

Sustainability Matters

Compiled and published by Ray Skinner, FCA

Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

3rd October 2019



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Choices Made Now Are Critical for the Future of Our Ocean and Cryosphere

"The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report highlights the urgency of prioritizing timely, ambitious and coordinated action to address unprecedented and enduring changes in the ocean and cryosphere.

"The report reveals the benefits of ambitious and effective adaptation for sustainable development and, conversely, the escalating costs and risks of delayed action.

"The ocean and the cryosphere – the frozen parts of the planet – play a critical role for life on Earth. A total of 670 million people in high mountain regions and 680 million people in low-lying coastal zones depend directly on these systems. Four million people live permanently in the Arctic region, and small island developing states are home to 65 million people.

"Global warming has already reached 1°C above the pre-industrial level, due to past and current greenhouse gas emissions. There is overwhelming evidence this is resulting in profound consequences for ecosystems and people. The ocean is warmer, more acidic and less productive. Melting glaciers and ice sheets are causing sea level rise, and coastal extreme events are becoming more severe.

"The IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, approved on 24th September 2019 by the 195 IPCC member governments, provides new evidence for the benefits of limiting global warming to the lowest possible level – in line with the goal that governments set themselves in the 2015 Paris Agreement. Urgently reducing greenhouse gas emissions limits the scale of ocean and cryosphere changes. Ecosystems and the livelihoods that depend on them can be preserved ...

"More than 100 authors from 36 countries assessed the latest scientific literature related to the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate for the report, referencing about 7,000 scientific publications. ...

"Major changes in high mountains affecting downstream communities

"Melting ice, rising seas....

"More frequent extreme sea level events

"Changing ocean ecosystems

"Declining Arctic sea ice, thawing permafrost

"Knowledge for urgent action

More: www.ipcc.ch/2019/09/25/srocc-press-release/ plus www.ipcc.ch/srocc/download-report/ Summary for Policy Makers 1,170pages, 39Mb The introduction and summary of observed changes and impacts comprise 42 pages and <http://econews.com.au/62384/un-climate-report-warns-cut-emissions-to-avert-catastrophic-sea-level-rise/>

Source: Editor 27th September 2019. 

The Climate Crisis: Justice, Emotion and Social Change

When/Where: 6 weeks starting 30th Oct, Victoria Uni, Wgtn

More: <https://ce.victoria.ac.nz/courses/691-the-climate-crisis-justice-emotion-and-social-change>

Source: Continuing Education, VUW, 30th Sept. 2019. 

What Love Looks Like

"FROM THE MOMENT I HEARD about Bidder #70 raising his paddle inside a BLM auction to outbid oil and gas companies in the leasing of Utah's public lands, I recognised Tim DeChristopher as a brave, creative citizen-activist. That was on December 19, 2008, in Salt Lake City. Since that moment, Tim has become a thoughtful, dynamic leader of his generation in the climate change movement. While many of us talk about the importance of democracy, Tim has put his body on the line and is now paying the consequences.

"On 2nd March, 2011, Tim DeChristopher was found guilty on two felony charges for violation of the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act and for making false statements. He refused to entertain any type of plea bargain. On 26th July 2011, he was sentenced to two years in a federal prison with a \$10,000 fine, followed by three years of supervised probation. Minutes before receiving his sentence, Tim DeChristopher delivered an impassioned speech from the courtroom floor. At the end of the speech, he turned toward Judge Dee Benson, who presided over his trial, looked him in the eye, and said, 'This is what love looks like.' Minutes later, he was placed in handcuffs and briskly taken away.

"TERRY: I think that's so true.

"TIM: And that's what I thought I was doing at the auction — doing something unreasonable.

"TERRY: Rather than just standing outside with placards, you came inside.

"TIM: To make the people standing outside with placards look reasonable.

"TERRY: Which was Earth First!'s tactic early on, right?

"TIM: Yeah.

