

# Sustainability Matters

Compiled and published by Ray Skinner, FCA

Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

29<sup>th</sup> April 2021



Designed by  
[www.vecteezy.com](http://www.vecteezy.com)

## An Appeal for Economic Transformation at President Biden's Climate Summit

"President Biden and distinguished state leaders.

"In his encyclical letter of 2015 – on care for our common home – Pope Francis exhorted: 'Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change.'

"He laid out how we can transition to a post-capitalist economy, but also reminded us that there are other ways of knowing and being that hold the secret to a better world.

"Paradoxically, that message implies climate change is NOT what we need to address at this climate change summit. ....

"In essence, endlessly growing levels of consumption and the limitations of planetary resources are on a collision course. It follows that, as long as we conform to a macroeconomic model with its inherent assumption of perpetual expansion, emissions control sufficient to meet the Paris Agreement and restabilise our climate is on track to utterly fail.

"We have become victims of an insatiable monster of our own making which must be replaced before it, quite literally, has us consuming ourselves.

"Therefore, my appeal to each of you today is we broaden the international conversation to squarely confront the real climate issue – the growth imperative in our current economic paradigm – beginning at this summit.

**More:** <http://wiseresponse.org.nz/2021/04/20/an-appeal-for-economic-transformation-at-president-bidens-climate-summit/>

**Source:** *Carbon News*, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021.

**Editor:** 'Growth' is indeed the nexus of 'the issue'. 

## Wellington, Porirua Report the Best Quality of Life in Biennial Survey

"People in Wellington and Porirua have the best quality of life compared to residents in other New Zealand cities.

"And those same positively Wellington residents, along with their Hamilton friends, also believe their cities are the greatest places to live.

"Whereas those in Tauranga say their area is becoming a progressively worse place to reside.

"The latest results from *The Quality of Life Survey*, which canvassed residents under eight councils – Auckland, Tauranga, Hamilton, Porirua, Wellington, Hutt City, Christchurch and Dunedin – have been released.

"The survey, carried out every two years, collected data on a range of issues including perceptions of local neighbourhoods, housing, safety, employment, public transport, crime, and climate change.....

**More:** [www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/wellington-porirua-report-the-best-quality-of-life-in-new-biennial-survey/4INCUIHKJV404CGOMF3PPAKTULY/](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/wellington-porirua-report-the-best-quality-of-life-in-new-biennial-survey/4INCUIHKJV404CGOMF3PPAKTULY/) plus [www.qualityoflifeproject.govt.nz/survey.htm](http://www.qualityoflifeproject.govt.nz/survey.htm) 160 pages, 5.55Mb

**Source:** *NZ Herald*, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021, page A6.

**Editor:** *The Quality of Life Survey* partnership between the councils, was first conducted in 2003, repeated in 2004, and undertaken every two years since. 

## Jeans Giant Levi's Urges Shoppers to Buy Less to Tackle 'Over Consumption'

"American apparel company Levi Strauss & Co is encouraging its customers to buy less as it strives to tackle the climate crisis and issues of overconsumption.

"The San Francisco-based multinational, ... , is asking its customers to wear their clothes longer and to buy less often.

"Paul Dillinger, vice-president of global product innovation, said fast fashion and overconsumption had become a huge problem for the fashion industry. The move to curb fast fashion practices and encourage consumers to 'shop more responsibly' comes as the company gears to expand its operations to focus on re-sale.

"Overconsumption, even of products that are marginally better, is still an issue', Dillinger said, ....

"This is not about crippling the company's financial prospects in the future, this is about emphasising the importance of a broader, more holistic approach to the apparel market. ...

"The apparel industry is the world's second-largest polluter, second only to fossil fuels. Denim is a major contributor to this.

"Global clothing consumption doubled between 2005 and 2020, from 74.3 billion items of clothing purchased annually to 130.6 billion, and the amount of clothing purchased each year is expected to rise by 63% – from 62 million tons today to 102 million tons by 2030, according to ... Levi's.

