

# Sustainability Matters

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Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

18<sup>th</sup> August 2022



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## Warren Snow – A Remarkable Man



Warren passed away on 7<sup>th</sup> August as the result of cancer.

"We are deeply saddened to lose our dear friend, mentor & colleague, Warren Snow, who passed away on Sunday morning. Our aroha goes out to Warren's whānau who have lost a father, brother, cousin, uncle, grandfather, husband – Warren is irreplaceable and his parting leaves a big hole in many people's lives.

"Warren was our hero. He was a movement builder who started the zero-waste movement in New Zealand and continued to grow the momentum for zero waste throughout his entire life. Along the way, he supported and nurtured so many people to give the best of themselves to the zero waste kaupapa. He worked tirelessly to advance zero waste because he saw zero waste as a way of delivering benefits to both communities and the planet.

"Warren was smart, incisive & full of empathy. He explained complicated ideas simply & compellingly, he was clear-eyed about greenwash and corporate lobbying tactics and unafraid to call a spade a spade. He put up with a lot of pushback from vested interests, but he never sold out. He was committed to doing right by the planet and he really lived and worked by his principles.

"We have enormous gratitude for the groundwork Warren undertook to imagine, create & foster the zero waste concept in Aotearoa. Due to his efforts, New Zealand was the first country in the world to adopt a national zero waste policy and Kaitiāia hosted the world's first international zero waste conference. He was a founder of many organisations which are pivotal to zero waste and circular economy advocacy today, including Zero Waste International Alliance, Envision, the New Zealand Product Stewardship Council, the Kiwi Bottle Drive (to name just a few!). Recently, we read reports about zero waste which Warren authored over 20 years ago. The parallels with zero waste and circular economy reports today are striking. Warren was ahead of his time and gifted us a whole lexicon, language and conceptual framework to talk about zero waste, and a network of organisations from which to explore and share zero waste advocacy. ....

**More:** <https://therubbishtrip.co.nz/thoughts-and-musings/remembering-our-friend-mentor-and-hero-warren-snow/> plus *Warren Snow: My story as told to Elisabeth Easther*, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022 at [www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/warren-snow-my-story-as-told-to-elisabeth-easther/KE7MB5ULY5EXXMYB4H6ZEDX6TA/](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/warren-snow-my-story-as-told-to-elisabeth-easther/KE7MB5ULY5EXXMYB4H6ZEDX6TA/) [Paywall]

**Source:** Death Notice, *NZ Herald*, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

## Days of Rage

"System change is – and has always been – our only realistic means of defending the living planet. .... George Monbiot

**More:** [www.monbiot.com/2022/07/19/days-of-rage/](http://www.monbiot.com/2022/07/19/days-of-rage/)

**Source:** *SnippETS*, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

## UN General Assembly Votes Recognises Rights to a Healthy Environment

"The UN General Assembly has almost unanimously voted on a motion to recognise a human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Resolution A/76/L.75. was sponsored by Costa Rica, Maldives, Morocco, Slovenia and Switzerland.

"A total of 161 countries voted in favour and no country voted against the resolution, but eight countries abstained including Russia and China.

"The co-proponents of the draft resolution opted for a technical approach, with the focus on the recognition of the right, building on the resolution of the Human Rights Council, she said, noting the final draft is a strong, well balanced text linking human rights, environment and 'development language.

"The passing of the measure has been hailed by environmental interests. The Centre for International Environmental Law said it was an historic victory for humanity is more than fifty years in the making.

"A representative of New Zealand acknowledged the need to take a human rights-based approach to climate change, drawing attention to indigenous peoples' relationship with the environment and the benefits their perspectives can bring to the framing of this proposed human right.

"The UN Secretary-General António Guterres said this landmark development demonstrates Member States can come together in our collective fight against the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. The international community has given universal recognition to this right and brought us closer to making it a reality for all.

"Mr Guterres said the resolution will help reduce environmental injustices, close protection gaps and empower people, especially those that are in vulnerable situations, including environmental human rights defenders, children, youth, women and indigenous peoples. The resolution will also help States accelerate the implementation of their environmental and human rights obligations and commitments.

**More:** <https://mailchi.mp/eco.org.nz/tieke-eco-news-alerts-events-4-august-9161317>

**Source:** *Tieke Newsletter*, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

## Sustainability Tech Pitch Night

"We're inviting you to our upcoming Sustainability Tech pitch night where you can hear from entrepreneurs who have developed technologies which consider natural resources and foster economic and social development.