"TERRY: You know, with Breyten Breytenbach, going back to that comment, 'You Americans have mastered the art of living with the unacceptable', my next question to him was, 'So what do we do?' And he said, 'Support people on the margins.' Because it's from the margins that the centre is moved.

"TIM: Yeah, that margin — that's the feather. I mean, with climate change, the centre is this balancing point between the climate scientists on one side saying, 'This is what needs to be done', and ExxonMobil on the other. And so the centre is always going to be less than what's required for our survival.

More: <https://orionmagazine.org/article/what-love-looks-like/>

Source: Orion, 27th September 2019

Editor: Long interview plus many comments. 

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ASB Bank, Queen Street branch, Auckland.

Loophole Threatening Zero Carbon Bill

"A huge legal loophole allows high-emitting projects to ignore climate.

"Congratulations to all those who made submissions on the Minerals and Petroleum Bill. But we need to do a follow-up – urgently!

"Many of you will have pointed out in your submission a glaring danger to the effectiveness of the Zero Carbon Bill. Two clauses in the Resource Management Act, 104E and 70A, prevent climate change being taken into consideration when people and organisations apply for resource consents.

"Please write urgently to Environment Minister David Parker asking him to get rid of these clauses by including them in the changes to the RMA that he is about to introduce to Parliament. david.parker@parliament.govt.nz

"For more information on this important issue, read Jeanette Fitzsimons's article in Friday's Newsroom. You will find it at this link:

More: www.newsroom.co.nz/2019/09/20/817714/the-unknown-loophole-that-could-stymie-zero-carbon-bill plus www.lawsociety.org.nz/practice-resources/practice-areas/environmental-law/the-zero-carbon-bill-a-framework-for-new-zealands-climate-change-journey

Source: Our Climate Declaration, 22nd September 2019. 

ESG Reporting Uptake in S&P/NZX 50 Index and Investor Perspective 2019

"The global push for greater transparency on environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance is a 'showcase opportunity' for New Zealand businesses and brands – revealed in a report released today by NZX and Wright Communications.

"ESG Reporting Uptake in S&P/NZX 50 Index & Investor Perspective 2019 examines the most recent annual reports and sustainability reports of New Zealand's 50 largest listed companies.

"The Report shows, increasingly, New Zealand companies with a high exposure to offshore investors and customers are moving to disclose and discuss their approach to sustainability and how they are managing ESG risks – and opportunities.

"While most large listed companies disclose internal measures such as gender balance and internal initiatives to reduce carbon emissions, few disclose in detail their impact on the environment or address the long-term risk of climate change to their business', she said.

"Of the 50 companies in the S&P/NZX50 at the end of May 2019, 42 reported on social metrics such as employee gender diversity but only 28 acknowledged climate change. Most companies did not use a recognised framework or structure for their ESG reporting – 17 used the Global Reporting Initiative and five followed the Integrated Reporting framework.

"Mr Peterson says, in the global context, New Zealand companies are underselling what really matters – they are doing great things, but they forget to show measures and effectively talk about it'....

"However, we strongly believe that New Zealand companies are lagging well behind their peers in Europe, North America and Australia when it comes to acknowledging and reporting on their exposure to environmental and social risks.

More: <https://wrightcommunications.co.nz/news/esg-report-reveals-showcase-opportunity-for-new-zealand-businesses/> plus <https://wrightcommunications.co.nz/media/2621/esg-reporting-uptake-in-sp-nzx-50-index-and-investor-perspective-2019.pdf> 40 pages, 4.0Mb

Source: *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 26th September 2019. 

Talking About Climate Change with Your Kids

"Stuff has published a useful guide to talking about climate change with young people in a way that shows how serious the situation is, without scaring them witless, including helpful comment from Professor Marc Wilson at Victoria University of Wellington.

More: www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/114476215/lessons-in-catastrophe-how-schools-can-help-take-the-fear-out-of-climate-change

Source: *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 12th September 2019. 

