

Sustainability Matters

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Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

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The Eight Principles of a Regenerative Economy

"In 2015, John Fullerton wrote *Regenerative Capitalism*, a paper which describes eight principles which could underpin a new economic system – one which delivers shared prosperity on a thriving planet. In the paper, he writes,

The universal patterns and principles the cosmos uses to build stable, healthy, and sustainable systems throughout the real world can and must be used as a model for economic-system design.

"Below are Natural Capitalism Solutions' interpretation of the eight principles. We share the original text of each principle, describe how it shows up in nature, how it shows up in business, and what an individual can do to embody it and bring it more to life in the world. Our hope is these bring the principles to life so that we can all take part in transforming economic systems to ones that are healthy for people and the planet.

"What You Can Do: Balance is a theme which runs through each of the Regenerative Principles. Things simply work better when they are in balance. Consider things in your own life which feel out of balance and look for ways to restore equilibrium. Support businesses, policies, and politicians which aim to restore balance and help create systems which deliver shared prosperity on a thriving planet.

More: <https://natcapsolutions.org/regenerative-economics-101/> plus www.capitalinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/2015-Regenerative-Capitalism-4-20-15-final.pdf 120 pages, 2.47Mb

Source: Hunter Lovins, 8th August 2019.

Climate Change: 12 years to Save the Planet? Make that 18 months

"Do you remember the good old days when we had '12 years to save the planet'?

"Now it seems, there's a growing consensus the next 18 months will be critical in dealing with the global heating crisis, among other environmental challenges.

"Last year, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported to keep the rise in global temperatures below 1.5C this century, emissions of carbon dioxide would have to be cut by 45% by 2030.

"But today, observers recognise the decisive, political steps to enable the cuts in carbon to take place will have to happen before the end of next year.

"The idea that 2020 is a firm deadline was eloquently addressed by one of the world's top climate scientists, speaking back in 2017.

"The climate math is brutally clear: While the world can't be healed within the next few years, it may be fatally wounded by negligence until 2020', said Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, founder and now director emeritus of the Potsdam Climate Institute.

"The sense the end of next year is the last chance saloon for climate change is becoming clearer all the time.

More: www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-48964736

Source: Avaaz, 20th August 2019.

Changing the Narrative: Why Paying Tax Should Be a Badge of Pride for Companies

"With three-quarters of consumers saying they would prefer to buy from a company that pays its fair share of tax, Fair Tax Mark's Paul Monaghan says doing the right thing makes business sense. ...

"A common theme spanning all of those organisations accrediting is that the business leaders working within them tell us achieving the Fair Tax Mark standard is not only the right thing to do, but is good for business. Recent polling, which the Fair Tax Mark commissioned ICM to undertake, backs up the business leaders' thinking.

"The polling about people's attitude to tax has shown record levels of concern among the public about the use of tax avoidance practices by business in the UK. It also shows more people than ever before would change who they shop with to favour a business that is Fair Tax Mark certified.

"More than three quarters of people would rather shop with (77%) or work for (78%) a business which can prove it is paying its fair share of tax – in both cases, up 8% on 2018. An increasing number also said it was important to celebrate businesses which can demonstrate good tax conduct and shun the artificial use of tax havens and contrived tax avoidance practices, up 6% on 2018, to 75%.

"Building responsible tax conduct into both consumer and procurement behaviour is a twin-track approach towards developing a more responsible approach to the issue of tax here in the UK. It's time to change the narrative around tax: too often it's presented as a burden or a frustration a business must endure. We must instead present tax payments as a sign of success and a badge of pride, showing that an organisation is contributing to the vital public services all businesses and communities need to thrive.

More: www.ethicalcorp.com/changing-narrative-why-paying-tax-should-be-badge-pride-companies

Source: Ethical Corp, 30th August 2019.

ZEALANDIA Named One of TIME Magazine's Top 100 Greatest Places of 2019

"SBN member ZEALANDIA of Wellington has been named one of TIME Magazine's Top 100 Greatest Places of 2019. This kind of recognition shows what is possible when a community gets behind a wild and ambitious idea!

More: <https://time.com/collection/worlds-greatest-places-2019/5654152/zealandia-wellington-new-zealand/>

Source: SBN, 27th August 2019.