"In this latest edition, you'll witness startup founders pitch to a panel of judges who are accomplished business leaders or investors.

**When/Where:** 7:30 - 8:30pm [NZT], Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept. Online

**More:** <https://store.charteredaccountantsanz.co.nz/Sustainability-Tech-Pitch-Night-NZ-Powered-by-CA-Catalyst>

**Source:** CA ANZ, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

## **Blueprint for More Resilient Communities**

"NZ Government releases climate adaptation plan.

"For the first time Aotearoa has a long-term strategy to deal with the effects of climate change, but the [NZ] government plan released today [4<sup>th</sup> August] contains few answers to some of the toughest questions including who pays for what.

"The 200-page National Adaptation Plan shows the priorities for the next six years and pulls together into one place all government efforts to adapt to the warming globe.

"A priority is to embed climate resilience in all government strategies and policies, the plan says.

"Despite the draft version asking for public input on the toughest questions of all – for example, who will pay for damage and the cost to adapt to climate change; and how to fairly require people to leave their homes – this final version includes no definitive answers.

"Instead, it says the massive Resource Management Act reform under way, and expected sometime next year, will be the primary driver in a number of areas including managed retreat.

"On managed retreat - getting some communities out of harm's way in places where it is no longer viable to live – the plan says legislation will also be needed.

"It reiterates costs will be shared between homeowners, local and central government, insurance companies and banks.

"It also wants to make sure homes and infrastructure are built away from harm.

"The plan will see Treasury and Waka Kotahi integrate adapting to climate change into decision making.

"It also pledges to work with Māori on climate actions; establish an online one-stop-shop for information on adaptation; a rolling programme of targeted guidance; and a 'programme of work to unlock investment in climate resilience'.

"The plan says no two communities will experience climate change in the same way, and the government has pledged equity will be at its core.

"The first three years of the plan are key for both collecting the data and information and starting long-term programmes. ....

"The plan is essentially a guide for local authorities, business and individuals to what the Government sees as the priorities.

"It identifies 43 priority risks which Aotearoa faces from climate change as well as the risk to the telecommunications network. ...

**More:** [www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/472127/blueprint-for-more-resilient-communities-qovt-releases-climate-adaptation-plan](http://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/472127/blueprint-for-more-resilient-communities-qovt-releases-climate-adaptation-plan) plus <https://environment.govt.nz/publications/aotearoa-new-zealands-first-national-adaptation-plan/> which has links to documents


**Source:** *NZ Herald*, page A3, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at [www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/explained-why-nz-needed-a-climate-adaptation-plan/2F5664HA43RVZAE24TVLKGUYUY/](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/explained-why-nz-needed-a-climate-adaptation-plan/2F5664HA43RVZAE24TVLKGUYUY/) [Paywall]

## **Passive House Hui 2022**

"Come and be part of an interactive day in Arrowtown with topical discussions, project updates, quizzes and great food. This year is designed to be a more intimate kōrero within the Passive House whānau in Aotearoa NZ.

**When/Where:** 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Aug. Arrowtown and several Passive House homes nearby

**More:** <https://passivehouse.nz/events/upcoming-events/phinz-hui-2022/>

**Source:** NZGBC, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022. 

## **Petition to Reduce Emissions in a Fair Way Using Carbon Quotas**

"There are two overarching issues in dealing with climate change, ensuring we reduce emissions, and doing it fairly.

"Certainty of emissions reduction can be achieved by reducing the use of fossil fuels in a planned way. A quota system has been developed to do this as fairly as possible. It's called Tradable Energy Quotas (TEQs) which involves issuing quotas to everyone and making the quotas tradeable.

"As everyone is involved, this approach encourages everyone to be creative and help make this transition away from fossil fuels.

"A petition has been developed to get this system implemented in NZ has been initiated through the Parliamentary website. The petition of 'Deirdre Kent on behalf of Degrowth Aotearoa New Zealand (DANZ): Investigate rationing fossil fuel use with Tradable Energy Quotas' The Petition calls on:

'the House of Representatives investigate an energy rationing scheme such as Tradable Energy Quotas (TEQs), which we believe could address both potential shortages of fossil fuels and the climate emergency.'

