

# Sustainability Matters

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Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

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## Why the [UK] Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill Could Lead to a Revolution of the Imagination

"One of the few rays of hopeful sunshine in the UK's currently bleak political landscape is the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill. In fact, I feel like it is such a vitally important development that I want to use this article to urge you to get behind it, while also offering a rather different perspective on why I feel it matters so much. ....

"Let us share that longing with everyone we meet.

**More:** [www.postcarbon.org/why-the-climate-and-ecological-emergency-bill-could-lead-to-a-revolution-of-the-imagination](http://www.postcarbon.org/why-the-climate-and-ecological-emergency-bill-could-lead-to-a-revolution-of-the-imagination) plus [www.robhopkins.net](http://www.robhopkins.net) - Founder of Transition Towns

**Source:** Post Carbon Institute, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

**Editor:** Long article which among other things refers to citizens' assemblies and Civic Imagination Offices. 

## Open Letter and Demands to EU and Global Leaders

"The climate and ecological crisis has never once been treated as a crisis," Ms Thunberg and several others wrote in an article for *The Guardian* marking two years since her first solo school strike.

"The gap between what we need to do and what's actually being done is widening by the minute", the group added.

"On Thursday [24<sup>th</sup> August], Ms Thunberg and other organisers within the school strike movement met with German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

"Germany is currently president of the European Council.

"At Thursday's meeting, Ms Thunberg, Germany's Luisa Neubauer, and Belgium's Anuna de Wever and Adélaïde Charlier presented Ms Merkel with an open letter which was sent to European leaders last month, as well as a petition with close to 125,000 signatories.

"The demands of the letter include halting investment in fossil fuel exploration and extraction and ending all subsidies for the industry.

"They also want annual and binding carbon budgets that don't 'depend on assumptions of possible future negative emissions technologies', future 'technology' has been a big part of Australia's conservative Liberal-National government's recent plans on climate 'mitigation'.

"The group also wants 'ecocide' made an international crime, and threw in a few other non-climate demands such as the safeguarding and protection of democracy and a consideration to reduce economic, racial and gender inequality in the design of climate policies that also 'protect workers and the most vulnerable'. ....

**More:** <http://econews.com.au/65162/greta-thunberg-warns-of-climate-change-crisis-ahead-of-merkel-meeting/> plus <https://climateemergencyeu.org/>

**Source:** eco-News, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

**Editor:** 124,710 signatories from 50 countries as at 25<sup>th</sup> Aug – few from Zealand, more from Australia. Is yours among them? 

## Agriculture's Future is Riskier with No Climate Change Goals: Australian Farmers

"The Australian federal government's lack of climate action has now earned the ire of Aussie farmers, who will bear the brunt of extreme weather as the planet warms. The National Farmers Federation is at loggerheads with Scott Morrison's administration after calling for an economy-wide goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. *The Sydney Morning Herald* reports the red meat industry wants to go even further, and is aiming for carbon neutrality by the end of the decade. ...

**More:** [www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/agriculture-s-future-is-riskier-with-no-climate-change-goals-farmers-20200824-p55ork.html](http://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/agriculture-s-future-is-riskier-with-no-climate-change-goals-farmers-20200824-p55ork.html)

**Source:** The Forever Project, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020. 

## What Kind of a World do We Want? (...really?)

"Although this question is both enduring and familiar, its present urgency is fully accentuated in a typically brilliant, but viscerally terrifying, exposition by Noam Chomsky on the current frangible condition of the world, and its near-term prognosis.

**More:** [www.resilience.org/stories/2020-08-18/what-kind-of-a-world-do-we-want-really/](http://www.resilience.org/stories/2020-08-18/what-kind-of-a-world-do-we-want-really/)

**Source:** Post Carbon Institute, 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2020. 

## Toitū Carbon Certification Programme

"Toitū Envirocare's new farm carbon certification programmes can help New Zealand's thousands of pastoral farmers take advantage of huge market opportunities for sustainable products and position them well in advance of possible Government regulation.

