

Sustainability Matters

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Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children



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Climate Risk and Response: Physical Hazards and Socioeconomic Impacts

"How could Earth's changing climate impact socioeconomic systems across the world in the next three decades? Our yearlong, cross-disciplinary research effort provides some answers.

"After more than 10,000 years of relative stability – the full span of human civilisation – the Earth's climate is changing. As average temperatures rise, climate science finds that acute hazards such as heat waves and floods grow in frequency and severity, and chronic hazards, such as drought and rising sea levels, intensify. In this report, we focus on understanding the nature and extent of physical risk from a changing climate over the next one to three decades, exploring physical risk as it is the basis of both transition and liability risks.

"We find that physical risk from a changing climate is already present and growing. Seven characteristics stand out. Physical climate risk is:

1. Increasing:
2. Spatial:
3. Non-stationary: ...
4. Systemic:
5. Regressive:
6. Under-prepared:
7. What can decision makers do?

"In the face of these challenges, policy makers and business leaders will need to put in place the right tools, analytics, processes, and governance to properly assess climate risk, adapt to risk that is locked in, and decarbonise to reduce the further buildup of risk.

"Much as thinking about information systems and cyber-risks has become integrated into corporate and public-sector decision making, climate change will also need to feature as a major factor in decisions. For companies, this will mean taking climate considerations into account when looking at capital allocation, development of products or services, and supply chain management, among others. For cities, a climate focus will become essential for urban planning decisions. Financial institutions could consider the risk in their portfolios ...

More: www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/sustainability/our-insights/climate-risk-and-response-physical-hazards-and-socioeconomic-impacts An 164 page, 4.03 MB report with a very long URL. Hundreds of people were involved. Numerous graphs and diagrams


Source: *McKinsey Highlights*, 10th February 2020. 

Wild and Winged in a City of Eight Million

"Priya Rajan and her two-year-old daughter live in the concrete maze of Bangalore, India, a city of eight million people. In a 'A Window as Wide as the World', wildlife hides in every corner: egrets and dragonflies, raptors and butterflies, humanity and the resilience of the more-than-human world.

More: <https://orionmagazine.org/article/a-window-as-wide-as-the-world/>

Source: *Orion*, 14th February 2020

Editor: Very eloquently written. 


The Art of Storytelling (for finance people)

"If you want an audience to remember your presentation, use some storytelling tips from Aristotle.

"In Brief;

- Creating a story is the most effective way to engage an audience.
- Aristotle outlined three dimensions of storytelling: ethos [ethical appeal], logos [rational appeal] and pathos [emotional appeal].
- Bringing real life examples and a little emotion to a story makes it easier for people to remember facts.

More: www.acuitymag.com/business/the-art-of-storytelling-for-finance-people

Source: *Acuity*, 3rd February 2020. 

Auckland Council to Add HomeFit Check on LIM Reports

"Auckland residents will soon be able to access more information about the health and safety of their home, with Auckland Council moving to include a *home-fit* check on a property's LIM report.

"The Council has teamed up with the Green Building Council, which offers a *HomeFit Certification*, and from April, that information will be passed to the Council for inclusion on the Land Information Memorandum.

"Joining Kathryn to discuss** the move are Andrew Eagles, Chief Executive of the Green Building Council and Sophie Heighway, Auckland Council's Sustainability Initiatives Manager.

"For anyone wanting to know more, there'll be a free webinar hosted by Sophie Heighway and Adrian Feasey from the GBC's Sustainability Initiatives team which will explain how the council is using its targeted rates scheme to improve homes and how LIM reports drive up awareness of lower carbon, healthier homes.

More: www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetoon/audio/2018733588/auckland-council-to-add-homefit-check-on-lim-reports ** Listen duration 24':24"

Source: Sophie Heighway, LinkedIn, 11th February 2020. 

Salvation or Pipe Dream? A Movement Grows to Protect Up to Half the Planet

"Our contributing writer Jim Robbins examines the growing calls from scientists and conservationists to protect up to 50% of the earth's land and oceans in the coming decades. Once thought of as unrealistic, many experts are now taking these ideas seriously, not only as a firewall to protect biodiversity, but also to mitigate continued climate warming. Several non-profits have been created by philanthropists, environmental groups, and scientists to buy up vast tracts of land. "This is not just about saving species, it's about maintaining ecological processes that underpin all life on Earth", says one conservationist.