Five Ways UK Farmers are Tackling Climate Change

"The way we farm our land is also changing quickly. For example, using small electric robots to replace some of the functions a diesel tractor would do (less emissions), by feeding and weeding as well as monitoring soil health. Drones are also being used to map fields to determine exact patterns of moisture, weeds and pests and optimise chemical use. More trees are being planted to sequester carbon and prevent soil erosion, and to generally be better custodians of the land.

More: www.bbc.com/news/uk-49044072

Source: *SnippETS*, 26th September 2019. 

Interim Climate Change Committee Calls for Evidence

"The independent Interim Climate Change Committee has launched an eight-week, nationwide call for evidence on options available to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"The Interim Committee, as part of its Terms of Reference, is running the call for evidence as foundation work for the proposed Climate Change Commission.

"The Interim Climate Change Committee has been established as a precursor to the future Climate Change Commission, expected to be established in late 2019 under the Zero Carbon Bill. The Bill provides a framework to help New Zealand deliver on the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

"A key part of the proposed Commission's work will be to advise the Government on emissions budgets. Emissions budgets set the total emissions of all greenhouse gases permitted in the relevant budget period. The Government will set emissions budgets based on the proposed Commission's advice.

Close: Friday 15th November 2019.

More: www.iccc.mfe.govt.nz/our-news/updates-from-the-chair/call-for-evidence-open/ plus www.iccc.mfe.govt.nz/what-we-do/call-for-evidence/

Source: *Carbon News*, 25th September 2019. 

Air Travel Emissions 'Worse than Anyone Expected', Vastly Outpace Predictions

"According to new research greenhouse gas emissions from commercial air travel are growing at a faster rate than predicted in previous, already dire, projections, which has put pressure on airline regulators to take stronger action as they met for a summit in Montreal.

"The United Nations aviation body forecasts airplane emissions of carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas, will reach just over 900 million tonnes in 2018, and then triple by 2050.

"However, the new research, from the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT), found emissions from global air travel may be increasing more than 1.5 times as fast as the United Nations estimate. ...

More: <http://econews.com.au/62411/air-travel-emissions-worse-than-anyone-expected-vastly-outpace-predictions/>

Source: *eco-News*, 1st October 2019. 

New Masters Degree Tackles Urgent Issue of Sustainability

"A new Massey University master's degree framed around the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals is set to empower graduates to tackle some of the most urgent issues facing humanity.

"Programme coordinator Professor Regina Scheyvens says sustainability is 'perhaps the most pressing imperative facing humanity' and is addressed head-on by the creation of the Master of Sustainable Development Goals.

"Professor Scheyvens, who leads the Development Studies programme in the School of People, Environment and Planning, says the degree represents a cross-university collaboration to address the three main elements of the UN's sustainable development goals – ecological, societal and economic. It also presents a unique opportunity to showcase Pacific and Indigenous concepts of sustainability as alternatives to dominant western models, she says.

"The degree will focus on implementing the goals, in particular how to measure an organisation, community or country's performance against the goals and how to work with others to achieve more sustainable outcomes. It is aimed at recent graduates looking for work-ready skills in sustainability and professionals from diverse backgrounds thinking about a career change.

More: www.massey.ac.nz/massey/about-massey/news/article.cfm?mnarticle_uuid=6332716B-916A-4898-B3EF-D70217E3A571

Source: *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 12th September 2019. 🌱

The National Product Stewardship Roadshow

"Boost your business with a product take back scheme.

"Purchasers are demanding: 'What shall I do with this at the end of its life?'

"New disposal rules are on the way for more and more products.

"Find out how you can meet the challenge by setting up a voluntary product stewardship scheme, with a focus on returning products for reprocessing.

"This workshop will show you how to:

- Give your customers 'end of life' solutions, not problems
- Respond to potential law changes
- Return valuable resources into your business

"We'll give you inside knowledge from successful businesses which are already doing this.

"You will leave with the right tools to establish your business' product stewardship potential, build a business case and begin the process.

