

Sustainability Matters

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Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

17th October 2019



Designed by
www.vecteezy.com

Dr Rod Carr to Chair Climate Change Commission

"Climate Change Minister James Shaw has announced Dr Rod Carr will be the head of the Climate Change Commission.

"Dr Carr has been both chairman and deputy governor of the Reserve Bank, vice-chancellor of Canterbury University, and head of Jade Software. He has a PhD in insurance and risk management – two of the issues that will be central to the climate commission's work.

"Shaw says he picked Carr because he wanted someone who was independent, analytical and credible. He explicitly referenced the UK's decision to appoint a businessman (Adair Turner) to the chair of its Committee on Climate Change, and said the governance and risk management skills were what was needed to consider the issues facing New Zealand.

"Dr Carr starts work at the commission immediately as chair-designate and will become the inaugural chair when the Zero Carbon Bill is passed later this year. His term will be for five years. Other appointments to the commission are still being considered from 170 nominations.

"The Interim Climate Change Committee will stay in place while the Climate Change Commission gets up and running.

More: www.newsroom.co.nz/2019/10/08/849507/shaw-names-captain-of-his-climate-fantasy-football-team --> Long article plus www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/116398685/rod-carr-will-lead-new-climate-change-commission and www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/400510/rod-carr-appointed-as-chair-of-new-climate-change-commission

Source: Tieke: ECO Alerts & Events, 9th October 2019.

Academic Director Sustainable Business (Professor/Associate Professor)

"..... The University of Auckland's Academic Director Sustainable Business is a newly created position and your leadership will ensure the conduct of evidence-based and rigorous research in sustainable business, and its incorporation into undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. You will be motivated by the opportunity to work collaboratively across the Business School to guide academics as they embed business sustainability principles into all Business School courses and programmes [Editor's emphasis].

"You will engage with industry to enhance our students' learning experiences, prepare our graduates for the changing future of work, and identify new and innovative employment and business opportunities related to sustainable business.

Close: Sunday 27th October [Labour weekend]

More: www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/1531876898/

Source: LinkedIn 3rd Oct 2019

Editor: A concept I posited close to 20 years ago – some things take time – and something Otago Polytechnic has been doing for some years <https://www.op.ac.nz/about-us/sustainability-old/> plus <https://www.op.ac.nz/about-us/sustainability-at-op/>. It is interesting in the context Prof. Rob Gray and others of CSEAR in Scotland wrote about this in books published in the early 1990's.

Leave 'em Laughing Instead of Crying: Climate Humour Can Break Down Barriers and Find Common Ground

"Climate change is not inherently funny. Typically, the messengers are serious scientists describing how rising greenhouse gas emissions are harming the planet on land and at sea, or assessing what role it played in the latest wildfire or hurricane.

"Society may have reached a saturation point for such sombre, gloomy and threatening science-centred discussions. This possibility is what inspires my recent work with colleague Beth Osnes to get messages out about climate change through comedy and humour.

"I have studied and practiced climate communication for about 20 years. My new book, *Creative (Climate) Communications*, integrates social science and humanities research and practices to connect people more effectively through issues they care about. Rather than 'dumbing down' science for the public, this is a 'smartening up' approach which has been shown to bring people together around a highly divisive topic.

"A comic approach might seem to trivialise climate change, which has life-and-death implications for millions of people, especially the world's poorest and most vulnerable residents. But a greater risk would be for people to stop talking about the problem entirely, and miss the chance to reimagine and actively engage in their collective futures.

More: www.eco-business.com/opinion/leave-em-laughing-instead-of-crying-climate-humour-can-break-down-barriers-and-find-common-ground/ plus <https://insidethegreenhouse.org/news/creative-climate-communications> and <https://metode.org/news/humour-and-creativity-to-communicate-climate-change.html>

Source: eco-Business.com, 2nd October 2019.

The Fight for the World's Largest Forest

"China's economic rise, coupled with local corruption, is now fuelling a huge illegal timber industry in the Siberian taiga.

"CHN's Natalie Sauer travelled to one of the worst impacted regions. In an intrepid piece of reportage, she accompanied 59-year-old self-appointed forest protector Lyubov Alikina, one of Russia's fiercest environmental activists, on a raid where one suspected illegal operation was halted but at another, they were too late.