"It is estimated more than half of fast fashion produced is disposed of in under a year, with consumers found to keep clothing items half as long as they did 15 years ago. ...

**More:** [www.nzherald.co.nz/business/jeans-giant-levis-urges-shoppers-to-buy-less-to-tackle-overconsumption/5GUCUYB2VWH7H2NB53ZFBUI2PQ/](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/jeans-giant-levis-urges-shoppers-to-buy-less-to-tackle-overconsumption/5GUCUYB2VWH7H2NB53ZFBUI2PQ/) [Paywall] plus [www.fastcompany.com/90627224/levis-wants-you-to-stop-buying-so-many-jeans](http://www.fastcompany.com/90627224/levis-wants-you-to-stop-buying-so-many-jeans)

**Source:** *NZ Herald*, page A19, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021. 

## The Fifth Crime: The Campaign to Make 'Ecocide' an International Crime

"Body International lawyers, environmentalists and a growing number of world leaders say 'ecocide' –widespread destruction of the environment – would serve as a 'moral red line' for the planet.

"The Fifth Crime: First in a continuing series with NBC News about the campaign to make 'ecocide' an international crime.

"In 1948, after Nazi Germany exterminated millions of Jews and other minorities during World War II, the United Nations adopted a convention establishing a new crime so heinous it demanded collective action. Genocide, the nations declared, was 'condemned by the civilised world' and justified intervention in the affairs of sovereign states.

"Now, a small but growing number of world leaders including Pope Francis and French President Emmanuel Macron have begun citing an offense they say poses a similar threat to humanity and remains beyond the reach of existing legal conventions: ecocide, or widespread destruction of the environment. ... [Long article]

**More:** <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/07042021/climate-crisis-ecocide-vanuatu-the-fifth-crime/>

**Source:** *Orion*, 9<sup>th</sup> April; 2021. 

## 73 million Trees 'Not Nearly Enough', says Company Using Pine to Nurture Native Forest

"Twelve years ago, New Zealand Carbon Farming was just a concept.

"Now, it is one of the country's biggest landowners, and its business model – planting permanent forest – is looking more prescient by the day.

"The company was founded in 2010. By late 2019, a Radio NZ investigation looking for the country's biggest land owners concluded it was New Zealand's ninth largest landholder, with 28,365 hectares.

"If the same survey was taken today, the company would have vaulted up the ranks.

"It now owns close to 46,000 ha, and manages another 44,000 ha on behalf of farmers and other landowners, giving it control of some 90,000 ha. If nothing else had changed since 2019, its land holdings would place it fifth on RNZ's list, excluding land it manages for others.

"Yet few people have heard of the company, which has deliberately flown under the radar until recently.

"Its business model is intriguing. First, it finds marginal or unprofitable farmland, then buys it or partners with the landowner. Second, it plants a cover crop – usually pine.

"The pine trees aren't for harvest. They're to supply a carbon-rich nurse crop, allowing native forest to regenerate underneath them.

"While slow-growing native seedlings take root, the faster-growing pine supplies a speedier – and increasingly profitable – source of cash from carbon credits.

"A cover of pine trees 'creates the right environment for indigenous trees to flourish beneath that umbrella and regenerate over time', says NZCF co-founder and director Matt Walsh.

"Why pine? 'There's a lot of it around, so it's relatively easy to do research on pine trees', he says. 'New Zealand has 100 years of history of growing pine trees so we know exactly how to grow them and how fast they'll grow and so that helps reduce the risk. Along the way, they store a lot of carbon... [particularly] over the next 70 years [when] the planet needs the most help ....

**More:** [www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/124826669/73-million-trees-not-nearly-enough-says-company-using-pine-to-nurture-native-forest](http://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/124826669/73-million-trees-not-nearly-enough-says-company-using-pine-to-nurture-native-forest)

**Source:** Editor 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021.

**Editor:** Peter Casey, the General Manager, is a chartered accountant, with a degree in forestry. He was a member of the then NZICA's Sustainable Development Reporting Committee.