"The focus of the campaign is on voluntary product stewardship schemes and we direct those businesses involved in the Government proposed priority products (tyres, electrical goods, agrichemicals, refrigerants and other GHG's, farm plastics, packaging) to make a submission on the Ministry for the Environments proposed priority products and priority product stewardship guidelines consultation document.

When/Where: - All 3:00 to 6:00pm. Auckland 22nd October, Tauranga: 24th October, Christchurch: 5th November, Dunedin: 6th November, Wellington: 7th November

More: <https://sustainable.org.nz/sustainable-business-events/the-national-product-stewardship-roadshow-auckland/>

Source: SBN, 19th September 2019. 🌱

Radical Joy for Hard Times: Finding Meaning and Making Beauty in Earth's Broken Places

"In a world devastated by human interaction and natural disaster – from clearcutting and fracking to extreme weather and urban sprawl – creating art, ritual, and even joy in wounded places is essential to our collective healing. When a beloved place is decimated by physical damage, many may hit the donate button or call their congressperson. But award-winning author Trebbe Johnson argues we need new methods for coping with these losses and invites readers to reconsider what constitutes 'worthwhile action'. She discusses real wounded places ranging from weapons-testing grounds at Eglin Air Force Base, to Appalachian mountain tops destroyed by mining. These stories, along with tools for community engagement – ceremony, vigil, apology, and the creation of art with on-site materials – show us how we can find beauty in these places and discover new sources of meaning and community.....

More: <https://orionmagazine.org/2019/09/radical-joy/> plus www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/576917/radical-joy-for-hard-times-by-trebbe-johnson/9781623172633/ and www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/41843833-radical-joy-for-hard-times

Source: Orion, 27th September 2019. 🌱

How to Lower Your Waste and Carbon Footprint

"Home and group study course goes nationwide

"The Future Living Skills community education programme is going free online and through council-subsidised courses, from this weekend.

"Future Living Skills is the new name and look for the Sustainable Living Programme, which has been run in participating councils for 18 years. Future Living Skills supports lifestyles that generate less carbon to the air, less waste to landfills and less pollution to rivers. ...

"Future Living Skills goes beyond reducing waste and protecting waterways. It helps you to understand lower-carbon living, in your travel and food choices and in how homes are designed or renovated', National Coordinator Rhys Taylor says. ...

"The website-distributed education materials will be now available on-line free anywhere in New Zealand, thanks to a grant from the Ministry for the Environment Waste Management Fund, as announced today [27th Sept.] Courses will continue to be available through councils that have driven the programme in their districts since 2001, and others are expected to follow suit.

"Associate Environment Minister Eugenie Sage launched the nationwide roll-out of Future Living Skills in Christchurch on Friday 27th September. ...

"To take effective action on reducing waste, protecting water and avoiding global warming's worst effects, we all need practical knowledge. Future Living Skills' website provides information that is informed by science and independent of commercial bias. In member council areas such as Christchurch and Dunedin where we run groups and classes, there is also the encouragement of learning and discussion with others, which is a strong motivator of action.' says Taylor.

"The Sustainable Living Education Trust, which runs the programme, will help councils to recruit and train facilitators and tutors,...

More: <https://sustainableliving.org.nz/>

Source: Rhys Taylor, 19th Sept 2019. 🌱

TCFD Good Practice Handbook

"The *TCFD Good Practice Handbook* is a supplement to the *TCFD Implementation Guide*, providing further clarity for companies that are seeking to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). By compiling real-world examples of good-practice, TCFD-aligned disclosure along with key, high-level takeaways for reporting companies, the handbook and guide jointly provide a framework for companies to more effectively communicate with investors about the financially material climate-related risks and opportunities they face.

More: www.sasb.org/knowledge-hub/tcfd-good-practice-handbook/ 3.54Mb, 50 pages. Sign-in required.