More: <https://e360.yale.edu/features/salvation-or-pipe-dream-a-movement-grows-to-protect-up-to-half-the-planet>

Source: *Yale Environment 360*, 14th February 2020. 

'Uninsurable and Unhedgeable': Central Banks Warn of Financial Crisis from Climate Change

"A future climate disaster, or 'green swan' event, could bring down the global financial system, according to a new report from the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), an international financial organisation which serves as a bank for central banks around the world.

"Like black swan events, 'green swan' events will be very difficult to predict and will hit with little warning. The potential for a cascading series of crises stemming from climate change threatens global financial stability, and the world's central banks are not equipped to respond to them, or even predict what exactly might unfold, the 100-page BIS report said.

"The financial risk from climate change is typically put into two categories: physical risk and transition risk. The former refers to natural disasters or some other climate-related calamity that imposes steep costs on society from physical damage, such as a drought or a hurricane.

"Transition risk refers to the repricing of assets as the global economy shifts towards cleaner energy, such as an oil company losing much of its value following the passage of a painful carbon tax.

More: www.desmogblog.com/2020/01/31/green-swan-central-banks-financial-crisis-climate-change plus www.bis.org/publ/othp31.pdf 115 pages 3.7Mb

Source: *SnippETS*, 13th February 2020.

Sustainable Business 2020

"..... Winding the clock back more than 12 years, I can see I wanted to live in a sustainable way. I probably even thought I was doing a good job by recycling a few things and buying organic produce. But, I didn't really understand much about the whys, whats and hows of sustainable business practice.

"That's a good reminder for me that there are always people and businesses beginning their journey and needing the understanding, support and knowledge to help them take the steps along the way.

"In response to this little 'aha' moment we have created an introductory event, *Sustainable Business 2020*, designed mainly for businesses which are not yet SBN members. It's a starting point for individuals and organisations wanting to engage in sustainable business practices, but not sure of how to do it.

When/Where: Monday 16th March, 5.00pm – 7.00pm, 101 Pakenham Street West, Auckland

More: <https://sustainable.org.nz/sustainable-business-events/sustainable-business-2020/>

Source: SBN, 13th February 2020.

Ernst & Young Becomes First Big Four to Set Global Carbon Neutrality Target

"Ernst & Young became the first of the Big Four accounting firms to announce a plan to reach carbon neutrality globally. The firm's goal is to get there by the end of this year.

"To achieve carbon neutrality, Ernst & Young says the firm will focus on reducing travel emissions, following sustainable procurement practices, and increasing renewable energy procurement from sources like wind and solar to power their offices worldwide. In addition, the firm anticipates purchasing carbon credits, and investing in projects such as reforestation that can help address emissions.

More: www.environmentalleader.com/2020/02/ernst-young-carbon-neutrality-target/ plus www.ey.com/en_gl/news/2020/01/ey-announces-commitment-to-be-carbon-neutral-by-end-of-2020

Source: *Environmental Leader*, 8th February 2020.

Taumata Arowai - Water Services Regulator Bill

"Parliament's Health Committee is calling for submissions on the Taumata Arowai-the Water Services Regulator Bill.

"If passed, this Bill would implement the Government's decision to create a new regulatory body to oversee, administer, and enforce the drinking water regulatory system. The Bill would establish Taumata Arowai-the Water Services Regulator as a new Crown agent and provide for its objectives, functions, and operating principles. It would also provide for its governance arrangements, including the establishment of a board and Māori Advisory Group.

"This Bill is part of a broader package of reforms to the regulatory system for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater (three waters). The Government has indicated a separate bill will be proposed at a later date to give effect to decisions to implement system-wide reforms to the regulation of drinking water and source water, and targeted reforms to improve the regulation and performance of wastewater and stormwater networks.

Submissions Close: 4th March 2020.

More:

www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2019/0202/latest/LMS294345.html plus

https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/52SCHE_SCF_BILL_93442/taumat-a-arowai-the-water-services-regulator-bill

Source: *Tieke: ECO Alerts & Events*, 12th February 2020.