## Governing for the Future: Anticipatory Governance by Jonathan Boston

"Good governance has many attributes. Among these are anticipating tomorrow's problems, protecting the longterm public interest, and endeavouring to 'future-proof' the state (Boston *et al.*, 2014). Sound anticipatory governance, in other words, is a critical ingredient. It is fundamental to advancing better government. But what exactly does it mean? Here are some suggestions. ...

**When/Where:** 12<sup>th</sup> May, 7:30 to 9:00pm, via Zoom; <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88296060481?pwd=WWZtVkdFMXorOUpsVTZmUzlmUDJiQT09> Meeting ID: 882 9606 0481 Passcode: 721073

**More:** <https://ojs.victoria.ac.nz/pq/article/view/4614> --> <https://ojs.victoria.ac.nz/pq/article/view/4614/4101> published 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016; 14 pages

**Source:** Our Climate Declaration, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

## Climate Change Education: A Model of Justice-Oriented STEM Education

"In recent years the connection between social justice and the natural sciences, math, and engineering has become more apparent. We have seen how marginalised peoples – women; low-income people; and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) – are disproportionately burdened by the disparities created by impacts of global phenomena, such as the coronavirus pandemic and severe weather events exacerbated by climate change. Research and advances in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) are able to offer methods and tools to support communities developing solutions which mitigate and adapt to these global catastrophes. However, STEM research cannot create just solutions without recognising the power and leadership of under-included and marginalised communities. Furthermore, STEM educators must create education experiences that prepare students, teachers, and communities to better understand racist systems and create science-based solutions that are grounded in social justice.

"In this article, we highlight climate change education as an example of justice-oriented STEM education and showcase how teacher professional development – using the annual Summer Institute for Climate Change Education as an example – can be structured to give educators a foundation in both the scientific and social ways of understanding climate change as a global phenomenon. Further, we offer methods that educators and education administrators can use to transform their classrooms and curricula into justice-oriented STEM learning opportunities. ... [Long article]

**More:** [www.nsta.org/connected-science-learning-january-february-2021/climate-change-education-model-justice-oriented](http://www.nsta.org/connected-science-learning-january-february-2021/climate-change-education-model-justice-oriented)

**Source:** Global Council for Science and the Environment (GCSE), 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021.

## Enterprise Value Creation

"The error of corporate leaders in the 20<sup>th</sup> century was to focus on increasing the wealth of shareholders instead of focusing on increasing the long-term health of the company. This 'primacy of the shareholder' was unsustainable and has been replaced by enterprise value creation, preservation and erosion.

"Organisational success will no longer be measured by increased profit, dividends or share price but rather by the value that its activities and its outputs add to society. Enterprise value must be seen through the lens of how the three critical dimensions for sustainable development namely the economy, society and the environment, impact on a company's financial condition, its balance sheet, its operating performance, its income statement and cash flow, its risk profile, and its cost of capital.

"Join us to see how corporate reporting is changing and the impact this will have on your organisation.

"This event is unprecedented in its panel of global thought leaders who include:

- Professor Mervyn King, Good Governance Academy Patron
- Helen Brand, ACCA Chief Executive
- Jonathan Labrey, IIRC Chief Strategy Officer
- Kevin Dancey, IFA Chief Executive Officer
- Paul Druckman, World Benchmarking Alliance Chairman

**When/Where:** 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021 7:00pm NZ time, 5:00pm AEST; 4 hour online event

**More:** [www.goodgovernance.academy/events/5th-colloquium-enterprise-value-creation/](http://www.goodgovernance.academy/events/5th-colloquium-enterprise-value-creation/)

**Source:** Karen McWilliams via CA ANZ General Discussion Group, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

## The 'Hot List' – A Ranking of Top Climate Scientists Influencing the Climate Change Debate Rank

"In 1988, U.S. scientist James Hansen went before Congress and testified about his research into the warming of the planet. More than 30 years later, Hansen's prediction the average global temperature could rise by about 1°C (almost 2 °F) by 2019 has come to pass. His warning, and appeals for action from Hansen and others, went largely ignored by policymakers, despite an avalanche of confirmatory research from ensuing generations of climate scientists.