More: www.climatechangenews.com/2019/10/08/siberia-illegal-logging-feeds-chinas-factories-one-woman-fights-back/

Source: Climate Home News, 9th October 2019

Editor: The Russian boreal forest is 12 million sq km compared with the Amazon's 5.5million sq km.

A Chat Leads to a Change of View on Climate

"In the *March for Science* Facebook page, someone asked how group members might engage in productive conversation with a family member who holds opposite ideologies. The query immediately prompted hundreds of comments

More: www.resilience.org/stories/2019-09-30/a-chat-leads-to-a-change-of-view-on-climate/

Source: Post Carbon Institute, 2nd October 2019.

Fashion is Costing the Earth

"Last year, around 50,000 tonnes of clothing and textiles were dumped in landfills.

"According to the tag, the jumper on the rack at Farmers [a leading NZ retail chain] was made from 'luxuriously soft fabrics, brushed on the inside, creating warmth and softness for the ultimate in comfort'. However, a closer look at the label revealed the jumper was 100% polyester.

"It's a bit of a stretch to describe polyester as 'luxurious'. It's used in about 60% of our clothes and is made from petroleum, a non-renewable resource (see our Table). And, once that jumper's done its dash, it's unlikely it'll be recycled into new clothing – it's cheaper to make polyester from scratch than to recycle.

"At budget retailer The Warehouse, 38% of clothing is made from polyester and other synthetic fibres (acrylic, nylon and elastane). Another 36% is made from cotton blended with synthetics. The rest is cotton or wool. The company said it's aware of the effects of manufactured textiles and intends 'to move towards higher percentages of sustainable fibres'.

"Fast-fashion fix. Cheap synthetic fabrics, coupled with inexpensive labour in countries such as China and Bangladesh, have made clothing more affordable. Prices for women's clothing have fallen 3% in the past two years.

"Some of us ease our minds, and bulging wardrobes, by dropping off used clothes to charity shops. However, it's far from a perfect fix. ...

- What can you do to avoid adding to the problem? Here's our advice:
- Compare fabrics ... [table of fabrics with descriptions of their origin]
- Organic cotton [Things to be aware of]
- Waste not, want not [The only limit is your imagination including sandwich bag liners from old umbrella fabric]

More: www.consumer.org.nz/articles/fashion-is-costing-the-earth

Source: Consumer, 28th September 2019

Editor: Magazines, especially, ceaselessly push fashion and shopping malls are 'full of it'. 

Swedish Newspaper Stops Taking Adverts from Fossil Fuel Firms

"A Swedish newspaper has announced it will stop taking advertising which promotes fossil fuel-based goods and services with immediate effect.

"The editor of the daily Dagens ETC said the decision was 'crucial for our credibility'. He urged other media outlets to consider doing the same.

"The ETC, which launched in 2014, is a daily paper and online newspaper. Its editor-in-chief, Andreas Gustavsson, said the decision was taken by the owner, the board, the marketing department and the 25 editors and reporters on its staff.

"He said the decision would hit the paper's finances; 'But I am also convinced this will prove to be a wise decision in the long term', said Gustavsson.

"I am very aware the media industry is extremely tough and it is difficult to survive financially. However, the climate crisis affects every single one of us.'

More:

www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/sep/26/swedish-newspaper-stops-taking-adverts-from-fossil-fuel-firms

Source: Carbon News, 27th September 2019

Editor: Raises questions about New Zealand newspapers continuing to accept and print liquor and gun advertisements. 

Driving Alignment in Climate-related Reporting

"The Corporate Reporting Dialogue (CRD) – an initiative bringing together the major standard setters and framework providers globally – released a report today [24th September] showing high levels of alignment between the frameworks on the basis of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) recommendations.

"As part of the Dialogue's Better Alignment Project, CDP, the Climate Disclosure Standards Board (CDSB), the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC) and the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) collaborated intensively to assess alignment on the TCFD's disclosure principles, recommended disclosures and illustrative example metrics.

"The report was launched amongst businesses and investors at the World Economic Forum's Sustainable Development Impact Summit, during Climate Week NYC, reaffirming the Dialogue participants' commitment to respond to the urgent need to resolve the barriers to effective climate reporting.

