

# Sustainability Matters

Compiled and published by Ray Skinner, FCA

Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. 2024



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## Sustainability-Related Financial Disclosures Toolkit

"The UN's Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative (UN SSE) together with its partners, has developed a toolkit to support stock exchanges and their market participants in the implementation of the IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards. The toolkit includes training tools designed to complement the SSE Academy's training program on the IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards. The SSE will continue to work with its partners to add new tools as necessary to ...

**More:** <https://sseinitiative.org/disclosure-toolkit/>

**Source:** Debbie Kandauw, CA ANZ, Weekly Digest for Climate & Sustainability, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

## Business Sustainability and Impact Guide

"This practical guide was developed for Christchurch by Proxima with a view to supporting smaller and medium sized businesses. The aim was to demystify some of the complexity and jungle of tools, resources and frameworks out there with some simple questions. The *Business Sustainability and Impact Guide* also provides a summary overview of the most common tools, certifications and frameworks with a list of pros and cons. Ideally, we'd keep this guide evolving to reflect feedback and ongoing developments in the area.

"The guide is for business leaders, owners and managers wanting to:

- Understand how a focus on sustainability can create value for their business
- Begin developing a strategy and plan for integrating sustainability into their business
- Learn about some of the levers and barriers which other businesses have experienced in their own sustainability journeys
- Get guidance on which sustainability certifications and frameworks are most useful for their businesses.

**More:** [www.christchurchnz.com/media/03dn2k2m/sme-sustainability-impact-guide-2024.pdf](http://www.christchurchnz.com/media/03dn2k2m/sme-sustainability-impact-guide-2024.pdf) 37 pages 2.19Mb plus  
[www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/68551099/sme-sustainability-impact-guide](http://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/68551099/sme-sustainability-impact-guide)

**Source:** Simon Harvey, Proxima, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

## Australian Plan to Limit Car Pollution

"The release of the government's New Vehicle Efficiency Standard (NVES) marks a momentous shift in Australia's climate policy and puts its major cities on a path to lower emissions, cleaner air and healthier communities. ....

**Submissions close:** 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**More:** <https://thedriven.io/2024/02/05/nves-a-big-win-for-transport-emissions-and-public-health-but-we-cant-relax-yet/> plus  
[www.infrastructure.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/cleaner-cheaper-to-run-cars-the-australian-new-vehicle-efficiency-standard-consultation-impact-analysis-february2024.pdf](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/cleaner-cheaper-to-run-cars-the-australian-new-vehicle-efficiency-standard-consultation-impact-analysis-february2024.pdf) 8 pages 2.29Mb and  
<https://edm.infrastructure.gov.au/survey.php?sid=32730&name=have-your-say--new-vehicle-efficiency-standard--individual-submi>

**Source:** eko, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

## Bank Launches Sustainability Training for All Employees

"Westpac NZ is the first New Zealand bank to make a new sustainability learning programme available to all employees.

"Westpac GM Product, Sustainability & Marketing, Sarah Hearn, says helping employees to become more knowledgeable about sustainability means they'll be able to better support customers.

"Environmental and social issues are increasingly impacting our customers – and they're looking for our help', Ms Hearn says.

"Consumers are looking for ways to reduce their carbon footprint through purchasing decisions or lifestyle choices and businesses are keen to adjust their offering to lower their impact on the environment and meet consumer demand.

"At the same time, many investors are aligning their portfolios to support Aotearoa's transition to a net-zero emissions economy. Climate risk is increasingly an economic risk for banks and the broader financial industry, as well as many other sectors.'

"Westpac piloted the EY Sustainability Academy learning programme last year and Ms Hearn says employee feedback was resoundingly positive.

"Sustainability is such a huge area it can feel overwhelming. Our people who have taken part in this learning programme have told us it helped them link global issues to their own work and personal lives, and in turn share those insights with customers.'