Source: SASB, 24th September 2019

Editor: [Page 4] This first TCFD-focused resource was well-received as evidenced by market feedback. Common across the feedback was overall support for additional practical TCFD-focused resources. Since we published the *TCFD Implementation Guide*, companies have continued to ask us for specific examples of effective TCFD reporting, who is doing it well, and how it compares across different geographies. This handbook aims to do just that – to tease out good practices from existing climate-related financial disclosures from across the G20. It is intended to be read alongside the *TCFD Implementation Guide*.

PS: No reference to either <IR>, or GRI. 

Legislation to Have Wellbeing 'Enshrined in Law' Introduced

"Legislation to have wellbeing as a central focus of governments to come was introduced to the Parliament on Wednesday [11th September].

"The bill, which Finance Minister Grant Robertson said aims to have wellbeing 'enshrined in law', was introduced after the successful delivery of this year's budget, which the government called the Wellbeing Budget.

"Achieving genuine and enduring change requires establishing a public sector and systems geared towards this new way of working", Robertson said. "Rather than measuring progress in purely economic terms, this government is committed to taking a broader approach to measuring New Zealand's progress. This includes fiscal policy, where we want to consider the wellbeing of our environment, people and communities, alongside existing macroeconomic and fiscal indicators."

"He said the Public Finance (Wellbeing) Amendment Bill achieves this goal by requiring the government to set and explain wellbeing objectives which will inform the development of budgets. The bill also requires Treasury to regularly report on New Zealand's wellbeing.

"We need to support long-term intergenerational wellbeing and build a more forward-looking, strategic focus into our budget process. We will always have a careful and close eye on our fiscal performance, but New Zealanders have told us that is not sufficient", Robertson said. "We'll keep the strengths of our current statutory fiscal requirements, and build on these with a wider framework. A budget must reflect the importance of the health of the people, the environment, and the communities."

Submissions close: Wednesday 30th October 2019.

More: www.nzlawyermagazine.co.nz/news/legislation-to-have-wellbeing-enshrined-in-law-introduced-266265.aspx plus <https://treasury.govt.nz/news-and-events/news/have-your-say-wellbeing-reporting-requirements>

Source: Tieke: *ECO Alerts & Events*, 25th September. 

Air New Zealand 2019 Sustainability Report

"We are excited to announce the Air New Zealand 2019 Sustainability Report has landed.

"Our company purpose since 2013 has been to supercharge New Zealand's success – socially, environmentally and economically. To achieve this means not only delivering strong financial results, but ensuring we are tackling the ongoing major social and environmental challenges of today.

"Key issues such as the climate crisis, waste reduction and advocating for diversity and inclusivity as an employer are top-of-mind here at Air New Zealand. Furthermore, we are focused on our role in helping to shape a sustainable local tourism industry, building mutually beneficial relationships with our suppliers and delivering the best customer-centric experience we can....

More: www.airnewzealand.co.nz/about-our-report plus https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c_id=3&objectid=12271624

Source: AirNZ, 26th September 2019

Editor: The report itself has not been independently verified nor explicitly linked to GRI, <IR>, or SDG's although there is reference to SDG's. Absent is an analysis of overall total carbon footprint. There also seems to be an aspiration to, for instance, increase the weight of air cargo transported as well as increasing passenger numbers thereby increasing the carbon footprint. 

Bezos: Amazon Is 'Done Being In the Middle of the Herd' on Climate Issues

"Amazon has announced a commitment to be net zero carbon across its businesses by 2040; if successful, the ecommerce giant will meet the Paris Agreement 10 years early. Founder and CEO Jeff Bezos says the company is 'done being in the middle of the herd on this issue' and plans to use its size and scale to 'make a difference'.

"Amazon's commitment comes as part of [Amazon initiated] The Climate Pledge, a joint movement with Global Optimism which calls on companies to join Amazon in its determination to reach net zero carbon a decade ahead of the Paris Accord's goal of 2050.

"Companies that sign The Climate Pledge agree to:

More: www.environmentalleader.com/2019/09/bezos-amazon-is-done-being-in-the-middle-of-the-herd-on-climate-issues/ plus <https://blog.aboutamazon.com/sustainability/the-climate-pledge>

Source: *Environmental Leader*, 20th September 2019. 