"Entitled *Driving Alignment in Climate-related Reporting*, the publication maps the Better Alignment Project participants' standards and frameworks against the seven principles for effective disclosure, the 11 recommended disclosures and 50 illustrative example metrics detailed in the TCFD recommendations. It also documents the commonalities and differences between the Dialogue participants within the parameters of the TCFD recommendations' example metrics.

"The results of the technical mapping provide a practical guide to assist organisations in understanding and implementing the TCFD recommendations when using the participants' well-established and globally applicable frameworks and standards.

"The mapping showed strong alignment between the participants' frameworks and standards and the TCFD recommendations, specifically:

More: www.globalreporting.org/information/news-and-press-center/Pages/Driving-Alignment-in-Climate-related-Reporting.aspx plus https://corporatereportingdialogue.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/CRD_BAP_Report_2019.pdf
121 pages, 7.93Mb

Source: GRI, 27th September 2019

Editor: See page 6 for the eight participants; CDP, FASB, IASB, ISPO, CDSB, GRI, IIRC, SASB. 

The IMF and Ecuador – The People Prevail

"Just yesterday (14th October), after 11 days of nationwide indigenous-led mobilisations that paralysed the country, Ecuador's indigenous movement compelled their government to pay heed to their demands over those of the International Monetary Fund, an important victory for indigenous organising and pluri-national democracy, and a powerful blow to a US\$4.4 billion IMF-backed loan deal which seeks to restructure the Ecuadorian economy towards privatisation, resource-extraction, and other severe neo-liberal economic reforms.

"As the dust settles, the indigenous movement is taking stock of the high costs of this struggle, with at least 7 dead and thousands arrested or injured, as well as the road ahead to demand accountability for brutal human rights violations by the Ecuadorian government. What comes next will define the future of Ecuador and indigenous peoples for generations to come. ...

More: www.amazonfrontlines.org/chronicles/ecuador-historic-indigenous-mobilization-photos/

Source: Amazon Frontlines, 15th Oct 2019

Editor: Some of the images are VERY confronting. 

Webinar: TCFD Masterclass - *Good Practice in Implementation*

“Created by the Climate Disclosure Standards Board (CDSB) and the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), the *TCFD Good Practice Handbook* offers real-world examples of TCFD aligned disclosures in mainstream reports across many G20 countries. Striking a balance between financial and non-financial sectors, the Handbook helps you understand how organisations in your industry are implementing the TCFD recommendations and provide insight into good practice techniques to enhance your own climate-related financial disclosures.

“In this masterclass, you will hear the authors of the handbook share key insights and takeaways from the publication, and demonstrate good practice disclosure through real-world examples from annual reports.

“Presenters: Nadine Robinson, Technical Director, CDSB
David Parham, Director of Research - Projects, SASB

When/Where: 21st October, 8-9am BST, plus 24th October, 4-5pm BST, webinar (British summer time)

More: <https://info.sasb.org/sasb-masterclass-webinar-1> plus <https://info.sasb.org/sasb-masterclass-webinar-1-0> and <https://sustainability.com/our-work/insights/introducing-the-tcf-d-good-practice-handbook/>

Source: SASB, 11th October and SustainAbility 15th Oct. 

Construction & Demolition Waste Services – New NZ Eco-label

“The New Zealand Ecolabelling Trust – Environmental Choice – has released its Licence Criteria for *Construction & Demolition Waste Services*.

“[Page 4] The Trust is pleased to publish this specification for Construction & Demolition Waste Services. This specification is intended to recognise waste service providers which reliably demonstrate great practices in construction and demolition (C&D) waste minimisation and management, and therefore deliver substantial environmental benefits. It has been developed in part due to the current absence of strong regulatory controls requiring C&D waste minimisation [in New Zealand].

“This specification sets out the requirements C&D Waste Services will be required to meet in order to be licensed to use the ECNZ Label. The specification is split into modules of criteria which differentiate environmentally preferable waste services.

“[Page 5] In a whole-of-life context, one of the most significant environmental issues associated with C&D waste is simply the amount of waste disposed, rather than put to a beneficial use/reuse. This represents an inefficient use of resources as well as filling up valuable landfill space. This ECNZ specification includes criteria which promote reuse, recycling, and energy recovery over disposal to landfill. It also requires reuse of those materials which can be readily reused as a priority over recycling. The concept of C&D waste minimisation aligns with tikanga Maori, and the tradition of kaitiakitanga to sustain and restore our collective resources to enhance the mauri of taonga tuku iho.