Call for Improved UN Sustainable Development Goals Disclosures

"Chartered Accountants ANZ have joined other leading accounting bodies and others calling for corporate and asset owner action and improved reporting on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in an attempt to hit the goals set for 2030. The recommendations are detailed in the report, *Sustainable Development Goals Disclosure (SDGD) Recommendations*, authored by Carol Adams, Professor of Accounting, with Paul Druckman and Russel Picot, Honorary Professors at Durham University Business School.

"The report has been published by global accountancy bodies: the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), ACCA, ICAS, Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC) and the World Benchmarking Alliance. It is also endorsed by a Director at the UN Development Programme.

"The SDGD Recommendations offer a new approach for all organisations to address sustainable development issues aligned to the three most influential and most used reporting frameworks. They attempt to establish a best practice for corporate reporting on the SDGs and enable more effective and standardized reporting and transparency on climate change, social and other environmental impacts.

More: www.charteredaccountantsanz.com/news-and-analysis/news/call-for-improved-un-sustainable-development-goals-disclosures plus www.charteredaccountantsanz.com/-/media/76df1ba4bc654398a28e7d40adba7417.ashx 12pages, 4.21Mb

Source: Karen McWilliams, LinkedIn, 24th January 2020

Editor: Page 4: The target audience for the SDGD Recommendations is reporting organisations and their investors, other key stakeholders and assurance providers. The SDGD Recommendations are also relevant to national governments seeking to enlist the support of organisations and capital markets in order to realise their commitment to the SDGs.

A-CSEAR 2020 - Call for Papers: 'Democratising Accounting'

"We look forward to welcoming you to the 19th Australasian Centre for Social and Environmental Accounting Research (A-CSEAR) Conference and Emerging Scholars' Colloquium to be held at the Wellington School of Business and Government, Victoria University of Wellington,

"A-CSEAR aims to foster a supportive and inclusive community of emerging and established scholars investigating research on the social and environmental aspects of accounting theory and practice. The annual A-CSEAR conference provides an international forum in which to showcase this work and to foster much needed interdisciplinary research in accounting.....

"We encourage a broad interpretation of 'Democratising accounting'. This may include topics and themes relating, but not limited, to stakeholder engagement, the politics of value(s) and valuation, alternative and emergent accounts, counter-accounting and social movements, accounting education, the affective dimensions of accounting, barriers and facilitators of democratisation. ...

When/Where: 14th – 16th Dec 2019, Wellington

More: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/media/csear/conference-docs/ACSEAR%202020%20-%20call%20for%20papers.pdf

Source: CSEAR, 3rd February 2020.

Church of England Devises an Index for Climate-Conscious Investing

The church's pension fund will invest £600 million in companies ranked according to their efforts to meet the 2015 Paris agreement.

More: www.nytimes.com/2020/01/31/business/church-of-england-climate-change.html

Source: *NY Times*, 6th February 2020.

Wise Response Society Submission – Crown Minerals Act 1991 Review

In its 27th January submission to MBIE regarding the current review of the Crown Minerals Act 1991, Wise Response among other things suggests the proposed vision for the revised Act 'rests on a number of principles which are neither fundamental nor comprehensive'. They suggest alternate wording which they perceive would achieve that.

Wise Response also says 'Nowhere in these documents are effective strategic tools employed to enable a realistic evaluation of the underlying assumptions of the sector. As a result, they do not allow either the sector or New Zealanders to prepare for the radical upheavals about to impact on our current way of life. Without these tools, the vision and purpose we propose cannot be achieved.

More: <http://wiseresponse.org.nz/2020/02/10/wr-submission-to-review-of-the-crown-minerals-act-1991/>

Source: Robert Howell, 15th February 2020.

Clean Energy Software – Training Workshop

"RETScreen Expert is developed by the Canadian Government in partnership with the World Bank, UNEP and NASA. It has more than 650,000 users worldwide. The participants will learn benchmarking, feasibility and portfolio analysis of clean energy projects and get 3 months free license for use. This is a great opportunity towards capacity building in; smart energy decision making, GHG emissions and minimizing climate change impacts.