Dreaming of Sustainability in a Material World

"Author and Green Dreamer podcast host Kamea Chayne helps listeners dispel eco-anxiety and resist fast fashion by making environmentally conscious choices.

"We have to start thinking bigger, to recalibrate our measurements of what it means to live a good life, what success means, what abundance means, and to begin building those practices into our day-to-day lives."

"There is a path forward. What inspires me is the reminder that I am a part of nature. I am a part of this whole ecosystem. The same things that we need in order to thrive are the things that nature needs in order to thrive."

More: www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/09/partner-content-dreaming-sustainability-in-material-world/ including 5:52 video

Source: National Geographic, 18th September 2019. 

Global Pumped Energy Storage

"Energy Transition Hub researchers at ANU have completed [as of April 2019] a global atlas of 530,000 potential pumped hydro energy storage sites. The sites combined have a potential storage capacity of 22 million Gigawatt-hours (GWh) - which is about 100 times more than needed to support a global 100% renewable electricity grid.

"The significance of the work is there is an abundance of pumped hydro storage for balancing 100% renewable electricity in every part of the world. Pumped hydro comprises 97% of global storage because it is mature and low cost.

"The identified sites are outside national parks and are mostly closed-loop (not river-based). Each identified site comprises an upper and lower reservoir pair plus a hypothetical tunnel route between the reservoirs, and includes data such as latitude, longitude, altitude, head, slope, water volume, water area, rock volume, dam wall length, water/rock ratio, energy storage potential and approximate relative cost (categories A-E).

"Detailed zoomable maps and images showing the locations of the potential sites and technical details are available at

More: www.energy-transition-hub.org/news/global-pumped-energy-storage-atlas

Source: Editor 23rd September 2019

Editor: Maps include multiple sites in NZ which reminds me of while working in the Power Division of the then Ministry of Works in Wgtn in the mid-1960's sites were being considered by Engineer Eric Heine. 

Commit To Applying Natural Capital Thinking To Improve Organisational Decision Making

"In the build up to the crucial fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity which will take place in China in 2020, we are asking businesses to commit to apply natural capital thinking, to act upon the results to improve their decision making, and to conserve and enhance the natural capital upon which we all depend.

"Those businesses which sign this commitment, and act upon it, will be recognised as leaders in natural capital application, and as making a contribution to Business for Nature. Best practice will be published and promoted as inspiration for other businesses and governments.

More: <https://naturalcapitalcoalition.org/projects/business-for-nature/>

Source: Natural Capital Coalition, 26th September 2019. 

New Tools to Reduce Climate Impact of Freight

"Inspired by SBC's 2016 Guidelines, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development have released their own Smart Freight Procurement Guidelines to help organisations influence their freight and logistics supply chain to make a positive impact on reducing GHG

emissions and air pollutants. BSR's Sustainable Freight Procurement Framework complements the Guidelines

More: www.smartfreightcentre.org/en/news/new-sustainable-freight-procurement-tools-support-companies-to-reduce-climate-impact-from-freight/875/ plus www.clean-cargo.org/procurement-framework and www.sbc.org.nz/data/assets/pdf_file/0011/119783/Sustainable-procurement-guidelines-for-freight.pdf 15pages, 3.03Mb

Source: *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 12th September 2019. 

Coalition of 10,000 Farmers and Ranchers Call on Congress to Pass Green New Deal

"A coalition of nearly 10,000 farmers and ranchers on Wednesday [18th September] demanded that Congress support the Green New Deal.

"At a press conference on Capitol Hill and in a letter to lawmakers, farmers and ranchers from across the country said reducing fossil fuel emissions to net zero by 2030 is needed to sustain their livelihood and is achievable – but only with congressional support for large-scale reforms to the agricultural industry.

