 square miles, The Guardian reported. Scientists cite global warming as the cause of this change in the glacier's mass. The glacier is now categorised as something glaciologists call 'dead ice', which means the glacier has stopped moving and has melted down into a different type of terrain called moraine, an accumulation of clay, silt, sand and gravel. ...

**More:** <https://time.com/5631599/iceland-glacier-climate-change/> plus [www.newsweek.com/iceland-memorial-glacier-lost-climate-change-okjokull-1450691](http://www.newsweek.com/iceland-memorial-glacier-lost-climate-change-okjokull-1450691)

**Source:** *Carbon News*, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019. 

## A Carbon Emission Reduction Toolkit for Cities

"Are you wondering what your city or region can do to start to tackle Greenhouse Gas emissions and climate change? This article sets out twelve ways that are tried and tested and can get them on the way to reducing emissions. Some of the methods are quite easy to start, while others take more planning. The best thing is that most of them also result in lower running costs through better efficiencies.

**More:** [www.energyts.com/single-post/2019/07/17/SnippETS-for-18-July-2019](http://www.energyts.com/single-post/2019/07/17/SnippETS-for-18-July-2019)

**Source:** *SnippETS*, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019. 

## How to Put Climate Change Financial Risks on the Books

"It appears the time has come for major companies – and their auditors – to get serious about assessing and disclosing climate-related financial risks. In September 2018, London-based environmental law firm ClientEarth reported four major UK businesses to the country's Financial Reporting Council (FRC) over alleged failures to address climate change trends and risks in their accounts to shareholders.

"ClientEarth's claims against budget airline giant EasyJet, infrastructure company Balfour Beatty, gas producer EnQuest and metals engineering firm Bodycote add to widespread investor pressure for companies with material exposure to climate change to account for it in their financial statements. The companies' auditors – PwC, KPMG, EY and Deloitte respectively – are also under scrutiny, with ClientEarth requesting an explanation from the Big Four as to why their clients' reports were deemed legally compliant.

"I think it's shocking companies still aren't getting to grips with the extent to which climate change has implications for their business', says ClientEarth lawyer Daniel Wiseman.

"The push for companies to disclose climate-related financial risks has gained serious momentum since mid-2017, when the G20 Financial Stability Board's Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) recommended a reporting framework for companies in sectors most likely to be affected by climate-related risk. ....

"Contact Energy is currently the only New Zealand-headquartered signatory. As New Zealand is not part of the G20, local regulators and business leaders have experienced less international pressure to become early adopters.

"Warren Allen, CEO of New Zealand's External Reporting Board, says more companies are expected to sign up following the introduction of the country's Zero Carbon Bill, which will establish an independent Climate Commission with the power to set emissions targets.

"I expect the Bill will draw much more attention to the responsibility of reporting on climate risk', Allen says. 'For companies with material exposure to climate risk, such as the big carbon emitters, we've possibly not seen enough disclosure to date.' ...

"Peach expects change may be incremental to start with, but will gain momentum rapidly. 'My message to accountants is this is a great opportunity to get out into the business and talk to people about this, gather and use data to gain some clarity on the real impacts, and start the lines of communication', she says. ....

**More:** [www.acuitymag.com/finance/how-companies-put-climate-change-financial-risks-on-the-books](http://www.acuitymag.com/finance/how-companies-put-climate-change-financial-risks-on-the-books)

**Source:** *Acuity Newsletter*, CA ANZ, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**Editor:** Issues illustrated via three case studies. 

## Creating Our Living Future - Updates and Stories from Aotearoa and the World!

"The Living Building Challenge and Regenerative Development are critical to help us evolve and sustain life in our communities and cities and the planet. Join us in person or remotely by Zoom link.

"This event is an opportunity to re-connect with your colleagues and network with like minded change agents to hear all the news on how Living Future, the Living Building Challenge and Regenerative Development are transforming our world in Aotearoa NZ and globally. ...

**When/Where:** 5.00 – 8:30pm, Tues, 30<sup>th</sup> July, Auckland

**More:** [www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/creating-our-living-future-celebration-amanda-sturgeon-ce-iffi-tickets-61743205590](http://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/creating-our-living-future-celebration-amanda-sturgeon-ce-iffi-tickets-61743205590)

**Source:** Our Living Future, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019. 

## Adopting a Restorative Strategy

"It's been reported that a regenerative approach to forests, water and land can represent a 30% of carbon savings by 2030. Companies are realising one cost-effective way of tackling the climate crisis is by restoring and protecting the biodiversity of the planet.

"We've just produced a management briefing on Restorative Climate Strategy, where companies explain what nature-based strategies are implementing to tackle climate change. Key learnings include:

- Path to a Restorative Economy
- Integration of natural capital in the supply chain
- The capacity of soil to absorb CO2 emissions
- The power of communities to fight climate change
- Companies innovative approaches

**More:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ethical-corporation/> 28 pages, 3.98Mb

**Source:** Ethical Corp, via *ReportAlert*, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**Editor:** Packed with excellent content including material pertinent to farmers, foresters and others. 

## Finance Culture Practical Examples

"Following the launch of the *A4S Essential Guide to Finance Culture*, we are now releasing practical examples from seven companies. Each example shows how the organisations involved are creating a culture within their finance teams which promotes sustainable decision-making.

"On the launch of the examples Helen Slinger, Executive Director, A4S said 'Our *Finance Culture Practical Examples*, which draw on the experiences of our CFO Leadership Network and beyond, show the scale of what can be achieved when the teams have the right culture for long-term success. The case studies show how finance teams can change, but also what this can enable.'....

**More:** [www.accountingsustainability.org/en/knowledge-hub/case-studies/finance-culture-practical-examples.html](http://www.accountingsustainability.org/en/knowledge-hub/case-studies/finance-culture-practical-examples.html) 17 pages, 1.77Mb

**Source:** A4S, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019. 

## Forget Shorter Showers

"One of our most-read essays of all time, 'Forget Shorter Showers' by Derrick Jensen turns ten years old this week.

"WOULD ANY SANE PERSON think dumpster diving would have stopped Hitler, or that composting would have ended slavery or brought about the eight-hour workday, or that chopping wood and carrying water would have gotten people out of Tsarist prisons, or that dancing naked around a fire would have helped put in place the Voting Rights Act of 1957 or the Civil Rights Act of 1964? Then why now, with all the world at stake, do so many people retreat into these entirely personal "solutions"?"

"Part of the problem is that we've been victims of a campaign of systematic misdirection. Consumer culture and the capitalist mindset have taught us to substitute acts of personal consumption (or enlightenment) for organised political resistance. *An Inconvenient Truth* helped raise consciousness about global warming. But did you notice all of the solutions presented had to do with personal consumption – changing light bulbs, inflating tires, driving half as much – and had nothing to do with shifting power away from corporations, or stopping the growth economy that is destroying the planet? Even if every person in the United States did everything the movie suggested, U.S. carbon emissions would fall by only 22%. Scientific consensus is emissions must be reduced by at least 75% worldwide. Or let's talk water. ....

**More:** <https://orionmagazine.org/article/forget-shorter-showers/>

**Source:** *Orion Magazine*, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019. 