"We wanted to know: Who are the scientists who have dedicated their lives to studying the climate, knowing their work may go unheeded and do little to avert a climate catastrophe? And how do they deal with it? As one of them said: 'I have a mountain of data on my shoulders, but I feel so powerless.'

"Even the coronavirus pandemic has laid bare the enormous challenges the scientists confront. Echoing divisive skirmishes over climate change, politics and science have done battle, as some governments appeared to dismiss or minimise established research on the virus' spread. And despite a drop of 7% in emissions last year as the world ground almost to a halt, carbon dioxide levels continued to rise and are higher than at any point in human history. No year was hotter than 2020.

"It's a reminder even as the tumultuous events of the past year grabbed headlines, climate change relentlessly thrummed in the background. The Siberian tundra is thawing as the Arctic sees record-breaking temperatures. Australia and California have burned, and will burn again. Tropical storms are bigger and stronger than ever.

"To structure this exploration of the world's top climate scientists, data journalist Maurice Tamman has created a system of identifying and ranking climate academics according to how influential they are: how much they've published, how often those papers have been cited relative to others in the same field, and how often those papers have been referenced in the lay press, social media and other public policy papers.

"It's important to note this isn't a ranking of the 'best' climate scientists. It's a measure of influence, which naturally evolves over time, based on information available as of December 2020. ....

"This effort examined at least 350,000 papers, 99% of which were published after Hansen's famous testimony. It has yielded a list of 1,000 top scientists. And from this list, we've selected six, four men and two women, whose stories capture the sweep of climate science today. These are not just stories about the science, though, but about the people behind the science. ....

**More:** [www.reuters.com/investigates/section/climate-change-scientists/](http://www.reuters.com/investigates/section/climate-change-scientists/) plus [www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/climate-change-scientists-list/](http://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/climate-change-scientists-list/) Includes about 73 in Australia and 4 in New Zealand.

**Source:** Reuters Events, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021. 

## Measuring Organic Carbon in Soil

"The Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) has released a protocol for measuring, monitoring, reporting and verification of Soil Organic Carbon (SOC). Increasing SOC content in soils enhances the overall health and fertility of soils, the resilience and sustainability of agriculture, as well as food security and nutrition. This standardised methodology for SOC and GHG removals, will be welcomed by farmers as significant for advancing regenerative agriculture.

**More:** [www.carbonems.com/single-post/snippets-for-8-april-2021](http://www.carbonems.com/single-post/snippets-for-8-april-2021)

**Source:** *SnippETS*, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**Editor:** This is important for carbon sequestration. 

## How Much CO2 is Captured by a Green Roof?

"Green roofs, or vegetated roofs capture CO2. But how much CO2 can they capture? What numbers do we land on when we do a carbon budget that considers the whole manufacturing and transport chain? This article aims at giving some estimates and present the currently available literature on the topic.

"It is not uncommon to hear and read statements such as 'green roofs consists of vegetation; hence they are super-efficient at capturing CO2, thus making vegetated roofs excellent options to combat anthropogenic climate change'.

"While there is absolutely no doubt green roofs capture carbon (in the form of carbon dioxide), we need to recognise the capture level strongly varies between the different roof types and vegetation used. Add to this equation variations in materials, transportation, longevity, and climate, and you will quickly find significant variations between roofs when it comes to the total carbon budget.

"Let's try to unpack this complexity. ....

"Based on the published data, traditional extensive green roofs effectively reduce the carbon footprint of a building and have a carbon payback time of 6.4-15.9 years. A green roof can extend the life span of the roof membrane by 10-50 years (this range depends on the quality of the membrane and quality of installation) which leads to a positive effect on the carbon footprint when installing a green roof on a building.