Sustainability Matters

helps you and others improve your world and the world of others; especially the world for tomorrow's children.

To help nourish the momentum – and your own stimulation! – consider making a donation to support the newsletter.

As a suggestion – NZ\$46. Invoices/GST receipts issued.

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Business Must Place Purpose before Profits, Top CEOs Urge

"The chief executives of more than 180 corporates have begun to lobby for other big businesses to stop maximising profits for shareholders at the expense of the environment or society.

"The call to action was made on Monday (19th August) in a new statement from the Business Roundtable – a collaborative, US-based organisation with 192 members, hailing from all major sectors and covering all states.

"Members of the Business Roundtable collectively control more than \$7trn in annual revenues, with their companies covering more than 15 million employees in the US and beyond.

"The new statement, which aims to define 'the purpose of a corporation', states the maximisation of profits for shareholders will no longer be sufficient for big business of the future to meet the demands of society, investors or the workforce.

"Instead, it argued corporates wishing to remain relevant in years to come must be 'meeting or exceeding customer expectations'; 'investing in employees', including by 'compensating them fairly and providing important benefits', as well as offering training and education so they can 'develop new skills for a rapidly changing world'; 'dealing fairly and ethically with our suppliers'; 'supporting the communities in which we work'; and 'generating long-term value for shareholders'.

"JPMorgan Chase's** chief executive Jamie Dimon, who chairs the Business Roundtable, said the declaration 'will help to set a new standard for corporate leadership' ...

More: www.edie.net/news/7/Business-must-place-purpose-before-profits--top-CEOs-urge/

Source: edie, 22nd August 2019

Editor: ** See a very different picture portrayed at www.ran.org/press-releases/rainforest-action-network-responds-to-jpmorgan-chase-climate-report/ e.g. 'It is completely two-faced of Chase to recognise climate change is a massive threat to the planet, while it shovels far more money into fossil fuels each year than any other bank.'

Colorado's Organic Farmland is Growing – and Boosting Incomes along the Way

"This is Part 3 of a 5-part blog series about regenerative economics in Colorado.

"Natural Capitalism Solutions is completing a 6-month process of research about the Colorado economy. Before we started, we suspected Colorado is already supported by industries of a more regenerative in nature – ones which do no harm to the planet, and even restore it, while simultaneously improving social wellbeing and economic prosperity.

"Our initial suspicions were correct. Colorado has many regenerative industries like outdoor recreation, arts and culture, and natural foods which support hundreds of thousands of jobs and contribute to Colorado's prosperity. This isn't common knowledge – which is why we're sharing these stories on our website. ...

"Another quickly growing sector is organic agriculture. Between 1997 and 2015, Colorado's organic farmland grew from 3,716 acres to over 151,000 acres – a total of a 4000% increase, and an over 220% average increase every year.

"This remarkable growth reflects an increasing demand from Coloradans, Americans, and others around the globe to know their food is grown chemical-free and with farming methods that are friendlier to surrounding ecosystems and wildlife.

More: <https://natcapsolutions.org/colorados-organic-farmland-is-growing/>

Source: Editor, 8th August 2019.

Concrete Solutions to Cut CO₂ Emissions

"Concrete is usually a good indicator of civilisation. As an inexpensive material, it has enabled cities to be built quickly and easily. Concrete, however, also has a huge carbon footprint, releasing massive amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere during its production.

"As we make moves to declare a 'climate emergency', how will we balance our city's need for growth with its need to reduce emissions?

"To put our demand for cement in perspective, the total amount of plastic produced on the planet since it was invented has been just more than eight billion tonnes, the same amount of cement is produced every two years. In 2016 alone, world cement production generated about 2.2 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide, more than 90% of which came from the process of making clinker – small grey balls which are ground down to form powdered cement.

"To compare this to other well-known polluters, making cement is responsible for about 8% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions. This is much more than common climate enemy aviation fuel, which sits at 2.5%, and only just behind the global agriculture sector, which is at 12%.

"While the perfect solution has still not been found, the building industry should probably be pushed as much as our agriculture industry has been to think up new ways to cope with our increasing need for city infrastructure while still reducing our overall global emissions.

More:

www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12257267

Source: NZ Herald, 10th August, page A8

Editor: There are also the substantial adverse impacts arising from the acquisition of sand and aggregate.