"The market opportunity is massive with a Unilever study showing about a third of consumers in the United States, Europe and Asia are choosing produce purchases based on environmental considerations. Research shows sustainable dairy products can earn a price premium of up to 47%.

"The primary sector and the Government last year signed a joint action plan, He Waka Eke Noa, to measure and reduce primary sector carbon emissions by 2025 or for the sector to face being enrolled in the Emissions Trading Scheme.

"To support farmers to meet these demands the Government-owned environmental certifications provider Toitū Envirocare has partnered to take its tried-and-tested carbon reduction and certification programmes for commerce and industry and tailored them to develop New Zealand's first carbon certification programme for pastoral farmers.

"The tool links to OverseerFM® farm nutrient management planning software used by thousands of New Zealand farmers. This ensures a smooth process for farmers to use their OverseerFM carbon footprint for certification and so avoids duplication of effort and entering farm data twice. ....

"We have walked farmers through the system from end-to-end in about 40 minutes, including loading OverseerFM GHG emissions analyses. Most efficient farmers will have easy access to the information they need to meet certification.' ...

**More:** [www.toitu.co.nz/news-and-events/news/environmental-news/toitu-launches-carbon-certification-programme](http://www.toitu.co.nz/news-and-events/news/environmental-news/toitu-launches-carbon-certification-programme)

**Source:** Toitū Envirocare, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020. 

## Sustainable Business Awards Finalists, Plus New Pandemic Resilient Business Award

"Judges for the 2020 Sustainable Business Awards have announced this year's 86 finalists across 11 categories, and are now calling for entries for a special additional award.

"The new Resilience in Crisis Award has been created to recognise business resilience in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. It's focused on successful responses with sustainability outcomes. Independent judges will select the finalists, with the winner chosen by public vote. ...

"The Resilience in Crisis award is free to enter, and entries are open until 19<sup>th</sup> September. Entries to all other categories of the Awards are now closed.

"The winners for all categories will be announced at a ceremony in November. In response to the ongoing pandemic, the ceremony is set to be broadcast online via regional events up and down the country, rather than the familiar large gala dinner in Auckland.

"Find out more about the Resilience in Crisis award.

"The finalists for the 2020 Sustainable Business Awards are: [A very long list!]

**More:** <https://sustainable.org.nz/resilience-in-crisis-award/> plus <https://sustainable.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Finalists-media-release.pdf>

**Source:** SBN, 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2020. 

## Comparing Conventional vs Organic Farming Techniques for 40 years

"For nearly 40 years, Rodale Institute [of Pennsylvania, USA] has been comparing the effects of conventional vs. organic agriculture side by side.

"The Farming Systems Trial has found organic systems use 45% less energy, release 40% fewer carbon emissions, improve the health and quantity of soil over time, and have the potential to produce yields up to 40% higher in times of drought than conventional systems.

**More:** <https://www.facebook.com/malcolm.rands/posts/10219913572164609> plus <https://rodaleinstitute.org/>

**Source:** Malcolm Rands, Facebook, 20<sup>th</sup> August. 

## The Role of Australian Activist Litigation Highlighting Climate Change Financial Disclosure in the Capital Markets

"The Banking and Financial Services Law Association Limited (BFSLA) is hosting a free webinar which LCAZNI members can sign up for before close of business on 11<sup>th</sup> September.

"LCAZNI Committee Member Lloyd Kavanagh will interview Sarah Barker of MinterEllison Melbourne in relation to the recently filed claim in the *Australian Federal Court O'Donnell v Commonwealth & Ors* (22 July 2020, VID482/2020). The claim alleges the investor information statements issued by the Commonwealth of Australia for its sovereign bonds are misleading or deceptive, due to their failure to provide information in relation to the susceptibility of Australia's fiscal position and investment performance of the bonds to physical and economic transition risks associated with climate change.