**More:** [www.degrowth.nz](http://www.degrowth.nz) plus [www.parliament.nz/en/pb/petitions/document/PET\\_125446/petition-of-deirdre-kent-on-behalf-of-degrowth-aotearoa](http://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/petitions/document/PET_125446/petition-of-deirdre-kent-on-behalf-of-degrowth-aotearoa)

**Source:** Jack Santa Barbara, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022. 

## **How to Make ESG Real**

"The 'how' of a company's environmental, social, and governance (ESG) proposition starts with recognising what companies should be solving for: maintaining and reinforcing their social license to operate, in the face of rising externalities. Rising scrutiny of how companies address ESG means a robust approach is more critical than ever, irrespective of whatever name one may choose to give to the attempt to address these externalities, whatever contours one may define for them at a given point, and whatever organisational or governance construct one may put in place for them. Indeed, we believe one may be agnostic to the term ESG but not to its underlying concerns.

"Not all aspects of 'E', 'S', and 'G', however, are priorities for all companies, and it is unrealistic to expect companies do not have to make hard trade-offs within and among ESG dimensions, or that they can lead on every topic. It is therefore instructive to observe companies which approach ESG in a rigorous, strategy-driven, socially attuned way. We call these organisations 'forward-looking companies'. They make ESG intrinsic to their strategy by defining, implementing, and refining a carefully constructed portfolio of ESG initiatives which connect to the core of what they do. Forward-looking companies also contribute to a competitive landscape where good corporate citizenship is marshalled against existential challenges, not least – but not only – climate change.

"When a company determines the dimensions of ESG where it wishes to be good and where it wishes to be excellent, it is making important decisions, with broader second- and third-order consequences. Forward-looking companies approach ESG decisions by seeking to gain a deep, evidence-based understanding of their own business and its broader potential effects. .... The ESG practices of today's large companies generally cluster along three levels of ambition .... [Long article.]


**More:** [www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/sustainability/our-insights/how-to-make-esg-real](http://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/sustainability/our-insights/how-to-make-esg-real)

**Source:** *McKinsey Quarterly*, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022. 

## River Cleanups Move to the Next Level Using Grasses and Oysters

Philadelphia-based journalist Katherine Rapin reports on efforts to help clean up the Delaware River and other U.S. waterways by restoring them from the bottom up using aquatic grasses and mussels and oysters. As Rapin explains, scientists and conservationists are planting turtle grass and reintroducing mussels in once heavily polluted parts of the Delaware, relying on these organisms to filter pollution and create a strong foundation for a healthy ecosystem. Similar efforts are underway from New York to Florida to California, all complementing the larger fight to reduce nutrient pollution from fertilisers and sewage.

**More:** <https://e360.yale.edu/features/river-cleanup-oysters-mussels-seagrass-delaware>

**Source:** *Yale Environment 360*, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022. 


## Operational Waste Reduction Strategies Through Design and Implementation

What is best practice when it comes to operational waste in buildings?

Mike Twemlow, Senior Sustainability Consultant at Edge Environment will talk through the various challenges and opportunities in operational waste management such as tracking waste, understanding where it ends up, innovations in food waste management and circular procurement. Mike will share emerging best practice examples from the Australian commercial sector and detail how procurement and data, from design to operation, is essential in minimising waste in your buildings.

**When/Where:** Noon - 1:00 pm, 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022. Webinar

**More:** [www.nzgbc.org.nz/upcoming-events/PluggedIn](http://www.nzgbc.org.nz/upcoming-events/PluggedIn)

**Source:** NZGBC, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022. 

## Empowering Employees on Your Sustainability Journey

The key to creating a vibrant and sustainable company is to find ways to get employees engaged in day-to-day sustainability efforts. Engaging your staff is powerful. It brings new ideas, helps communicate the story and gets people involved in the implementation of sustainability initiatives. It also helps build community and connect employees to a sense of purpose.

Employees are seeking leadership from their employers on societal and environmental challenges, with 66% of people surveyed by Kantar in 2021 claiming it is important for brands to be committed to making our society better, and 87% of people surveyed by Forbes would like to be informed of companies efforts to address the environmental situation.

Sustainability does not need to be siloed off as the sole responsibility of one person or one team. Empowering staff from across the business will reap the biggest rewards in the long-term.

On the webinar, US based Corrie Conrad, previously VP of Sustainability at the mega makeup chain Sephora and now Executive Director Communities and Impact at Box.Org will explore the importance of empowering employees to take ownership and responsibility for community impact.

Freyja Spaven from Tauranga-based Bluelab will outline how the company puts people power behind its sustainable transformation, by setting goals the whole business believes in, linking them to a sound strategy and giving their team space to get involved.