Energy Efficiency Key Action to Meet Renewable Energy Goals

"EECA modelling shows [NZ] nationwide uptake of energy efficient technology could significantly reduce the cost of meeting New Zealand's ambitious renewable electricity goals.

"The study [*Energy Efficiency First: The Electricity Story*] shows the savings from system wide uptake of modern technologies like LEDs, heat pumps, energy efficient water heating and electric motors could provide the system with the equivalent of 4,000 GWh of extra capacity, before any new renewable generation would be required.

"EECA's Chief Executive Andrew Caseley says the usual mind set is to build more renewable generation, but investment in energy efficient technology is often overlooked.

"Energy efficient technology is a key solution hiding in plain sight. Mass uptake of these technologies would lead to significant electricity demand reduction and savings in factories, buildings and houses, so they would effectively play the same role as new renewable capacity.'

More: www.eeca.govt.nz/resources-and-tools/research-publications-and-resources/climate-change/ plus www.eeca.govt.nz/assets/Resources-EECA/research-publications-resources/EECA-Energy-Efficiency-First-Overview.pdf 29 pages 17th July 2019

Source: Editor 6th August 2019

Editor: Page 4: EECA's analysis finds the average generation equivalent cost of implementing electricity efficiency measures is significantly lower than the cheapest currently available renewable generation technologies, with electricity efficiency measures costing \$15–50/MWh compared to new generation at \$60–75/MWh.

The electricity technologies considered are mature, readily available and are being adopted globally.

A Dedicated Watchdog for Water Quality

"The systemic failure of water suppliers to meet the standards required to ensure the safe supply of drinking water to New Zealanders is highlighted by the fact that an estimated 34,000 people across the country become ill from their drinking water every year. Many thousands must boil their water to drink it safely.

"In May, the Three Waters Review completed its targeted stakeholder engagement programme relating to regulatory proposals for water.

"In line with one of the Inquiry's key recommendations, Cabinet has now agreed to establish a dedicated water regulator which will ensure New Zealanders can have confidence their drinking water is demonstrably safe", says Minister of Health, Dr David Clark.

"Key features from the announcement include:

- A dedicated water regulator
- A new Water Services Bill
- Extending regulatory coverage to all water suppliers, except individual household self-suppliers
- strengthened Government stewardship of wastewater and stormwater services, with Regional Councils remaining primary regulators for the environment
- Transitional arrangements of up to five years to allow water suppliers to adjust to the regulations, if necessary with support from the new regulator.

"These proposals, featuring the new regulator and regulations, aim to ensure coherent, safe drinking water supplies with additional oversight of wastewater and stormwater services.

More: www.beehive.govt.nz/release/dedicated-watchdog-water-quality plus www.dia.govt.nz/Three-Waters-Review

Source: *Tieke: ECO Alerts & Events*, 7th August 2019. 

What's your 2040?

"The New Zealand International Film Festival showcased an Australian film documenting an inspiring vision of the future. This movie is still showing in New Zealand. See *2040* at a cinema near you.

"Director Damon Gameau travels the world in search of technologies and practices that will reduce our dependence on carbon, pull people out of poverty and help create a better 2040.

"In this exercise in 'fact-based dreaming' Gameau explores 'only technologies and practices which currently exist and examines what the future would look like if we really embraced these solutions today.

"His journey takes us from regenerative farming practices in rural Australia – with supporting evidence that we can continue with agriculture, to a Bangladeshi village powered by off the grid home solar systems – the electricity stored and shared with whole neighbourhoods; from marine permaculture experiments with seaweed in Woods Hole, United States, to an on-demand autonomous electric vehicle in New York City.

"Guided by expert commentary from Kate Raworth, author of *Doughnut Economics*, and Paul Hawken, founder of Project Drawdown, he zooms forward to 2040 to see how these technologies and practices could improve energy, transport, food production and more, to create a better 2040 for our planet's future.

"At *What's your 2040?* you can activate your own plan and browse articles of those who have.

More: <https://whatsyour2040.com/about/> plus www.madmanfilms.com.au/2040film/

Source: *Tieke: ECO Alerts & Events*, 28th August 2019. 

Sustainability Leadership in a Changing World

"SBC is launching its 2020 Sustainability Leaders Programme, called Sustainability leadership in a changing world.