"The case represents the latest in a series of activist initiated claims in Australia which are having a profound impact in highlighting the financial implications of climate change, including *Abrahams v CBA* and *McVeigh v REST*.

**When/Where:** Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 2:30pm NZT, 12:30pm AEST and 10:30am AWST; webinar

**More:** <https://bfsla.org/events/upcoming-webinar-on-the-virtual-couch-discussion-with-sarah-barker-special-counsel-head-of-climate-risk-governance-at-minterellison/>

**Source:** Lawyers for Climate Action NZ, 31<sup>st</sup> August. 

## Pāmu Announces New GM Sustainability and Farming Systems

"Pāmu has appointed Lisa Martin to the executive leadership team in the newly created role of General Manager, Sustainability and Farming Systems.

"Ms Martin has extensive experience improving the sustainability practices of the organisations she has worked with, including seafood company Sanford where she was GM of Group Sustainability and at Downer Group where she was GM of Environment and Sustainability. She also co-founded a successful sustainability consultancy, Sustainz which provides sustainability advice to a range of organisations including New Zealand's agricultural sector. ...

"Ms Martin will take up her role in early November.

**More:** [www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU2008/S00356/pamu-announces-new-gm-sustainability-and-farming-systems.htm](http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU2008/S00356/pamu-announces-new-gm-sustainability-and-farming-systems.htm)

**Source:** *Carbon News*, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020

**Editor:** Government owned Pāmu, previously known as Landcorp, is NZ's largest farmer. 

## Breaking Boundaries: (Counter) Accounts during the Pandemic

"This call for contributions aims to give a 'snapshot' of accounts and counter-accounts during the Covid-19 crisis. This collection will offer a lasting record of collective and individual experiences during the lock down and its aftermath, providing a unique opportunity to look back in time to see what accounting was like during this exceptional period.

"Submissions can come in all forms (i.e. essays, articles, graffiti, poetry, photos, journal entries, etc.) and from a variety of sources, authors, regions, and languages. We are accepting written submissions in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

"Translation might be available in the final version of the book. We hope to publish contributions from renowned and emerging scholars, practitioners and other stakeholders who want to share their voices and inputs.

"This inclusive approach will ensure that many unique voices are not only collected but that the final product can be understood and felt beyond the English-speaking and academic worlds. This project also helps establish the accounting discipline's role in recording key moments in our global history. In today's world, accounting must go beyond tracking numbers and money and this unique moment in history is the perfect opportunity to cement a new identity for the accounting scholarship and practices.

"This open access book will provide future generations with a series of accounts of the crisis in all forms, offering a unique insight into an historical moment. To those who are yet not born, this book will be our messages in a bottle, our time capsule, our letters from us to them. ...

**Submission deadline:** 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

**More:** [www.ivey.uwo.ca/cmsmedia/3791304/call-for-contributions-english.pdf](http://www.ivey.uwo.ca/cmsmedia/3791304/call-for-contributions-english.pdf)

**Source:** CSEAR, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020. 

## Managing climate risk in New Zealand in 2020: A Tool Kit for Directors

"The tool kit is intended to make climate risk manageable for boards and provide insight on latest legal trends. It builds on the legal opinion released last year with Chapman Tripp which identified that directors had a duty to raise material climate related financial risk at the board table.

**More:** [www.theaotearoacircle.nz/s/Managing-climate-risk-in-New-Zealand-in-2020.pdf](http://www.theaotearoacircle.nz/s/Managing-climate-risk-in-New-Zealand-in-2020.pdf) 2.2Mb, 16 pages

**Source:** *The Aotearoa Circle Update*, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 

## World's Largest Battery Storage Approved

"A permit to expand California power generator Vistra's natural gas-fired Moss Landing generation station to 1500 megawatt (MW) of storage has been approved, setting the stage for the world to see gigawatt-scale battery energy storage for the first time ever. ...