When/Where: 9:30-12:30pm, 18th March, Melbourne

More: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/clean-energy-software-retscreen-expert-training-workshop-tickets-93220211161> plus www.nrcan.gc.ca/maps-tools-publications/tools/data-analysis-software-modelling/retscreen/7465

Source: Dr Mohammad Afzal, 10th February 2020.

SumOfUs – How Many?

SumOfUs has 15 million members says the new Executive Director Emma Ruby-Sachs who who says she has just landed the best job in the world.

She adds: 'SumOfUs is coming of age in a world that desperately needs people-powered solutions to an economic system that, time-and-time again, fails to serve people. As the climate crisis, the disinformation crisis, and the economic crisis grow, SumOfUs members are needed more than ever to insert human and creative possibilities for change. Together, we must stand as a red line against those who seek to use moments of instability for profit, violence and exploitation.

"Members play an instrumental part in planning for this critical moment in our collective story. Over the last few weeks, members finished a global survey that helps us chart our course for the coming years, spent countless hours in meetings with me held over an 18 hour period, and shared their campaign ideas and priorities. All the while not slowing their campaigning – winning an end to Credit Suisse's support for toxic ocean dumping, making huge media waves at Apple's annual general meeting with a demand for human rights protections, and working to make Uber a champion for the environment.'

More: <https://medium.com/@SumOfUs/coffee-meet-up-with-our-new-executive-director-emma-ruby-sachs-15351e5798fc>

Source: SumOfUs, 15th February 2020.

Consultation on the Draft British Standard for Social Value

BS 8950 - Guide to enhancing social value; Comments sought

Comments close: 26th March 2020

More:

<https://standardsdevelopment.bsigroup.com/projects/2018-02876#/section>

Source: SAN, 19th February 2020.

The Story of Plastic Documentary to Premiere in Honour of Earth Day

"Discovery Channel will air award-winning documentary *The Story of Plastic* in honour of Earth Day. An official selection of Mill Valley Film Festival (Audience Award winner) and 2019 DOC NYC, *The Story of Plastic* looks at the man-made crisis of plastic pollution and the worldwide effect it has on the health of our planet and the people that inhabit it.

"Spanning three continents, the film illustrates the ongoing catastrophe: fields full of garbage, veritable mountains of trash; rivers and seas clogged with waste; and skies choked with the poisonous emissions from plastic production and processing. The film features interviews with experts and activists on the frontlines of the fight, revealing the disastrous consequences of the flood of plastic smothering ecosystems and poisoning communities around the world – and the global movement rising up in response. With original animation, archival industry footage starting in the 1930s and first-person accounts, the film distils a complex problem which is increasingly affecting the planet's and its residents' well-being, according to Discovery.....

More: <https://deadline.com/2020/02/the-story-of-plastic-documentary-premiere-discovery-channel-earth-day-1202857663/>

Source: The Story of Stuff, 14th February 2020

Editor: From cover message: With the television premiere, we'll be kicking off community screenings all over the world. In the coming weeks, you'll be hearing more from us about how you can organise a screening in your community – and convert the attention generated by this film into impact. Communities ... are standing by to make sure that this film changes the conversation about plastic pollution for good.

Insights on NZ's Sustainability Professionals


"Oxygen Consulting, in conjunction with the SBN, the SBC and AUT, has launched a ground-breaking piece of research investigating the role of the sustainability professional in New Zealand.

"Very little is known about sustainability roles in New Zealand, which can range from dedicated positions through to integrated responsibilities within existing roles to address the organisation's social, environmental or economic risks and opportunities. ...

"Insights on New Zealand Sustainability Professionals seeks to shed light on this rapidly evolving profession, ...The overall purpose of this research is to help grow the sustainability profession. It's about removing the mystery of these roles so that they can become more accessible to individuals, and give organisations a basis and structure for establishing and supporting them', says Sarah Holden, Director of Oxygen Consulting. ...

Survey closes: 15th March 2020

More: <https://sustainable.org.nz/sustainable-business-news/industry-collaboration-to-grow-sustainability-in-new-zealand/> plus www.oxygen-consulting.co.nz/news-and-blog/2020/2/18/participant-information-insights-on-new-zealand-sustainability-professionals

Source: SBN, 18th February 2020. 