"EY partnered with The Aotearoa Circle – Centre for Sustainable Finance – and Toitū Tahuā to develop the programme content for New Zealand organisations. ....

**More:** [www.westpac.co.nz/about-us/media/westpac-nz-launches-sustainability-training-for-all-employees-blog-post/](http://www.westpac.co.nz/about-us/media/westpac-nz-launches-sustainability-training-for-all-employees-blog-post/)

**Source:** SBC Weekly Pānui, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

## Where Democracy is Most at Risk

"In theory this year should be a triumphant one for democracy. More people are expected to vote in national elections in 2024 than ever before. But many elections will be problematic. This year's democracy index published by EIU, our sister company, shows only 43 of the more than 70 elections are expected to be fully free and fair.

"Each year EIU grades 167 countries and territories on a scale of ten according to the strength of their democratic practices, including how fairly they run elections and how well they protect civil liberties. It then groups them into four categories: full democracies, flawed democracies, hybrid regimes and authoritarian regimes. The latest report, published on 15<sup>th</sup> February, shows less than 8% of the world's population live in full democracies, and 39.4% are under authoritarian rule – up from 36.9% in 2022. There are four lessons from the report, including what the index reveals about forthcoming elections. ....[Graphs. NZ's placement.]

**More:** [www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2024/02/14/four-lessons-from-the-2023-democracy-index](http://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2024/02/14/four-lessons-from-the-2023-democracy-index) Sign-in might be required.

**Source:** *The Economist*, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

## Green Star for Contractors

"This course has been developed to help you and your teams better understand *Green Star*, build your knowledge on managing risk from the tendering stage through construction, and managing documentation for compliance.

"We will be exploring the contractor-centric credits and take a deep dive into sourcing and tracking sustainable and responsible materials, as well as specific credits including Exposure to Toxins. You will learn how construction materials must be vetted for compliance against VOC and formaldehyde content, and the benefit of materials with higher consideration to environmental sustainability. We will also look at onsite practices including managing waste and compliant construction practices.

"Take away essential information to improve your processes, making them more efficient and effective.

"Key areas of learning include: .....

"With government directing new builds budgeted over \$9million to be minimum 5 Star Green Star Design & As Built v1.1, and increasing interest from the finance sector in supporting green, sustainable building projects, we are seeing a rapid increase in demand from developers, investors and tenants for higher quality, sustainable buildings.

"This is a great way to add a competitive advantage to your bids and tenders.

**When/Where:** 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 1:30 –3:30pm. Online

**More:** <https://nzgbc.org.nz/green-star-for-contractor-course>

**Source:** NZGBC, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

## Greece Introduces Climate Crisis Resilience Tax for Tourists

Greece is taking a significant step to address climate change and rebuild after severe forest fires and floods. From January 2024 there is a new tax tourists pay when they stay in any type of accommodation.

**More:**

[www.travelertoday.com/articles/49908/20240114/greece-introduces-new-climate-tax-on-tourist-stays-for-environmental-recovery.htm](http://www.travelertoday.com/articles/49908/20240114/greece-introduces-new-climate-tax-on-tourist-stays-for-environmental-recovery.htm)

**Source:** *Toitū's Take*, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

## UK Advertising Watchdog BANS Car Maker Ads Referring to EVs as 'Zero Emissions'

"The UK's advertising watchdog has banned adverts from two different car makers which referred to their electric vehicles as 'zero emissions' as it continues to crackdown on claims made about battery-powered models.

"The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) said today it had upheld rulings against BMW and MG Motor UK for ads which appeared on Google last year.

"It said the both adverts had misled consumers by suggesting EVs do not produce emissions during the manufacturing process – or when they're being charged by non-renewable electricity. ....

"A 'zero emissions' claim for a fully electric vehicle, which did not make explicitly clear it related to emissions produced when the vehicle was being driven was likely to mislead.

"Hybrid vehicles emitted greenhouse gases from the tailpipe when the petrol or diesel source was in use. Any associated 'zero emissions' claim needed to clarify it referred to emissions while the vehicle was driven on the electric motor.