"PV Magazine reports for some perspective as to how large this battery is, consider that, according to the United States Energy Information Administration, the country's entire installed battery storage capacity at the end of 2018 came in at 869MW, while total installed battery storage at the end of 2019, including behind-the-meter, was approximately 1.7GW, according to Wood Mackenzie. ...

**More:** <http://econews.com.au/65101/thats-not-a-big-battery-this-is-a-big-battery-1500mw-storage-project-gets-approval/>

**Source:** eco-News, 18<sup>th</sup> August 2020

**Editor:** For comparison NZ's Huntly power station's original capacity was 1,000MW. 

## World Green Building Week 2020

"Aotearoa, and the rest of the world, is facing two substantial challenges. We need an effective economic stimulus. And we also need to slash our climate pollution.

"These twin challenges will not be solved unless healthy, less polluting places for people are put at the heart of the solutions.

"This is the most important time ever for the building and construction sector in Aotearoa. Our sector has a key role to play in tackling era-defining problems. And that's what makes this year's World Green Building Week so vital.

"Join thousands of New Zealanders this September as we celebrate World Green Building Week with a series of thought provoking events.

"The NZGBC will be hosting a series of panel discussions, webinars, and breakfast events tackling the big issues. Can a shovel-ready approach ever truly solve fundamental problems? Are green certification schemes effective at driving change? Can the financial services industry be a catalyst for change?

"More details to come so check back in to find out more!

**More:** [www.nzgbc.org.nz/Event?Action=View&Event\\_id=922](http://www.nzgbc.org.nz/Event?Action=View&Event_id=922)

**Source:** NZGBC, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020. 

## Call for Papers: Auckland Region Accounting Conference 2020

"The Department of Accounting, Auckland University of Technology (AUT), is hosting the 18<sup>th</sup> Auckland Region Accounting (ARA) Conference at the AUT City Campus. The ARA Conference is sponsored by the Auckland area tertiary institutions – AUT University, Manukau Institute of Technology, Massey University, Unitec Institute of Technology and the University of Auckland. ...

"The conference theme is 'Technology, Sustainability and Diversity: Transforming Accounting'.

"The ARA conference encourages a broad interpretation of the conference theme. The conference committee will consider papers from all areas of accounting but will encourage submissions of papers dealing with the conference theme. ...

"There will be three best paper awards, of which one will be for the best PhD paper. ...

"Sponsored by ACCA, CPA Australia and CA ANZ.

**Submissions close:** Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

**Conference:** Wednesday 9 Dec, 9am - 5pm, Auckland

**More:** [www.aut.ac.nz/events/2020-ara-conference-hosted-by-aut](http://www.aut.ac.nz/events/2020-ara-conference-hosted-by-aut)

**Source:** Sabrina Chong, AUT, 11<sup>th</sup> Feb and 26<sup>th</sup> Aug. 

## Creating Living Buildings & Integrated Design

"This powerful professional practice course supports Clients, Developers, Designers, PMs, Engineers, Community and Contractors to set clear direction for their sustainable future and deliver high performance project outcomes.

"Now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year, participants love this challenging, deep dive, interactive learning opportunity to transform practice, engage with Living Building drivers and gain practical strategies for high performance outcomes.

**Where/Where:** Auckland 30<sup>th</sup> Sept/1<sup>st</sup> Oct; Wellington 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> Oct; Christchurch 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Oct

**More:** eMail [Jerome@livingfuturenz.org](mailto:Jerome@livingfuturenz.org)

**Source:** LivingFuturesNZ, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020. 

## The Human Planet: Earth at the Dawn of the Anthropocene

"A dynamic aerial exploration of our changing planet, published on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day.

"The Human Planet is a sweeping visual chronicle of the Earth today from a photographer who has circled the globe to report on such urgent issues as climate change, sustainable agriculture, and the ever-expanding human footprint. George Steinmetz is at home on every continent, documenting both untrammelled nature and the human project that relentlessly redesigns the planet in its quest to build shelter, grow food, generate energy, and create beauty through art and architecture. In his images, accompanied by authoritative text by renowned science writer Andrew Revkin, we are encountering the dramatic and perplexing new face of our ancient home.

