

Sustainability Matters

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Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children



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Blueprint for Responsible Policy Engagement on Climate Change

"The Ceres *Blueprint for Responsible Policy Engagement on Climate Change* offers concrete recommendations on how companies can establish systems which address climate change as a systemic risk and integrate this understanding into their direct and indirect lobbying on climate policies.

"The Blueprint is primarily designed for the governance and legal departments of companies charged with determining the appropriate cross-organisational structures to oversee risks and risk responses within a company.

"We build on existing resources to identify governance, risk management and policy engagement systems they can put in place to align their direct and indirect lobbying efforts with climate change science.

More: www.ceres.org/resources/reports/blueprint-responsible-policy-engagement-climate-change 22 pages 3.66Mb

Source: Ceres, 17th July 2020.

Editor: Includes roles for internal audit teams. The concepts can be applied to smaller entities.

A4S Essential Guide to Management Information

"This guide has been created to support finance professionals to integrate social and environmental information into their core management information processes.

"Business performance is no longer solely judged in terms of financials. So, the way decisions are made, and the information upon which they are made, needs to change. Decision makers therefore need to look beyond the traditional financial metrics, to also consider social and environmental information.

"Following the COVID-19 crisis it is clear that information on social and environmental considerations are more pertinent than ever. To build back with more resilience this information is essential.

"Most organisations produce social and environmental information, but seldom on an integrated basis as part of their core management information processes. This guide includes guidance on how this can be done, but also illustrative examples to show the benefits to different types of companies.

"Integrating environmental and social considerations into management information processes can:

- Capture what's important to stakeholders
- Provide insight to decision makers
- Safeguard and enhance financial performance for the present and the future.

More: www.accountingsustainability.org/management-information.html 56 pages, 4.83Mb

Source: A4S (Accounting for Sustainability), 10th July 2020.

Editor: Page 4 - 'By going beyond the traditional financial metrics, we will also safeguard and enhance our financials.'

Page 5: "Within the profession of accounting, backward-looking financial information still receives almost all the focus."

Is GRI and SASB Collaboration Good News for Companies?

"As climate change, pandemics, racial and social justice become front and centre in public discourse there is a strong need for unified non-financial corporate reporting. Currently, companies are reporting using GRI and SASB and now the two are now working together to simplify their reporting standards. The aim is to achieve beneficial societal outcomes by encouraging corporate transparency, unified performance metrics and comparable information.

More: www.greenbiz.com/article/gri-and-sasb-are-collaborating-good-news-companies

Source: *SnippETS*, 16th July 2020.

Issues Behind the News

Review: "The advancement of our country [NZ] has benefitted from vigorous debate from progressive thinkers who promote ideas that challenge traditional ways of doing and thinking about things. In this debate, different voices are crucial. In a world with growing inequality, where poverty exists alongside extreme wealth, where the headline news is often contained within a mental framework that is determined by existing elites, it is important to hear alternative voices. When scientists portray a dire future caused by environmental destruction, but much needed changes are frustrated by self-interest, other perspectives give us an opportunity to reassess the way we live.

"One such voice is heard in this book. Robert Howell brings a well-honed ethical perspective orientated to policy and institutional assumptions that need to be identified and rethought. I hope this volume receives wide circulation so it can contribute to the ongoing debate about our future and the wellbeing of our country and world.

"The book will be available later in July 2020, with orders being taken now.

More: <https://issuesbehindthenews.blogspot.com/2020/07/new-book-issues-behind-news.html>

Source: Robert Howell, 9th July 2020.

Citizens Assembly in France

"Buried in Coronavirus news over the past few months, hugely exciting things have been happening in France.

"The world's first major citizens' climate assembly has been hard at work since October 2019. On 18th June they presented their [149] proposals for addressing the climate emergency [to President Macron].

"The Convention (CCC) is an independent committee of 150 French citizens drawn by lot to reflect French diversity, with a mandate to reduce French GHG emissions by at least 40% by 2030 while advancing social justice.

"Convention members were divided into working groups to tackle a range of social and economic issues and worked closely with climatologists and economists, as well as economic and social organisations. ...

More: <https://rebellion.global/blog/2020/07/16/newsletter-41/> plus for a full list (in English) at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citizens_convention_for_ecological_transition

Source: Bruce Gilkison, 17th July 2020.