"Similar claims for vehicles powered by petrol or diesel engines would always mislead.' .....

**More:** [www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/electriccars/article-13056351/Advertising-watchdog-bans-car-maker-ads-referring-EVs-zero-emissions.html](http://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/electriccars/article-13056351/Advertising-watchdog-bans-car-maker-ads-referring-EVs-zero-emissions.html)

**Source:** *The Telegraph*, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

## The Behavioural Crisis Driving Ecological Overshoot

[Familiar story of 'too much', with new insights.]

Refer to the suggested background reading, plus presenters' brief bio's to obtain insights into the webinar's content.

- *The Behavioural Crisis Driving Ecological Overshoot* <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/00368504231201372> See graph
- And Human 'behavioural crisis' at root of climate breakdown, say scientists [www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/jan/13/human-behavioural-crisis-at-root-of-climate-breakdown-say-scientists](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/jan/13/human-behavioural-crisis-at-root-of-climate-breakdown-say-scientists)

**When/Where:** 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 7 to 8:30pm. Online

**More:**

[www.ourclimatedeclaration.org.nz/newsletter\\_february\\_2024](http://www.ourclimatedeclaration.org.nz/newsletter_february_2024)

**Source:** Our Climate Declaration, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

## Top Tips: Charging Your EV on the Road

"Over on our Gen Less platform, we've updated our EV-charging information to help New Zealand's 10,000+ EV drivers keep their power up while on the road.

"Head over to Gen Less to learn about the different types of public chargers available – and what to use when – as well as our top tips for long road trips and charging your car at holiday accommodation.

**More:** <https://genless.govt.nz/for-everyone/on-the-move/consider-electric-vehicles/charging-an-ev/public-charging-your-ev/>

**Source:** EECA, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

## Challenge Hub

SBN has relaunched their webpage which lists entities seeking solutions for the 'waste' generated in their businesses. CEO Rachel Brown notes;

"We have so many opportunities which need solutions to make them work well. If you are keen to help move sustainability action forward faster see if you can help us solve some of these challenges (and there are many more by they way)."

Even if the 'waste' is of no use to you or your firm you might have ideas which will help resolve the challenges. Can you help?

**More:** <https://sustainable.org.nz/learn/designing-out-waste/challenge-hub/>

**Source:** Rachel Brown, LinkedIn, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

## Revised Exposure Drafts of GRI's Revised Standards for Climate and Energy

"The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) has released exposure drafts of their revised standards for climate and energy, with the objective of updating the standards to represent internationally agreed best practice. The exposure drafts focus on reducing GHG emissions and energy consumption in ways that support the principles of a just transition, with an emphasis on accountability for impacts on workers, communities and vulnerable groups .....

**Comments close with GRI: 29<sup>th</sup> February**

**More:** [www.globalreporting.org/news/news-center/setting-the-standard-for-transparency-on-climate-change-impacts/](http://www.globalreporting.org/news/news-center/setting-the-standard-for-transparency-on-climate-change-impacts/) plus <https://globalreporting.org/media/4y4jy5hf/gri-topic-standard-project-for-climate-change-energy-exposure-draft.pdf> 22pages 680Kb and <https://globalreporting.org/media/lcznznf0/gri-topic-standard-project-for-climate-change-exposure-draft.pdf> 56pages 1.42Mb

**Source:** Debbie Kandaau, CA ANZ, Weekly Digest for Climate & Sustainability, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024.

## ***Decarbonising Transport & Logistics: A Roadmap to Scope 3 and Supplier Emissions Data***


"New Zealand's second highest emissions source, the transport and logistics industry, has the opportunity to take effective climate action. Join our panel of experts as they share insights on the key pressures this industry is facing. Learn how you can respond to the growing emissions measurement and reporting requirements, which is particularly being driven from across the supply chain.