"Further, detention-based green roof concepts such as Blue-Green and Purple-Roof-compliant systems can potentially improve carbon payback time further as they can replace large below-grade concrete stormwater management structures. These types of roofs reduce stormwater peak outflow in the same manner as below-grade gray stormwater infrastructure and green our urban environments. Of course, the carbon payback-time varies from project-to-project.

**More:** [www.purple-roof.com/post/green-roof-co2-capture-explained](http://www.purple-roof.com/post/green-roof-co2-capture-explained)

**Source:** *SnippETS*, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021.

**Editor:** The findings may be based on results for Germany or USA and could differ for other locations. A modelling tool is provided but does not work for New Zealand or Australia. 

## NZ Climate Related Disclosures Regime

"In September 2020, the New Zealand Government announced its intention to implement mandatory reporting on climate risks. It was also announced the External Reporting Board would be responsible for developing the reporting standards for the regime.

"This regime will take a comply-or-explain approach to climate-related disclosures will be mandatory for listed companies, Crown financial institutions, large insurers, registered banks and managers of investment schemes with more than \$1 billion in assets. Subject to parliamentary approval, these entities could be required to make disclosures alongside wider year end reporting in 2023.

"For those interested in the developments, below is a link to information recently published on the External Reporting Board website setting out the time frame and background for the project.

**More:** [www.xrb.govt.nz/extended-external-reporting/climate-related-disclosures/](http://www.xrb.govt.nz/extended-external-reporting/climate-related-disclosures/)

**Source:** Jamie Cattell, (XRB) via CA ANZ Climate & Sustainability Group, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**Editor:** Among other things the web page has a graphic showing the timeline – work is underway to have focussed engagement and prepare a draft reporting standard. 

## The Dark Side of Green Energy

"As the world moves away from fossil fuels, we look at how greener energies are creating new environmental challenges.

"The age of fossil fuel dominance is gradually drawing to a close. Green technologies like wind turbines and solar panels will become increasingly common.

"They promise a cleaner environment, free of oil and pollution, and a more prosperous and even peaceful world. They seem to be the ultimate solution in fighting climate change – but every new technology is made from raw materials and minerals. Solar panels, wind turbines and electric cars all require metals, some extremely rare, which must be mined somewhere, creating new pollution.

"*The Dark Side of Green Energy* is about how the world may be creating a huge dependence on rare materials and minerals – and whether the promise of a clean, 'green' world will turn out to be a myth with fresh challenges to our society and environment.

**More:** [www.aljazeera.com/program/featured-documentaries/2020/9/7/the-dark-side-of-green-energy](http://www.aljazeera.com/program/featured-documentaries/2020/9/7/the-dark-side-of-green-energy) plus <https://watch.thewest.com.au/show/345576> of 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020; 47:43

**Source:** Aljazeera, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021. 

## Happen Films

"The aim of Happen Films is to showcase and demonstrate inspiring solutions to the multiple global crises we're facing today. We're currently living through an exceptional time in human history, where what we've known as normal is breaking down due to environmental, cultural, and social limits being reached. This overlap of climate change, peak oil, financial instability, environmental destruction, and inequality have created the conditions for a massive global shift in the way we relate to the world and each other.

"We need to transition to not just living 'sustainably', but in a way which heals and regenerates the damage that's been done. So how do we go about doing this? Exploring this question is what Happen Films was founded upon and is what drives us to do what we do. The solutions are out there and people are pioneering this transition. We want to find these people and share their stories in order to inspire others to make change in their own lives and in their communities.

**More:** <https://happenfilms.com/about/> Based in Christchurch

**Source:** Editor, via Malcolm Rands, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021. 

## Industry Leaders Partner to Reduce Freight Emissions

"A report released today [16<sup>th</sup> April 2021] by the Sustainable Business Council's Freight Group sets out an ambitious but achievable 30-year pathway to progressively decarbonise New Zealand's freight system. ....

"Every year we move around 280 million tonnes of freight across our transport system – through road, rail, coastal shipping, international shipping and air. That's around 56 tonnes of freight per person in New Zealand. On current projections our freight volumes will increase by 33% well before 2050. If we do nothing, emissions will grow by over 37% by 2050. We need to act now.' ...