"Issues like climate change, biodiversity loss and the future of work are shaping up to be some of the greatest opportunities and challenges for business in our lifetime. The programme, delivered in partnership with Catapult, will help develop the critical skills and thinking businesses need to navigate these complex issues.

Applications close: 30th Oct. Non SBC members can apply.

More: www.sbc.org.nz/our-work/sustainable-leadership/sustainability-leadership-programme plus <https://catapult.co.nz/developing-leaders/sustainability-leadership-programme/>

Source: *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 29th August 2019

Editor: This is a leadership programme. It is not about learning technical skills for how to deal with sustainability issues. 

A-CSEAR 2019 Conference

"A-CSEAR aims to foster a supportive and inclusive community of emerging and established scholars investigating research on the social and environmental aspects of accounting theory and practice. The annual A-CSEAR conference provides an international forum in which to showcase this work and to foster much needed interdisciplinary research in accounting. ...

"The theme of the conference is 'Rebuilding trust through transparency'. The last decade has seen a loss of faith in business, government and even non-government organisations despite greater transparency provided by technology and big data. The conference seeks a conversation around culture, values and trust, against a backdrop of community scepticism towards organisations and with 2018 being marked by corporate scandals and governance failings, as highlighted by the Royal Commission in Australia. The conference will also explore key challenges facing our society and economy today including climate change, sustainability, digital disruption, modern slavery, among others.

When/Where: 11th – 13th December 2019, Sydney

More: www.business.unsw.edu.au/campaigns/a-csear-2019-conference#conferenceprogram

Source: Maria Balatbat, 21st August 2019. 

SBN Leadership in Sustainable Business Course 2019

"This course SBN is designed and presented by our team of sustainable business experts. It includes guest presenters from business and academia and is built on 15+ years' experience enabling sustainable business in Aotearoa. ...

"Extensively redesigned for 2019 you will learn to:

- Identify key sustainability issues relevant to NZ business.
- Use sustainability tools and build strategy that leads to business success whilst ensuring people and nature prosper.
- Understand how values influence & affect your business.
- Engage in te ao Māori concepts for business and environment.
- Use neuroscience concepts to influence, collaborate and create real, lasting change.

"Six face-to-face intensives, backed with a host of ongoing support and resources:

When/Where: 25-26 Sept (Waiheke Island), then 16-17 Oct (Ponsonby), and 14-15 Nov (GridAKL). All 9:00-17:00

More: <https://sustainable.org.nz/sustainable-business-events/sbn-leadership-in-sustainable-business-course-2019/>

Source: SBN, 22nd August 2019. 

A Zero Carbon Christchurch

"Sustainable Business Network and Enviro-Mark Solutions invite you to a collaborative conference to explore what a Zero Carbon Christchurch means for your business.

"You'll learn about the opportunities and implications of the impending Zero Carbon Amendment, how your team can identify, develop and deliver sustainability initiatives within and outside of your organisation and how to integrate SDGs into your business.

"We will expand the boundaries of this conference by engaging on a mid-day adventure with a choice of three unique destinations, and reconvene for the last learnings of the day - visions of a zero carbon Christchurch, employing a pecha kucha presentation to energise our evening.

"And finally, we will network over some delicious drinks and nibbles.

When/Where: 8:00-6:00pm, Fri, 11th October, Christchurch

More: www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/a-zero-carbon-christchurch-tickets-69383240139

Source: Bronwyn Cook, Enviro-Mark Solutions, 27th Aug. 

Toitū te Ao – Sustainability Week

"Victoria University of Wellington is New Zealand's number one university for research quality and at the forefront of tackling national and global sustainability issues—not least the threat of climate change.

"Toitū te Ao—Sustainability Week is your opportunity to learn more about our researchers' discoveries and innovative ideas towards improving the social, environmental, and economic wellbeing of the world around us. Sustainability Week will also feature guest speakers such as Rt Hon. Helen Clark and School Strike 4 Climate national coordinator Sophie Handford.

"Speakers will discuss a range of topics, including what a more sustainable economy might look like and the role of mātauranga Māori, being a sustainable citizen, and how to delete unnecessary energy-draining data clogging up the cloud.