During this webinar, you will hear about:

- The role transport and logistics can play in the decarbonisation across all industries and organisations.
- The impact of full supply chain reporting requirements on the transport and logistics industry including the influence this will have on target setting.
- Why there is a growing need to measure your supply chain carbon emission.
- What information customers and stakeholders are looking for about the impact of transport and moving goods.
- The value of getting better data visibility for more accurate measurement.

**When/Where:** 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 10:00 – 11:00am. Online.

**More:** [www.toitu.co.nz/news-and-events/training-events/decarbonising-transport-and-logistics-a-roadmap-to-scope-3-and-supplier-data](http://www.toitu.co.nz/news-and-events/training-events/decarbonising-transport-and-logistics-a-roadmap-to-scope-3-and-supplier-data)

**Source:** Kit Withers 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024. 

## ***Circular Economy ISO Standard to Bring Certainty: ISO 59000 Series***

"2024 is shaping up to be the year of the circular economy. The environment ministers of all Australia's states and territories have agreed to work with the private sector to achieve a circular economy by 2030. The Ministerial Advisory Committee will publish the *National Circular Economy Framework for Australia* in 2024. Circular economy will also be included in the National Reconstruction Fund and six sector plans for energy, industry, buildings, transport, resources and agriculture.

"New Zealand is currently developing its Circular Economy strategy (and thinkstep-anz's Head of Circular Economy Jim Goddin is part of the consortium leading the research). Becoming more circular is also a big part of Europe's Green Deal and new European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS).

"There is wide agreement a circular economy is one which designs out waste and pollution, keeps resources in use for as long as possible, and then recovers and repurposes products and materials at the end of their lifecycle.

"However, there is less agreement on how this looks for a business and how these activities can be measured. While some companies use the term 'circular economy' synonymously with recycling, others are making significant progress in designing long-lasting products which can be repurposed, remanufactured, recycled, or reintroduced to the environment.

"But without a common metric, it's hard for consumers to tell how successful a business is at reducing waste and consuming fewer non-renewable resources. ....

**More:** [www.thinkstep-anz.com/resrc/blogs/circular-economy-iso-standard-to-bring-certainty/](http://www.thinkstep-anz.com/resrc/blogs/circular-economy-iso-standard-to-bring-certainty/) plus [www.globalfactor.com/en/new-series-of-iso-59000-standards-for-circular-economy/](http://www.globalfactor.com/en/new-series-of-iso-59000-standards-for-circular-economy/) and [www.iso.org/obp/ui/en/#iso:std:iso:59004:dis:ed-1:v1:en](http://www.iso.org/obp/ui/en/#iso:std:iso:59004:dis:ed-1:v1:en) for *Circular Economy – Terminology, Principles and Guidance for Implementation*.

**Source:** thinkstep, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024. 

## ***Dynamic Planet***

"Filmed over three years, we travel to all seven continents to meet the extraordinary people and animals living and working on the front line of climate change. They reveal how science, nature, and traditional knowledge can prepare us for the future;

1. Ice: As the planet warms up, the ice at all three poles - the Arctic, Antarctic, and the Himalayas - is melting fast. In Greenland, we join an Inuit hunter navigating the changing sea ice.
2. Fire: As temperatures rise, wildfires are raging out of control. We meet the Yurok Tribe of California, who are drawing upon traditional knowledge to restore the land and prevent future infernos.
3. Water: Earth's oceans cover 70% of our planet, and they're crucial for life. In Antarctica, we join a New Zealand whale rider on an expedition to find and care for a vital part of the ecosystem.
4. Earth: As Earth's climate changes, the once-stable natural systems we rely upon are being thrown into chaos. In the Amazon, we meet a family making a difference and preserving the rainforest.