**More:** [www.goodreads.com/book/show/50158100-the-human-planet](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/50158100-the-human-planet) 256 pages, Published 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020

[www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2020/04/aerial-photos-show-the-human-planet-in-all-its-beauty-and-pain/](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2020/04/aerial-photos-show-the-human-planet-in-all-its-beauty-and-pain/)

Aerial photos show 'the human planet'—in all its beauty and pain. .... Steinmetz's pictures offer us just enough distance to see what we're doing to Earth, but not so much that we feel detached. A sense of amazement and potential shines through them along with a sense of limits. 'We can't keep fighting against nature, we have to make peace with it, and that will require some concessions from all of us', he writes. In these strange and unsettling days, may that wisdom spread.

[www.fastcompany.com/90500830/stunning-aerial-photos-capture-the-extent-of-humanitys-impact-on-the-planet](http://www.fastcompany.com/90500830/stunning-aerial-photos-capture-the-extent-of-humanitys-impact-on-the-planet)

'One of the takeaways is that maybe it's time for us as a collective to start reconsidering our relationship to the world and think about how we can live a little more lightly', he says. 'The little things we do can have a significant cumulative effect. I don't think it's too big to solve.'

**Source:** National Geographic, 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020. 

## Impact: Reshaping Capitalism to Drive Real Change

"Throughout the world, capitalism and democracy are being challenged with great force. The world must change, but we cannot change it by throwing money at old ideas that no longer work. We need a new path to a new world where inequality is shrinking, where natural resources are regenerated, and people can benefit from shared prosperity..

"... This book is a sure fire way to find out how you can play a role in changing the world

**More:** [www.goodreads.com/book/show/51858476-impact](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/51858476-impact) July 2020, 256 pages plus [www.lse.ac.uk/Events/2020/07/202007061530/impact](http://www.lse.ac.uk/Events/2020/07/202007061530/impact) for podcast and video

**Source:** Reuters Events [Previously Ethical Corp], 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020. ... 

## Net Zero: How we Stop Causing Climate Change

"The world is nowhere near tackling the climate crisis, says a new book by an Oxford scholar, *Net Zero: How we stop causing climate change*. But at least we know how to.

"Year on year, the amount of climate-changing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is rising. The ability of oceans, forests and soils to absorb and recycle CO<sub>2</sub> is fast diminishing. Like an out-of-control coal train, climate change is thundering towards us.

"International agreements and protocols – countless meetings and mega amounts of jaw-jaw – have manifestly failed to address the challenge ahead.

"Dieter Helm, professor of economic policy at Oxford University in the UK and the author of several books on climate change, throws up his hands in frustration.

"Thirty years on from the UN's drive to address climate change, we are still going backwards at an alarming rate', he says.

"The wrong policies have been followed, governments have misled people and we, the public, have failed to come to terms with what's happening. ...

"It is the consumption of all these goods that is doing the damage. Only when countries – and we, their citizens – stop buying and accumulating such products will progress be made. ....

"Helm has an edgy, no-nonsense style of writing. 'In terms of the scale of the damage over the 30 wasted years, we are the most selfish generation in history', he says.

**More:** <https://climatenewsnetwork.net/net-zero-how-we-stop-causing-climate-change/>

**Source:** *Carbon News*, 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

## SASB Invites Public Comment on Key Governance Documents

"The Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) today released proposed revisions to two documents – the SASB Conceptual Framework and the SASB Rules of Procedure – for a 90-day public comment period. The revisions are designed to further clarify and explain SASB's approach to standard setting, including its principles, processes, and practices.

"SASB issued the existing Conceptual Framework and Rules of Procedure in February 2017. The Conceptual Framework sets out the basic concepts, principles, definitions, and objectives that guide the SASB Standards Board and technical staff in their approach to setting SASB Standards. The Rules of Procedure establishes and describes the policies and practices followed by the Standards Board in developing, issuing, and maintaining the Standards. Together, these documents serve as the primary governance documents that guide the activities of the Standards Board in its efforts to fulfil SASB's organisational mission. ...