**When/Where:** 10:00 – 11:00am, 26<sup>th</sup> August. Online.

**More:** [https://my.nzte.govt.nz/attend/Empowering\\_employees\\_on\\_your\\_sustainability\\_journey2948784991](https://my.nzte.govt.nz/attend/Empowering_employees_on_your_sustainability_journey2948784991)

**Source:** *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022. 

## Is the Climate Crisis a Population Problem or a Poverty Problem?

People don't cause climate change, lifestyles do.


On 8<sup>th</sup> November, according to the United Nations, Earth's population will pass 8 billion for the first time – on its way to 10 billion half a century from now. It seems obvious every one of those individuals will need water, food, shelter, clothing, and transportation, and that fulfilling each of those needs comes with a carbon footprint.

But once you crunch the numbers, the carbon impact of more people is anything but clear. Researchers have come to realise the population of our planet is far less important than how we live upon it. Fertility rates and carbon emissions are not spread evenly across the globe – any discussion around population growth comes tangled in centuries of colonialism, prejudice, and inequality.

To hit emissions targets, should we counterintuitively loosen our fixation on counting carbon (and people) and instead prioritise development and climate justice? .....

**More:** [www.anthropocenemagazine.org/2022/07/is-the-climate-crisis-a-population-problem-or-a-poverty-problem/](http://www.anthropocenemagazine.org/2022/07/is-the-climate-crisis-a-population-problem-or-a-poverty-problem/)

**Source:** Orion, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

**Editor:** Interesting article the key tenant of which has been raised by others over many years. 

## From Climate Denial to Greenwashing


Russel Norman, 2<sup>nd</sup> August. 17 min read.

I have spent decades of my life as a climate activist fighting various deliberate forms of climate science denial propagated by climate polluting companies and their allied political parties, politicians, lobby groups and commentators. The good news is that we have mostly won that battle. The bad news is that they have a new tactic, greenwashing, which is now a major obstacle to progress on climate change. Greenwashing is when businesses or politicians give a false impression, or spin, on their products or policies to give the impression they have a positive impact on the environment when they don't. We now face a new landscape in which even oil companies claim to be doing their bit for the climate with 'carbon offsets' and '2050 net zero goals'. Their aim is to stop real action on climate by making people think it is all under control.

One of the jobs of the government is to sort out the real climate actions from the greenwashing, to hold industry to account. And of course, one of the jobs of the government is to not engage in greenwashing themselves. The problem with some of the actions of the current [NZ] government is rather than holding business to account for its greenwashing, on some vital climate issues the government is actually a proponent of greenwashing.


This greenwashing is closely linked to a wrong-headed theory of change which we hear repeatedly ..... There are fundamental conflicts in the climate policy space – some industries will not accept they need to cut emissions. The attempt to gloss over these conflicts and seek consensus means the government adopts policies which the polluters will accept, and which consequently do not cut emissions. This policy outcome is then sold to the public as a great victory when in truth it is a defeat – it is greenwashed. ....

**More:** [www.greenpeace.org/aotearoa/story/from-climate-denial-to-greenwashing/](http://www.greenpeace.org/aotearoa/story/from-climate-denial-to-greenwashing/)

**Source:** Greenpeace, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022. 

## Community-led solar in Two Italian Towns

**More:** [www.edie.net/as-the-energy-price-crisis-bites-is-the-future-of-renewable-energy-community-owned/](http://www.edie.net/as-the-energy-price-crisis-bites-is-the-future-of-renewable-energy-community-owned/)

**Source:** edie, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022. 


## Water Resource Sheet

"Learn how your business can protect the quality of freshwater and use it more efficiently.

"This resource sheet will help you:

- Understand the impacts your business has on our water resources
- Learn about water planning and management
- Find out about other businesses.

**More:** <https://sustainable.org.nz/learn/tools-resources/water/>  
8 pages 1.53Mb. Has links to several resources.

**Source:** SBN, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2022. 

## ESG Should be Boiled Down to One Simple Measure: Emissions

"Three letters that won't save the planet


"If you are the type of person who is loth to invest in firms which pollute the planet, mistreat workers and stuff their boards with cronies, you will no doubt be aware of one of the hottest trends in finance: environmental, social and governance (ESG) investing. It is an attempt to make capitalism work better and deal with the grave threat posed by climate change. It has ballooned in recent years; the titans of investment management claim more than a third of their assets, or \$35trn in total, are monitored through one ESG lens or another. It is on the lips of bosses and officials everywhere.