**More:** [www.neontv.co.nz/series/dynamic-planet](http://www.neontv.co.nz/series/dynamic-planet)

**Source:** Go Well Consulting, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024. 

## ***Measuring Embodied Carbon in the Built Environment***

"We must urgently reduce carbon emissions from the built environment to meet our climate goals. This includes operational and embodied carbon. While we know we can cut down on carbon emissions from operating buildings by making them more energy-efficient and decarbonising the electricity grid, there is a lot more work ahead to rein in embodied carbon.


"NABERS (National Australian Built Environment Rating System) and the Green Building Councils on both sides of the Tasman (NZGBC in New Zealand and GBCA in Australia) have been working together to make measuring and benchmarking embodied carbon more consistent. ....

"The webinar will cover:

- What embodied carbon is and why it matters
- Why we need action on embodied carbon now
- How to measure embodied carbon
- The role of rating systems in cutting down embodied carbon .....

**When/Where:** Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2024, 3pm NZ, 1pm NSW, VIC, noon QLD, 12:30pm SA, 10am WA; 45 minutes

**More:** [www.thinkstep-anz.com/resrc/upcoming-events/embodied-carbon-in-the-built-environment/](http://www.thinkstep-anz.com/resrc/upcoming-events/embodied-carbon-in-the-built-environment/)

**Source:** thinkstep, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024. 


## ***Redesign for a Waste-free Future***

"Learn how redesigning your products and systems can reduce waste, with a focus on the built environment. Hear from businesses that have changed their design ethos. Be inspired by how they have redesigned their products to last longer while using fewer resources and with materials that can be reused.

"In our current take-make-waste linear economy, most of what we consume is designed to end up in landfill. Products which are single use, unrecycleable, or designed to break or become obsolete are contributing to the huge waste problem in New Zealand. Join us to find out what your business can do to change that.

**When/Where:** Wed. 20<sup>th</sup> March, 4:00 - 6:00pm. Auckland.

**More:** <https://sustainable.org.nz/learn/events/redesign-for-a-waste-free-future/>

**Source:** SBN, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024. 

## Plastics Reckoning: PVC Is Ubiquitous, But Maybe Not for Long

Contributing editor Nicola Jones explores new efforts to stem the use of polyvinyl chloride, commonly known as PVC, a plastic used in everything from water pipes to car seats to LP records. Environmentalists have been raising alarms about PVC for decades, as its principal ingredient is carcinogenic and its additives contain endocrine disruptors which can affect development and reproduction. Now, the EPA is evaluating the safety of the material, and an emerging global plastics treaty may limit its use. PVC is 'the worst of the worst', an anti-plastics campaigner tells Jones. 'We are working to ban vinyl chloride full stop.'

**More:** <https://e360.yale.edu/features/pvc-plastic-un-treaty>

**Source:** Yale Environment 360, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**Extract:** Carney Almroth would like to see more radical ideas considered. One would be to create a list of allowable chemicals, rather than expanding a list of banned ones. 'Right now, we're in a situation where we have 350,000 synthetic chemicals, and we theoretically invent 70 chemicals an hour', she says. 'If we look at this complexity, and then try to imagine some way to regulate this, it becomes an impossible task.'

## How to Live in a Chaotic Climate: 10 Steps to Reconnect with Ourselves, Our Communities, and Our Planet

'A 10-step holistic guide to help you cope with the climate crisis – from the founders of the Good Grief Network.'

'Eco-distress is real. *How to Live in a Chaotic Climate* is here to help you rediscover meaning, joy, and connection as the tumult around us increases. Based on the Good Grief Network's acclaimed 10 Steps to Resilience and Empowerment in a Chaotic Climate program, this book unpacks the social, political, and spiritual nuances of the climate emergency, step by step. ...

'Each step includes practices which draw on meditation, mindfulness, journaling, dance, somatics, and self-inquiry to help readers cope with overwhelming feelings, heal wounds caused by disconnection, and act in generative ways that help cultivate a just and equitable future for all.'