Citizens Assemblies Resources

Numerous references to citizens' assemblies have been provided by Extinction Rebellion encompassing a guide, talks, a short film, a flyer, FAQs, videos, books, articles, reports, websites, and podcasts. There is also a 16 minute video (2017) about what the Citizen's Assembly in Ireland achieved.

More: <https://extinctionrebellion.uk/act-now/resources/citizens-assembly/> and <https://vimeo.com/246689508>

Source: Bruce Gilkison, 17th July 2020. 

Alternative Aotearoa

"A one-day seminar to provide solutions for the environmental, social and economic transformation of Aotearoa.

"Organisations presenting include: Greenpeace, Better Futures Forum, School Strike for Climate, Extinction Rebellion, Child Poverty Action Group, State Housing Action Network, Unite Union, Council of Trade Unions, Migrant Workers Association, Just Speak, Pacific Climate Warriors, Quality Public Education Coalition, Action Station, Auckland Action Against Poverty, People Against Prisons Aotearoa and more...

When/Where: Sat. 25th July, 8.30am Pipitea Marae, Wgtn

More: www.climatejusticeaotearoa.org/2020/06/30/alternative-aotearoa-seminar-25-july/ and to be livestreamed

Source: Our Climate Declaration, 8th July 2020. 

Car Parking v People

"Giving back the land: Do you know New York City has set aside four times as much land for cars as for Central Park? What if the people got much of it back in a less car-centric future? That's what Farhad Manjoo asks in a provocative, interactive *New York Times* story. What if Manhattan banned private cars (not ride-shares, taxis, delivery trucks, emergency vehicles, public transportation, etc.)? 'Banning them', he writes, 'would instantly improve life for just about everyone who lives and works in New York.' In Los Angeles, using the land set aside for parking could provide enough space to house almost a million more people at current density levels, Manjoo writes. [*NY Times* – paywalled]

More: www.nytimes.com/2020/07/09/opinion/sunday/ban-cars-manhattan-cities.html Paywall. Similar at www.satrib.com/opinion/commentary/2020/07/13/farhad-manjoo-ive-seen/

Source: National Geographic, 16th July 2020. 

Delivering Net-Zero

"2020 was due to be a landmark year for those pushing for a net-zero future. The Covid-19 pandemic has meant COP26 has been postponed until 2021. However, it is imperative that businesses still ensure the Net-Zero ambition and action remains front and centre as we try to deliver a more resilient and sustainable recovery.

"Reuters Events' [formerly Ethical Corp] Delivering Net-Zero Virtual Week will bring together leading companies across multiple industries FOR FREE! to discuss how companies need to adapt to the new reality and can reduce carbon emissions and develop regenerative strategies which align with the 1.5 Target, whilst ensuring the business recovers commercially from the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The Virtual week will unite CEOs, CPOs, CSOs and heads of Sustainability, Energy and ESG Investors to share strategies on how they are working now to ensure we continue momentum ahead of next year's COP26 meeting. It will deliver the practical strategies on how to execute Science-Based Targets to transform the entire organisation in-line with their vision for decarbonisation.

When/Where: 4th – 5th August, online ex London

More: Corporates; <https://eloqua.ethicalcorp.com/LP=28024> NGO's; <https://eloqua.ethicalcorp.com/LP=28025>

Source: Reuters Events, 6th July 2020. 

Building Back Better from Covid-19: How Sector Associations Can help it Happen

"Inspired by Paul Blair's ongoing Vision Week initiative through infrastructure New Zealand, Clare Feeney's vision is that Aotearoa New Zealand becomes a Learning Society. In her video *The-Learning-Society* Clare looks through the lens of environmental training to show how every job can – and must – become a green job, and how we can seize the opportunity offered by Covid recovery funding to achieve this.

"Why a Learning Society? Here's what Joseph Stiglitz says in his 2014 book *Creating a Learning Society*:

- Creating a learning society should be one of the major objectives of economic policy. (p6); and
- The transformation to 'learning societies' ... appears to have had a greater impact on human well-being than improvements in allocative efficiency or resource accumulation. (p18).

"We have a Nobel Prize-winning economist giving us our license to drive and a road map to steer our way towards becoming a Learning Society – so let's get stuck into environmental training to make it happen!