"Our proposed low carbon freight pathway has three interconnected horizons of work, with each horizon progressed concurrently and starting immediately. These horizons have different levels of intensity and time-periods allowing a staged transition. It's an approach that provides businesses time and greater surety to best manage the transition of their fleet.'

"The low carbon freight pathway proposes: ...

"Our next step is to work with the sector and to bring more partners on board the pathway. As more businesses begin

the transition, the cost of decarbonisation will fall as we achieve economies of scale,' says Mr Adams. ....

**More:** [www.sbc.org.nz/news/2021/industry-leaders-partner-to-reduce-freight-emissions](http://www.sbc.org.nz/news/2021/industry-leaders-partner-to-reduce-freight-emissions) plus [www.sbc.org.nz/insights/2021/low-carbon-freight-pathway](http://www.sbc.org.nz/insights/2021/low-carbon-freight-pathway) and [www.sbc.org.nz/media/sbc/our-word/low-carbon-freight-pathway-documents/Low-carbon-freight-pathway-report.pdf](http://www.sbc.org.nz/media/sbc/our-word/low-carbon-freight-pathway-documents/Low-carbon-freight-pathway-report.pdf) 1.21Mb, 61pages

**Source:** *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021.

**Editor:** The report does not seem to discuss possibilities to reduce freight volumes. 

## Why Corporate ESG Goals are Now a Necessity: A Q&A

"We recently caught up with Kathy Alosegaf, Global Internal Sustainability Leader with Deloitte, for her views on the importance of corporate ESG goals and trends in the space over the next several years.

"Do you see a link between ambitious ESG goals and the financial performance of a company? If so, please explain: We know in the marketplace that the value of intangible assets is increasingly driving market valuations. Many of the intangible assets companies have relate to ESG drivers, such as diversity, equity, and inclusion measures, human rights management, and environmental performance. One example of a direct impact I heard recently, from a notable leader, was that once his company took strong action on environmental measures, it became much easier to attract excellent talent, presumably driving down recruiting costs. Additionally, customers and investors increasingly are looking at a company's ESG impact when making purchasing and investment decisions.

"On the other hand, you can also see how reputational damage (stemming from failing at some of the intangibles listed above) can lead to financial losses to a company, so these 'intangibles' are becoming increasingly important to a company's success....

"How can companies move from ESG goals to real action to ensure they are meeting stakeholder demands ahead of 2030?: First, it's important to start with a focus on transparency and governance: Transparency, through publicly reporting performance according to commonly accepted standards, allows tracking of progress and creates accountability. That, coupled with senior level oversight, helps to focus attention from the right level of management on the areas needing action

"Next, it's important to think about how a company can use its 'superpowers' to effect change. At Deloitte, for example, we recognise our pool of talented professionals across the globe as one of our superpowers. So we're rolling out a training program to equip all 330,000 of our professionals worldwide with the knowledge, tools, and inspiration they need to act on climate change, starting with our #iAct campaign in April which will be followed with more structured learning in May. By educating our professionals on their own impact – including the impacts resulting from what they consume, use, and buy – we will enable them to take action at home and through their work, and create a multiplier effect as they influence others.

"Additionally, part of our carbon goals includes having 67% of our suppliers set science-based targets, similar to how we at Deloitte have set our own science-based targets. So, we're working to influence not only our own community, but also the broader community of our suppliers. ...'

**More:** [www.environmentalleader.com/2021/04/why-corporate-esg-goals-are-now-a-necessity-a-qa-with-kathy-alsegaf-of-deloitte/](http://www.environmentalleader.com/2021/04/why-corporate-esg-goals-are-now-a-necessity-a-qa-with-kathy-alsegaf-of-deloitte/)

**Source:** *Environmental Leader*, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

**Editor:** How are other entities, equipping their staff, members and associates along similar lines as Deloitte? 