"We stand ready to help achieve all of these [Green New Deal] goals', wrote the coalition, led by the Sunrise Movement and Regeneration International. 'But we need Congress to work with us to develop food and agriculture policies that support climate-friendly organic and regenerative farming, ranching, and land-use practices.'

"Washington must shift its attention from the consolidated corporate agribusiness sector back to small family farms, the coalition said.

"We also ask that Congress stop subsidising monopolistic, extractive industrial agriculture practices which pollute the environment, produce unhealthy food, and disproportionately devastate rural communities and economies', reads the letter.

More: www.commondreams.org/news/2019/09/18/watch-coalition-10000-farmers-and-ranchers-call-congress-pass-green-new-deal

Source: Editor, 19th September 2019. 

A Circular Solution to Plastic Waste

"Plastics have delivered enormous societal benefits including providing product safety and enabling storage and complex transportation, among others. We produce some 350 million tons of plastics every year. The problem is we have been unable to manage the waste they create at a sustainable pace. About 250 million end up in landfills or the environment and 10 million in oceans.

"A rising awareness to limit plastic waste has risen across regulators, society and companies. Banning single-use plastics, establishing ambitious recycling targets, pushing for minimum recycled content quotas... All these actions have signaled the possibility of a rapid change in the status quo.

"However, the current solutions are insufficient and incomplete. There are at least seven major forms of plastics, each with its own chemical composition and purpose. About 50% of all plastic consumption is used for flexible packaging which is poor feedstock for recycling. Current recycling technologies require well-developed waste sorting and collection systems, which are present in only more mature markets. These factors complicate existing mechanical recycling efforts.

"Recently, new circular technologies like chemical recycling have emerged as feasible solutions not only to recycling low-value materials, like foils and blends, but also offering a real value proposition in remote areas and decentralised systems.

...

More: www.bcg.com/publications/2019/plastic-waste-circular-solution.aspx plus www.bcg.com/Images/BCG-A-Circular-Solution-to-Plastic-Waste-July-2019_tcm9-223960.pdf 30 pages, 1.14 MB

Source: Boston Consulting Group via Report Alert, 19th September 2019

Editor: Focus is on waste rather than on reducing use and with a focus on public sector interventions. 'Circular' is proposed as an interim measure. 

Holland Turns Hundreds of Bus Stops into Bee Stops As Gift To Honeybees

"The Dutch city of Utrecht has transformed hundreds of its bus stops into lush, bee-friendly havens which will help support pollinating populations.

"As bus stops are usually just a place for humans to sit and wait, most of them aren't particularly outstanding or attractive to look at.

"However, Utrecht council saw an opportunity in the structures and decided to have a revamp in order to give them a whole new wholesome purpose.

"The city, located in the central Netherlands, now has 316 bus stops with rooftops covered in greenery.

"The additions not only make the bus stops look nicer but they help to capture fine dust and store rainwater. One of the biggest benefits of the succulents, however, is they help support the city's biodiversity, such as honey bees and bumblebees.

"According to the Dutch website Wildebijen there are 358 bee species in the Netherlands but unfortunately more than 56% of those species are endangered and on the Dutch Red List.

"The new greenery will work to encourage pollination as the little creatures are attracted to the luscious new shelters. ...

More: www.unilad.co.uk/animals/holland-turns-hundreds-of-bus-stops-into-bee-stops-as-gift-to-honeybees/

Source: Rob Skinner 21st September 2019. 🌱

Loan of NZ\$50m Tied to Environment, Social and Governance Measures

"Synlait Milk will reap cheaper interest costs if it hits various environmental, social and governance in a \$50 million, four-year loan with ANZ Bank. However, if it falls short, that bill will be higher.

"This is the first time any New Zealand company has agreed with its bankers to link its sustainability agenda to its cost of funds. This is exciting and innovative', Katharine Tapley, head of sustainable finance solutions for ANZ, told BusinessDesk.