"Every sector of every economy has its trade and professional associations. By working smart with formal education and training institutions and learning & development professionals, these associations offer the fastest and most cost-effective route to environmental best practice amongst their members.

More: <https://esst.institute/strategic-solutions/visionweek/>

Source: Clare Feeney, 9th July 2020. 

Climate Change + Business Conference 2020

"The global Covid-19 pandemic will define 2020 as the year the world locked down. There were deaths and illness, health systems under pressure, pay cuts, job losses, business and school closures, psychological strain. But a vision of a different world also became – momentarily – a reality: traffic-free roads and skies, falling emissions, clean air, remote working, localised shopping for the things we actually needed, a heightened sense of community spirit and togetherness (albeit at a 2m distance), quietness and the return of birdsong, a greater appreciation of nature, and a general slowing down and opportunity for reflection.

"In this period of reflection, most people agreed they didn't want things to return to normal when we re-emerged from lockdown. That this was a once-in-a-lifetime chance to chart a course for a kinder, more equitable, greener future. To exist within, not beyond, planetary boundaries. And to rapidly accelerate the decarbonisation of the planet.

"*The 2020 Climate Change + Business Conference* will explore the extent to which businesses, policy-makers, and civil society have seized the opportunity to transform our future. Among other things, it will consider:

- The flow of Government funding toward recovery projects;
- The impact of recent policy and legislative changes;
- International recovery trends;
- Perspectives from the Climate Change Commission;
- Revised climate science projections;
- Impacts on the price of carbon and carbon markets;
- Sectoral issues and opportunities; and
- Our adaptation preparedness. ...

When/Where: 6th -7th October 2020, Auckland

More: <https://web.cvent.com/event/0df0b9b3-4524-4e4c-ad9a-d5be61e8775e/>

Source: CCBC (ClimateAndBusiness.com). 

Think Resilience

"We've been offering our *Think Resilience* online course for free as a way to give back to our community during the coronavirus pandemic. Since late March, more than 4,500 of you have taken us up on this offer, and many of you have helped fund free access with generous donations.

"Because of this outpouring of interest and support, we have decided to keep *Think Resilience* **free indefinitely!**

"Here are some of the reasons why, courtesy of our students:

- Thank you for letting me take this course for free during lockdown. It has kept me going and inspired me while I've been looking for work.
- Thanks for making *Think Resilience* free in such a difficult time! I spent my afternoons studying while stuck at home, and it was time very well spent.
- I will be making a donation as I felt the material was VERY valuable and sets a course for a more positive future.

"In addition to making sure *Think Resilience* is accessible to everyone regardless of income level, we want to reduce the language barrier as well:

- Volunteers created Spanish and French subtitles for the 22 lesson videos last year.
- Now volunteer teams are working on subtitles in Italian, Portuguese, and English.
- In the next few months, we hope to have the entire website translated into Spanish.

"Coronavirus is upending the world, and communities need to build resilience more urgently than ever.

More: <https://education.resilience.org/>

Source: Post Carbon Institute, 16th July 2020. 

All In: The Future of Business Leadership

"*All In* presents a roadmap for tens of thousands of businesses globally who have yet to embed sustainability in their corporate strategies. It outlines an approach to leadership critical to future business success and ensuring a better world for all.

"*All In* is based on two decades of GlobeScan-SustainAbility Leaders Survey research with sustainability experts from more than 80 countries as well as more than 40 interviews with CEOs and CSOs from outstanding companies like Unilever, Patagonia, Interface, Marks & Spencer, IKEA and Natura.

"Comprising views from business, civil society, media, academia, regulators, and government, the Leaders Survey provides a unique, well-informed snapshot on best-in-class corporate sustainability leadership and forms the foundation of Grayson, Coulter and Lee's thinking. ...

More: <https://allinbook.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/All-In-Introduction.pdf> Introduction, 13pages 13.39Mb plus <https://allinbook.net/the-book/> Checklist, 6 pages, 220KB

Source: SustainAbility, 8th July 2020.

Editor: The book was published 2018. 

Dual-use Solar Farms Welcome Nature Back to the Land

"There is a new trend in large solar PV installations and that is to go *au naturelle!* By that we mean to say there are benefits to leaving natural ground coverings in place, rather than covering over with gravel or bare dirt. Benefits include the ability to grow crops that need shade, reducing soil moisture loss and the ability to help regenerate soils. They can even provide an environment to support bees for pollination and honey production.