“Good waste management practices and procedures can, in some (but not all) instances, incur additional cost or time. In order to justify any additional time or cost of (if any), for good waste management practices, procurers and service users need confidence that good practices are indeed being followed. This specification includes criteria

More: <https://environmentalchoice.org.nz/assets/Specifications/EC-59-19-C-D-Waste-Services.pdf> 20 pages, 149KB

Source: *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 10th October 2019. 

Construction Procurement Guidelines - NZ

“Government departments must now consider factors including skills development and training undertaken by construction companies and their subcontractors, whether there is strong governance over the project and sustainable building practices such as using sustainable materials and minimising waste, in new wide-ranging government procurement rules. This can help reduce emissions in the sector as signalled in this report from thinkstep ANZ.

More: www.procurement.govt.nz/procurement/specialised-procurement/construction-procurement/ plus www.thinkstep.com/content/hidden-emissions-and-untapped-potential-buildings-new-zealands-2050-zero-carbon-goal

Source: *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 3rd October 2019

Editor: Includes for example *Sustainable Construction: Construction Procurement Guidelines* 10 pages, 692Kb, and *Whole of Life: Construction Procurement Guidelines* 7 pages 858Kb, both issued 1st October 2019. The key materials contributing to embodied GHG emissions in NZ were found to be steel and concrete, which contribute more than 50% of carbon footprint. 

For Travellers, Sustainability is the Word – But there are Many Definitions of It

“The word ‘overtourism’; is so new it does not yet appear in most dictionaries (although it was shortlisted as a Word of the Year in 2018). But the novelty of the term has not diminished the impact of its meaning: ‘An excessive number of tourist visits to a popular destination or attraction, resulting in damage to the local environment and historical sites and in poorer quality of life for residents’, according to the Oxford Dictionary shortlist. (Read more about how to turn overtourism into sustainable global tourism.)

“As travellers wake up, sometimes abruptly, to the challenges of joining some 1.4 billion other tourists to the world’s most enticing destinations, the threats – and consequences – of overtourism are becoming more visible each day. The UN World Tourism Organization, along with public and private sector partners, has declared 27th September as World Tourism Day and uses this platform to discuss tourism’s social, political, economic, and environmental impacts.

“This day highlights the importance of sustainable tourism – a framework for engaging travellers and the travel industry at large in supporting goals that include protecting the environment, addressing climate change, minimising plastic consumption, and expanding economic development in communities affected by tourism.

“Getting the facts. A new National Geographic survey of 3,500 adults in the U.S. reveals strong support for sustainability. That’s the good news. The challenge will be helping travellers take meaningful actions.

“Storytelling can help by highlighting problems brought on by tourism and surfacing practices and technologies to mitigate negative impacts. ‘As storytellers, we at National Geographic believe it’s important to celebrate the beauty in the world – natural and cultural – so people are keen to take the steps necessary to protect it’, says Knell.

“In the coming months, *National Geographic Travel* will dig deeper into the topic of sustainable tourism and provide resources, practical tips, and destination advice for travellers who seek to explore the world in all its beauty – while leaving behind a lighter footprint.

More: www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/features/what-sustainable-tourism-means/

Source: National Geographic, 9th October 2019

Editor: Not a word about carbon footprint – perhaps that will come later? 

Scotland Gets 'Toughest Climate Change Laws in the World' as Holyrood Vote Passed

"New legislation aimed at tackling climate change means Scotland now has the most ambitious targets anywhere in the world, environment secretary Roseanna Cunningham has insisted.

"Holyrood approved a cut in emissions of 75% by 2030 - a new target tougher than the 70% reduction originally proposed by Scottish ministers.

"Campaigners welcomed the passing of the new legislation, which was approved by 113 votes to zero with six abstentions.

"But Scottish Green MSPs refused to back the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets)(Scotland) Bill, insisting that it did not go far enough.

"Party climate spokesman Mark Ruskell said: 'We won't endorse a Bill pre-occupied with distant targets while doing nothing to deliver transformative action and does not go far enough for the critical period of the next ten years....

"Since 2009, three climate change plans have been brought with annual targets, with some being met and some missed.