"You might hope big things would come from this. You would be wrong. Sadly those three letters have morphed into shorthand for hype and controversy. Right-wing American politicians blame a 'climate cartel' for soaring prices at the petrol pump. Whistleblowers accuse the industry of 'greenwashing' by deceiving its clients. Firms from Goldman Sachs to Deutsche Bank face regulatory probes. As our special report this week concludes, although ESG is often well-meaning it is deeply flawed. It risks setting conflicting goals for firms, fleecing savers and distracting from the vital task of tackling climate change. It is an unholy mess which needs to be ruthlessly streamlined. ...

"It is better to focus simply on the e. Yet even that is not precise enough. The environment is an all-encompassing term, including biodiversity, water scarcity and so on. By far the most significant danger is from emissions, particularly those generated by carbon-belching industries. Put simply, the e should stand not for environmental factors, but for emissions alone. ....

**More:** [www.economist.com/leaders/2022/07/21/esg-should-be-boiled-down-to-one-simple-measure-emissions](http://www.economist.com/leaders/2022/07/21/esg-should-be-boiled-down-to-one-simple-measure-emissions)  
[Possible paywall]

**Source:** Richard Tong, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

**Editor:** Well worth reading and considering. 

## Kai & Kōrero with Businesses Leading the Circular Economy

"It's time for our first ever kai and korero\*\* with businesses which are leading the circular economy.


"Join us for an evening of networking and hear from the businesses which make up our Circular Economy Directory.

"Learn more about our vision for the circular economy in Aotearoa New Zealand. Meet other businesses, like yours, which are striving towards a sustainable future.

\*\* Food and conversation.

**When/Where:** 4:00 – 6:00pm, 8<sup>th</sup> Sept, Auckland. Other dates Christchurch and Wellington

**More:** <https://sustainable.org.nz/learn/events/kai-korero-with-businesses-leading-the-circular-economy/> plus <https://sustainable.org.nz/circular-economy-directory/>

**Source:** SBN, 17<sup>th</sup> August 2022. 

## From Crisis to Sustainable Development: The Sustainable Development Goals as Roadmap to 2030 and Beyond

"One of the world's leading reports on how the world is tracking towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals has just been released. *The Sustainable Development Report 2022* shows most countries are still not making progress towards the goals, and with the 2030 deadline quickly approaching, we have a lot of work to do.

"In New Zealand, we are on track to meet the 'SDG 1 - No Poverty' and 'SDG 5 - Gender Equality', and 'SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy'. However, we still have a way to go on 'SDG 12- Responsible Consumption and Production', 'SDG 13 - Climate Action', 'SDG 14 - Life Below Water', 'SDG 15 - Life on Land', and 'SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals', with SDG 12 and 14 falling backwards.


**More:** [www.unep.org/resources/report/sustainable-development-goals-report-2022](http://www.unep.org/resources/report/sustainable-development-goals-report-2022);

7<sup>th</sup> July 2022: *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022* provides a global overview of progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, using the latest available data and estimates. It tracks the global and regional progress towards the 17 Goals with in-depth analyses of selected indicators for each Goal.

According to the Report, cascading and interlinked crises are putting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in grave danger, along with humanity's very own survival. The Report highlights the severity and magnitude of the challenges before us. The confluence of crises, dominated by COVID-19, climate change, and conflicts, are creating spin-off impacts on food and nutrition, health, education, the environment, and peace and security, and affecting all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Report details the reversal of years of progress in eradicating poverty and hunger, improving health and education, providing basic services, and much more. It also points out areas which need urgent action in order to rescue the SDGs and deliver meaningful progress for people and the planet by 2030.

**More:** <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/> plus <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2022.pdf>  
508pages 36.1Mb

**Source:** GoWell Consulting, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022

**Editor:** See page 10 for NZ's relative position. 

## Has the UK's TCFD Mandate Improved Corporate Climate Reporting?

"Published late last week [last week of July 2022], the FRC and FCA's findings indicate, while most businesses are technically complying with the mandate, many still have a long way to go before producing a meaningful and high-quality report which covers all key aspects of the framework laid out by the Taskforce on Climate-Related Disclosures (TCFD).

"The UK Government mandated TCFD-aligned annual reporting for around 1,300 large organisations back in April, in a global first. ....

"The FCA found not all of these companies were actually meeting the TCFD's full recommendations in these fields, despite self-reporting as having done so.

"Across the board, the FCA is warning there is much to be done to improve reporting quality. .... The most common reporting gap was found to be scenario analysis. ....

**More:** [www.edie.net/has-the-uks-tcf-d-mandate-improved-corporate-climate-reporting/](http://www.edie.net/has-the-uks-tcf-d-mandate-improved-corporate-climate-reporting/)

**Source:** edie, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022. 