"We will also host a free screening of the documentary *2040* followed by a panel discussion, and for 'speed-dating the future' 10 of our researchers will share three-minute presentations about their transformative sustainable thinking.

When/Where: 9–13 September, various venues; Wellington

More: www.victoria.ac.nz/sustainability/sustainability-week

Source: SBC Weekly Pānui, 29th August 2019

Editor: Includes launch of the University's programme to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. 

A Northwest Passage Journey Finds Little Ice and Big Changes

"Arctic correspondent Ed Struzik joins a voyage through the Northwest Passage and witnesses a world being transformed, with ice disappearing, balmy temperatures becoming common, and alien invaders – from plastic waste to new species moving in from the south – on the rise. Struzik, who has spent four decades reporting on the Far North, travels with scientists aboard the Swedish icebreaker *Oden*, on an 18-day, 2,000-nautical-mile journey through ice-free waters that historically had been ice-bound during the summer months. What they see, he writes, provides an 'unsettling reminder that the region has gone well beyond a climate change tipping point.' Read his report and see photos from the trip.

More: <https://e360.yale.edu/features/a-northwest-passage-journey-finds-little-ice-and-big-changes>

Source: *Yale Environment 360*, 30th August 2019. 

In Ecuador, One Man's Mission to Restore a Piece of the Rainforest

"We present the second-place winner in the 2019 Yale Environment 360 Video Contest: *'7 Hectares Back'* This [9:43] documentary, by filmmakers Dorota and Robert Migas-Mazur, tells the story of Omar Tello, a former bank accountant who has dedicated his life to restoring a small piece of Ecuador's lost Amazonian rainforest. 'What we're doing now to preserve nature isn't enough', Tello says. 'We should plant the forests we destroyed and give back what we took from the world. The same nature that was stolen.'

More: <https://e360.yale.edu/features/in-ecuador-one-mans-mission-to-restore-a-piece-of-the-rainforest>

Source: *Yale Environment 360*, 9th August 2019

Editor: Applies also to New Zealand and elsewhere. 

Biodiversity Risks and Opportunities: Corporate Sector Approaches

"According to the *Summary for Policy Makers*, which preceded the publication of the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, the biggest causes of biodiversity loss are: land conversion (including deforestation); direct exploitation of organisms e.g. through overfishing, hunting, and poaching; climate change; pollution and invasive alien species.

"SustainAbility conducted a brief analysis focusing on five sectors, to identify the risks declining biodiversity poses to these sectors and what companies can do to address biodiversity. This is not exhaustive but is meant to represent some of those most potent risks and opportunities unique to each sector. For example, in all sectors the physical presence of corporate offices, manufacturing plants, data centres, fleets, etc. can affect biodiversity where a company operates; however, this is applicable to any business in any sector so is not a focus here. We give examples of companies in each sector which have a goal or initiative supporting biodiversity and hope these analyses and examples help make the connection to biodiversity more concrete for sustainability practitioners across these sectors. ...

More: <https://radar.sustainability.com/issue-21/biodiversity-risks-and-opportunities-corporate-sector-approaches/>

Source: SustainAbility, 30th August 2019. 

Investor Water Toolkit

"The Investor Water Toolkit is the first-ever comprehensive resource to evaluate and act on water risks in investment portfolios. This 'how-to' guide includes links to resources, databases, case studies and other tools for all investors to use, from pension funds to endowments to asset managers. The Toolkit was developed in collaboration with more than 40 institutional investors from across the globe and is the ultimate resource on water integration written for investors by investors.

"By 2030, demand for water is expected to exceed supply by 40%; yet, every business in the world relies on water, and 663 million – every one in ten people – already live without access to safe water globally. Some regions, like East Asia, the Middle East and Central Africa, could see as much as a 6% contraction in GDP by 2050 due to water-related impacts on agriculture, health, and incomes. These water-related risks to business have multiple material impacts for investors, from underperformance of investments to increasing volatility and risks across entire asset classes. [Page 5]

More: www.ceres.org/resources/toolkits/investor-water-toolkit
www.ceres.org/sites/default/files/reports/Ceres_InvestWaterToolkit.pdf 62 pages, 2.27Mb

Source: Ceres, 29th August 2019.

Editor: Plenty of resources – useful for others in addition to the primarily audience i.e. fund managers. 