More: www.carbonems.com/single-post/2020/06/18/Snippets-for-18-June-2020

Source: *Snippets*, 18th June 2020. 

NZ Post Incentivises Contractors into EV's

As part of their commitment to sustainability, NZ Post has ambitious carbon reduction plans, with a dedication to be carbon neutral from 2030. A key part of reducing carbon emissions from its delivery network is moving to safe, sustainable electric vehicles (EVs).

To achieve this, an Electric Vehicle Incentive Programme and fund have been established for contractors to help them buy their own EV and to help electrify 25% of the delivery fleet by 2025.

NZ Post will contribute to the purchase cost of an electric vehicle – a minimum of 50% of the price difference between an EV and its petrol/diesel equivalent as determined by NZ Post and is making \$0.5M available each year.

More: www.nzpost.co.nz/about-us/sustainability/evan

Source: *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 16th July 2020. 

Driving Sustainability: How to Influence for Impact

"Join Toitū Envirocare's SDG expert Sophia White, and Imaginal's influence experts Natalie Hormann and Tim Jones, to understand how strategic influence can help you drive sustainability goals and initiatives within your organisation.

"Get immediate take-homes to help you embed the UN Sustainable Development Goals when we cover:

- The foundations of strategic influence and how it can help create or deepen internal buy in to SDGs
- The one shift in perspective that will change how you approach conversations for more impact
- Three actions you can take immediately to boost support for SDGs and environmental initiatives

When/Where: 11:00 – 11:45am on 4th August, online

More:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/9015940942489/WN7s1HC75DQDGctBo6M_XnzA

Source: Bronwyn Cook, Toitu, 14th July 2020. 

Fish 'waste' – Novel Distribution Chanel

"With the aid of a specially modified shipping container extra capacity has been developed and provided for community groups to drop off and process discarded fish heads, offcuts, frames and offal not wanted by recreational fishers and Moana Fisheries.

"The fishers bring their discards to Papatūānuku Kōkiri Marae at Mangere [Auckland] for example where the 'waste' is processed and distributed. During the COVID lockdown there were queues up to 400 metres long.

"We modify containers into many different things and the Kai Ika project is yet another inventive use of a container. But more importantly the container is the hub of a project which is helping feed local communities including many families and people who are in need. That's something very special.

"Being able to play a part in supplying communities with healthy and nutritious food which would otherwise be going to waste is hugely rewarding', he says.

"Woolford says on average only one third of a fish is eaten, with most people only eating the fillets.

"Fish heads and the frames may be viewed as waste by many people but in te reo the head of the fish is called rangatira kai or 'chiefly food' and is considered a delicacy. It really is the tastiest part of the fish and the people we supply this delicious sea food to value the whole fish.' ..."

More: www.royalwolf.co.nz/Shipping-container-serves-up-delicious-kai-moana-for-the-community plus video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=iNzEcSz9JPC&t=60s

Source: Kate Jackson, 7th July 2020. 

Sam Judd Steps Up to Focus on a Major New Project

"Sam Judd co-founded Sustainable Coastlines in 2008 with the mission of enabling people to look after the coastlines and waterways that they love. A pioneer in the war against plastic and waterways restoration over the past 12 years, he has led and built the charity into a high-impact and much-loved organisation. The team has attracted the support and involvement of hundreds of thousands of volunteers and collected a string of high-profile awards in Aotearoa/NZ and internationally.

"Announcing Sam's departure, Sustainable Coastlines Board Chair Emma Dent said the Board was sorry to lose Sam but is excited for what lies ahead for him with the new project and ongoing contribution he will make to Aotearoa.

"We thank Sam for his single-minded drive, passion and vision in establishing and growing the impact of Sustainable Coastlines, which is now an inspiration to so many. ..."

"Sam is leaving Sustainable Coastlines to establish Te Mahere Whakauka (The Hope Project), a large-scale project focused on regenerating at-risk communities, land and waterways through job creation. The Sustainable Coastlines Board is supporting Sam to continue his legacy of impact by helping with seed-funding this new project. They also plan to collaborate on restoration and capacity development activities going forward. Launch of this is timely, having been brought forward under urgency as the government calls for shovel-ready recovery packages in the wake of Covid-19.