Green Homes: A Crash Course on Sustainable Design


"Join us in the School of Architecture for a panel session on how we can build better homes with better environmental outcomes, co-hosted by NZGBC Future Thinkers, The Sustainable Future Collective and the Future Cities Research Hub.

"We've got an impressive panel lined up to discuss sustainable design, with experts on energy use, materials choice, construction and demolition waste, water management, and environmental certification schemes.

"This is a great chance to learn, network, and get stuck in to 2020 armed with some new knowledge. Following the panel discussion, there'll be plenty of time to have a chat and meet some new people. ...

When/Where: 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm, 10th March, Auckland

More: www.nzgbc.org.nz/Event?Action=View&Event_id=869

Source: NZGBC, 12th February 2020. 

This Land is Our Land: The Struggle for a New Commonwealth

"There are many ways to claim a terrain – by force and by force of the imagination, by cartography and story telling', writes author and Columbia law professor Jedediah Purdy in *This Land Is Our Land*. This slim book, adapted from a series of lectures, is a wide-ranging riff and meditation on land and its central, often paradoxical role in the creation of American wealth, identity, and inequality. 'This is a material story with an ecological face', Purdy writes, 'a story about the terms of land making that made American wealth so unequal.'

"Though many writers have chronicled the erasing of whole mountains in West Virginia's coal country, Purdy digs deeper, convincingly illustrating the ways in which 'environmental vulnerability is intimately involved in American inequality', showing that the debasement of this land is a debasement of ourselves.

More: <https://orionmagazine.org/review/this-land-is-our-land/>

Source: *Orion Magazine*, 31st January 2020. 

Countdown Trials Produce with Paper Instead of Plastic

"Countdown will be trialling the sale of produce wrapped in paper rather than plastic as part of a 10-week programme to test the viability of reducing plastic.


"The trial will see more than a tonne of plastic removed from fruit and vegetables across three Countdown stores in the Auckland region: Ōrewa, Ponsonby and Manukau.

"The 'Unwrapped' trial kicked off today [10th Feb] More than 800 customers have already provided feedback in store.

"Plastic produce bags have been removed as part of the trial, along with the "unwrapping" of 68 products that would normally come packed in plastic.

More:

www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c_id=3&objectid=12307455

Source: Editor, 10th February 2020. 

Jonathon Porritt's Inspiring Lifetime Achievement Award Acceptance Speech

"Delivering an [10 minute] opening address to an Awards audience of more than 600 sustainability, energy and environment professionals, Porritt built on Mary Robinson's keynote speech at the Sustainability Leaders Forum by stating sustainability professionals should be viewed as 'emancipated champions of hope'.

"Porritt, who received a CBE in January 2000 for services to environmental protection, also claimed 2020 was shaping up as an extraordinary year for climate action that would redefine business attitudes towards sustainability.

"2020 is an extraordinarily rare inflexion point in the history of humankind', Porritt said. 'New technologies are transforming markets across the world and most of it is about decarbonising the economy.

"There are converging elements that offer a prospect of authentic hope, which could change things in an astonishingly short time.'

"Porritt is the second person to receive edie's Lifetime Achievement Award, following from ex-Unilever chief executive Paul Polman in 2019.

"Specifically, Porritt noted the potential to match the rapid decarbonisation pledged by businesses and governments with a need to 'recarbonise the planet' by investing in nature to act as carbon sinks.

"He also heralded the work of Greta Thunberg and the climate strikes movement, claiming it was the 'fastest social progressive movement the world has ever seen', and that it wouldn't stop at seven million young people raising their voice for climate action.

"Finally, Porritt posed a question to the hundreds of businesses in attendance at the Awards.

"What is the voice of business going to say?' Porritt asked. 'If you're simply going to go along with the kind of ideology orthodox that has dominated the last 30 years, I advise you to keep quiet.

"If you're going to acknowledge we have to do this as a combination of forces between government, the private sector and civil society and you want your voice to be heard...that's what leadership is going to look like throughout this decade.' ...

More: www.edie.net/news/12/WATCH--Jonathon-Porritt-s-inspiring-Lifetime-Achievement-Award-acceptance-speech/

Source: edie, 7th February 2020. 