**Comments Due By:** 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**More:** [www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2020/08/28/2085546/0/en/SASB-Invites-Public-Comment-on-Foundational-Standard-Setting-Documents.html](http://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2020/08/28/2085546/0/en/SASB-Invites-Public-Comment-on-Foundational-Standard-Setting-Documents.html) plus [www.sasb.org/blog/conceptual-framework-and-rules-of-procedure-public-comment-periods/](http://www.sasb.org/blog/conceptual-framework-and-rules-of-procedure-public-comment-periods/) and [www.sasb.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Invitation-to-Comment-SASB-CF-RoP.pdf](http://www.sasb.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Invitation-to-Comment-SASB-CF-RoP.pdf) 55pages 2,02Mb

**Source:** SASB, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

**Editor:** Key changes include a change in focus from SASB being USA centric to being globally acceptable, changes to definition of financial materiality and other matters.

## Leadership in Sustainable Business Course 2020 (Sept/Oct/Nov)

"SBN is here to help you navigate your business to success through the key sustainability issues of our time.

"The *Leadership in Sustainability Course* is designed and presented by our team of sustainable business experts. It includes guest presenters from business and academia. It's built on 15+ years' experience enabling sustainable business in Aotearoa.

"Together we will identify the key sustainability issues of our time and how they relate to NZ business. Grow the skills and confidence to effectively influence individuals and businesses to achieve change in a sustainability context. Learn how to use sustainability tools to build, or build on, a strategy for your business to achieve success so people and nature prosper.

**When/Where:** 6 days Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Sept to Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020; Auckland Central and Waiheke Island

**More:** <https://sustainable.org.nz/sustainable-business-events/leadership-in-sustainable-business-course-2020-sept-oct-nov/>

**Source:** SBN, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020.

## The Modern Slavery Act 2018: A Practical Handbook

"Over 40,000,000 slaves live today. And with our complex global supply chains, it's likely businesses of any scale will likely be implicated in benefitting from modern slavery. With the support of industry, in 2018 the Australia Government passed the Modern Slavery Act to help businesses level the playing field and stop modern slavery.

"The legislation requires businesses with over \$100m in revenue to disclose an annual statement addressing how they are addressing modern slavery risks in the operations and supply chains. The statement will be published on a public website and open to scrutiny from investors, customers, employees and the community.

"As many companies start to come to terms with what modern slavery is, and how to prepare their first submissions to the Modern Slavery Act, Deloitte has launched *The Modern Slavery Act 2018: A practical guidebook* to help organisations address modern slavery in their operations and supply chains, and meet the requirements of the Act.

"The guidebook was developed in consultation with industry and not-for-profits and provides a simple step by step framework to assess modern slavery risk and take action to eliminate slavery from operations and supply chain. It places survivors of modern slavery at the centre of the approach and adheres to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

**More:** <https://www2.deloitte.com/au/en/pages/risk/articles/modern-slavery-act-2018-guidebook.html> 38 pages 7.98Mb

**Source:** Peter Morris Deloitte Australia 31<sup>st</sup> Aug. 2020.

**Editor:** the Act has implications for NZ entities.

## Getting to Carbon Positive: Podcast series

"In May, Beca published '*Decarbonising a Prosperous New Zealand*' which looked at eight key transitions that would best enable New Zealand to rapidly shift to a low carbon economy. Over the past 11 weeks, the *Getting to Carbon Positive* podcast addresses some of the social, cultural, environmental, and economic challenges and opportunities, as well as contributing to the ongoing discussions about how we can get the best outcomes.

**More:** [www.becca.com/about-us/sustainability/getting-to-carbon-positive](http://www.becca.com/about-us/sustainability/getting-to-carbon-positive)

**Source:** *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2020.