More: <https://sustainablecoastlines.org/sam-judd-steps-up-to-focus-on-a-major-new-project/> plus www.whakauka.org/

Source: Editor, 3rd July 2020. 

Update on Container Recycling Scheme

"It's been 9 months [10 months] months since the Associate Minister of the Environment, Hon Eugenie Sage made a groundbreaking speech at last year's WasteMINZ conference that had us all jumping up and down with joy.

"A CRS (Container Recycling Scheme) project team and a Scheme Design Working Group have been established, with the aim of delivering a national CRS design proposal to Government before August 2020. The Project Manager, George Fietje, was a key driver of the original application from Auckland and Marlborough District Councils to the MfE to get funding for the establishment of these groups.

"What we really like about the formation of these groups is their diversity. We are used to seeing committees overtaken by the relevant industries and government officials, which often feels like there is no connection to the real people that the outcome of these groups affects. This was not the case here. As suggested in *Happy Returns*, a 2019 report by Warren Snow for the NZ Product Stewardship Council, the committee consists of a wide range of stakeholders. They have representatives from container manufacturers, beverage producers, retailers, recyclers, consumer advocacy, youth, charitable organisations, product stewardship groups, local authorities, mana whenua, the Ministry for the Environment and the CRS project team.

"And this is not the only leaf the committee has taken from Warren Snow's report. They are working on all aspects of a design that will be specific to the New Zealand reality, including considering a hybrid model of depots and Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs).

More: <https://kiwibottledrive.nz/the-kiwi-bottle-drive-still-along-for-the-ride/>

Source: Olga Darkadaki via ActionStation, 17th June. 

Seven of the Best New Documentaries About Global Warming

"It's not easy to watch."

"That was a recurring introductory remark at screenings during the recent 2020 Wild & Scenic Film Festival. Held each year in the bucolic foothills of the Sierra, the five-day festival screens more than 140 environmental films, from artful meditations on the beauty of nature, to distressing stories of people on the frontlines of climate change.

"The latter category held enough short and feature documentaries to fill up an entire weekend – and more. Throughout these diverse pieces was a common probing of the disproportionate impacts of climate change on the health and wellbeing of indigenous communities, people of colour, and economically disadvantaged individuals ...

"But even the most sobering films contained glimmers of hope, a theme the festival organisers took great pains to nurture..."

"Following are a few highlights [documentaries] which exemplify the human impact of climate change, in alphabetical order:

- After the Fire (18 min.)
- Blowout: Inside America's Energy Gamble (79 min.)
- The Condor and the Eagle (82 min.)
- Last Call for the Bayou: Five Stories from Louisiana's Disappearing Coastline (53 min.)
- Lowland Kids (22 min.)
- Mossville: When Great Trees Fall (75 min.)
- The Story of Plastic (94 min.)

More: www.ecowatch.com/best-new-climate-documentaries-2645394482.html

Source: Amazon Frontlines, 30th June 2020. 

Governments' Dietary Guidelines Harming the Planet

"Official dietary advice across the world is harming both the environment and people's health, according to scientists who have carried out the most comprehensive assessment of national dietary guidelines to date.

"Food is responsible for a quarter of the emissions driving the climate crisis and millions of early deaths. The analysis assessed all available dietary guidelines, covering 85 countries and every region of the world. The researchers said governments' failure to help people eat good diets was 'shocking'.

"In every country studied, the study found the diets people are eating today contain more red and processed meat than recommended by national or World Health Organisation guidelines, and too little fruit and vegetables, beans, nuts and whole grains in all but a few countries.

"However, even if these guidelines were followed, the research showed only two countries [Indonesia and Sierra Leone] had dietary guidelines in line with health, climate and pollution targets set by governments. ...

More:

www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jul/15/governments-dietary-guidelines-are-harming-the-planet-study-finds plus www.bmj.com/content/370/bmj.m2322

Source: *Carbon News*, 17th July 2020. 

The New Urgency of Climate Change

This TED talk by Al Gore (56:38), was recorded 23rd June 2020 and had over 910,500 views as at 22nd July 2020.

More: www.ted.com/talks/al_gore_the_new_urgency_of_climate_change

Source: CA ANZ – *What's new in your library?*, 10th July. 