"The loan will effectively transfer ANZ's existing \$50m committed four-year revolver loan with Synlait into an ESG linked loan and a discount or premium to the base lending margin will be applied, based on its performance around a score of measures. Synlait and ANZ declined to specify details around the discount or premium, citing commercial sensitivity. ...

"The bank's view is that strong ESG risk and opportunity management is an indicator of strong future performance and 'we also believe that we can accelerate this transition by incentivising our customers to out-perform on their ESG agendas.'

"She said Synlait fits the bill for this kind of funding because of its commitment to continuously improving its ESG performance.

"Synlait got ahead of other milk processors last year when it committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 35%/kg of milk solids on-farm and 50%/kg of milk solids off-farm by 2028. The on-farm reduction includes 50% cuts in NO₂, 30% in methane production and 30% in CO₂ ...

More: www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c_id=3&objectid=12270586

Source: Editor, 30th September 2019

Editor: Good to see this development. I've been waiting for about 15 years! 🌱

Trees and Land Use in NZ

"Adding to the ongoing national debate since *Our Forest Future*, readers should enjoy three contrasting pieces which consider trees and land use. As a counterpoint to Don Carson's (mostly) legitimate view that a Nativist mythology obstructs the fight against climate change, Di Lucas and Larry Burrows explain why Radiata pine plantations are a band-aid to nowhere. Counselling reason between these two opinions Peter Berg of Tane's Tree Trust posits the future of forests is a matter of perspective; 'trees and forests are a key component of our response to climate change and other related issues facing the World's burgeoning population; which species you grow is a matter of perspective and priority and should not be used to discourage any endeavour in that regard (and certainly in the short term)'.

More: <https://pureadvantage.org/news/2019/09/11/radiata-pine-plantations-a-band-aid-to-nowhere/plus>
<https://pureadvantage.org/news/2019/09/11/the-future-of-forests-are-a-matter-of-perspective/and>
<https://pureadvantage.org/news/2016/04/22/our-forest-future/>

Source: Pure Advantage, 12th Sept 2019. 🌱

Spaceship to Earth – NZ has a Problem

NZ is on the cusp of passing 'Zero Carbon' legislation.

Victoria University survey shows 74.5% of NZ'ers say they've already made sacrifices to prioritise climate change.

AirNZ is 53% owned by the government and is aggressively seeking to expand its business.

Auckland Councils says there is a climate emergency. It owns 22.15% of Auckland Airport Ltd which is intent on hugely increasing its capacity. Links to airport to be expanded.

On 1st October the *NZ Herald* contained three commercial supplements touting travel; two of 32 pages and one of 56 pages, two of those printed on glossy paper.

Source: Editor, 2nd October 2019. "Go figure". 🌱

The Hard Truths of Climate Change – By the Numbers

"Bruno Rodriguez is only 18, but he has seen enough in his time on Earth to know that he must do something for the planet. Inspired by the student climate strikes in Europe, he founded Youth for Climate Argentina in his home country. The group drew more than 8,000 demonstrators to the national congress in May, and its leaders worked with senators to pass a resolution on 17th July, declaring a climate emergency.

"Argentina is responsible for less than 1% of annual global emissions, but Rodriguez says the science is clear: everyone must take aggressive action if the world is to avoid a massive environmental and humanitarian crisis. 'There is no middle ground', says Rodriguez. 'We need radical industrial transformation.' ...

"Whatever they decide [at the global climate summit in New York City, convened by United Nations secretary-general António Guterres], nations will have to reckon with some difficult numbers which will ultimately determine whether the world can avoid the rapidly approaching climate meltdown. Nature documents the scale of the challenge in an infographic which explores energy use, carbon dioxide pollution and issues of climate justice. At a time when countries have pledged to curb greenhouse gases sharply, the data show annual emissions spiked by 2.1% in 2018 — owing in part to increased demand for coal in places such as China and India.

More: www.nature.com/immersive/d41586-019-02711-4/index.html

Source: Peter Huckle via Ken Ross, 23rd September 2019

Editor: Excellent infographics. 🌱