"Crucially, Scotland's emissions are now down by 47% since the 1990 baseline.

"We're already almost half way to reaching net zero emissions, and equally importantly, this progress has been achieved while growing the economy, increasing employment and productivity.' ...

"A Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change will be created to make recommendations to Ministers on how Scotland's net-zero transition should be achieved.

More: www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scotland-gets-toughest-climate-change-laws-in-the-world-as-holyrood-vote-passed-1-5010955

For citizen's assemblies see; www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-48759720 plus www.involve.org.uk/resources/blog/opinion/citizens-assembly-climate-change-how-would-it-work

Source: *eco-News*, 27th September 2019. 

A 'How To' for Responsible Businesses to Contribute to a Circular Economy

"There is a growing need for brand owners, manufacturers and retailers to take responsibility for the products they make through having an end of life option. The [NZ] government has signalled intention to make products stewardship mandatory for priority areas.

"The Sustainable Business Network along with partners 3R Group, Abilities, Fuji Xerox and Inzide Commercial are embarking on an initiative to help businesses establish product stewardship take back schemes.

"We all need to reduce the impacts of products on our environment. When a producer, brand owner, importer, retailer or consumer accepts responsibility for reducing a product's environmental impact, we call this product stewardship.

"We are hosting a series of workshops around the country to provide practical insights to businesses on how to:

When/Where: 3:00-6:00pm, Auck. 22nd Oct, Trg 24th, Chch. 5th Nov, Dn. 6th, Wgtn. 7th

More: <https://sustainable.org.nz/sustainable-business-news/you-can-be-a-responsible-business-and-contribute-to-a-circular-economy/>

Source: SBN, 15th October 2019. 

SBN Award Finalists

The finalists for the pre-eminent sustainability awards in New Zealand to be announced at a black tie event held 28th November and now in their 17th year comprises an extensive list as can be seen at the following website;

More: <https://sustainable.org.nz/2019-awards-finalists/>

Source: SBN, 10th October 2019. 

State of Minnesota Launches Live State-Wide Sustainability Website

"Minnesotans have a new tool to help track state government's progress towards ambitious sustainability goals.

"Believed to be the first of its kind in the nation, the website is an online dashboard documenting the progress the state government is making on more environmentally responsible, financially sound, and efficient operations through the implementation of sustainable practices.

"This dashboard gives Minnesotans an inside view at each state agency's sustainability progress', said Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan. 'The State is setting a new standard for accountability in sustainability that measures real progress in conserving energy and water to combat climate change, and also saves money.'

"The online dashboard tracks cabinet-level agency progress toward improving vehicle and building energy efficiency, reducing water use, maximising reuse and recycling, as well as tracking greenhouse gas emissions and avoiding costs.

"Governor Tim Walz's Executive Order requires all state agencies to achieve six sustainability goals:

- 15% reduction in water use by 2025,
- 30% reduction in vehicle fossil fuel consumption by 2027,
- 30% reduction in energy intensity per sq. ft. by 2027,
- 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2025,
- 25% increase in sustainable purchasing by 2025, and
- 75% combined recycling and composting rate by 2030.

"Nearly 6 million utility and solid waste data points from 24 state agencies are analysed to determine the state's progress on meeting the goals in the executive order.

More:

<https://mn.gov/admin/media/news/#/detail/appId/1/id/404023> plus www.figbytes.com/minnesota-sustainability-website/ and <https://mailchi.mp/reportalert/state-of-minnesota-launches-live-state-wide-sustainability-website-on-figbytes-sustainability-software-platform>

Source: *Report Alert*, 1st October 2019. 

BoE's Carney Warns Companies Ignoring Climate Crisis Will Go Bankrupt

"The governor of the Bank of England has warned companies and industries that are not moving towards zero-carbon emissions will be punished by investors and go bankrupt.

"Mark Carney also told the Guardian newspaper it was possible the global transition needed to tackle the climate crisis could result in an abrupt financial collapse.

"He said the longer action to reverse emissions was delayed, the more the risk of collapse would grow. ...

More: <http://econews.com.au/62565/boes-carney-warns-companies-ignoring-climate-crisis-will-go-bankrupt/>

Source: *eco-News*, 16th October 2019

Editor: All directors, CEO's CFO's and more should read. 