**More:** [www.amazon.com/How-Live-Chaotic-Climate-Communities-ebook/dp/B0BWQXMXVQ](http://www.amazon.com/How-Live-Chaotic-Climate-Communities-ebook/dp/B0BWQXMXVQ) plus [www.resilience.org/stories/2024-02-15/crazy-town-bonus-laura-schmidt/](http://www.resilience.org/stories/2024-02-15/crazy-town-bonus-laura-schmidt/) and [www.goodgriefnetwork.org/](http://www.goodgriefnetwork.org/)

**Source:** Post Carbon Institute 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

## Guide to Social Impact Assessment

'Social Audit Network [SAN] has launched an insightful *Guide to Social Impact Assessment: A Companion to Prove, Improve, Account - the Social Audit Network's Manual for Social Accounting and Audit* authored by Marie Banu Rodriguez. This comprehensive manual is poised to be a game-changer in the realm of social impact evaluation.'

Key highlights of the SIA guide:

- Practical Wisdom: The manual doesn't just dwell on theory but incorporates real-world applications, ...
- Ethical Foundations: Navigating the ethical considerations of Social Impact Assessment is made simpler, empowering organisations to ....
- Expertise Unleashed: Marie Banu Rodriguez, Director of SAN UK, ..., delves into the nuances of Social Impact Assessment, providing expert insights and guidance.

**More:** [www.socialauditnetwork.org.uk/post/the-new-guide-to-social-impact-measurement-is-available-now](http://www.socialauditnetwork.org.uk/post/the-new-guide-to-social-impact-measurement-is-available-now) 112 pages, published December 2023.

**Source:** SAN, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

## What we Recycle has Changed; Need to Knows

'How waste is recycled changed significantly from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 to a new standardised recycling programme implemented across the country'

'Kerbside recycling collections now has national standards applied, meaning there are certain things which will no longer be collected.'

'This will be the first time materials collected from households for recycling will be the same across New Zealand.'

'Previously, councils set their own rules around recycling and what materials could and couldn't be recycled.'

'The Government says the new recycling system will help increase the quality and quantity of materials collected for recycling, and reduce the amount of recycling and food scraps sent to landfill.'

'New Zealand produces more than 17 million tonnes of waste each year, and of that, 13 million tonnes goes to landfill. That is 76% of all waste. .... [Edited]'

**More:** [www.stuff.co.nz/environment/350161566/way-we-recycle-about-change-so-what-do-you-need-know](http://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/350161566/way-we-recycle-about-change-so-what-do-you-need-know) plus <https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/waste/improving-household-recycling-and-food-scrap-collections/>

**Source:** SBN, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024.

**Editor:** The prescription is quite specific and expanded upon at the MfE website. For instance although paper and magazines are in, books are out. Foil containers and wrapping are out, as are pill bottles.

## Converting Agricultural and Mine Methane to CO2

'This counterintuitive technology fights climate change by making more carbon dioxide. Scientists are trying to pull methane from dairy barns and coal mines to make CO2. It's a surprisingly good idea. ....

**More:** [www.anthropocenemagazine.org/2024/01/this-counterintuitive-technology-fights-climate-change-by-making-more-carbon-dioxide/](http://www.anthropocenemagazine.org/2024/01/this-counterintuitive-technology-fights-climate-change-by-making-more-carbon-dioxide/)

**Source:** Editor, (via Orion), 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

## Superblocks for the Supercity?

'Join us for this Auckland Conversations as we hear from international urban placemaking expert Salvador Rueda - most famous for inventing Barcelona's Superblocks. Together we will learn about the importance of creating space for people, how these methods have been implemented in different cities and towns across the world and explore whether this approach could be a good fit for Auckland's future.'

'Superblocks – a concept of urban traffic planning intended to calm traffic in residential neighbourhoods – first originated from Barcelona, which was once one of the noisiest, most polluted, and trafficked cities in Europe. To create a superblock, several conventional city blocks are grouped together to create a unified and pedestrian – friendly area. They aim to enhance liveability by minimising traffic, providing green spaces, and fostering a sense of community.'

'Cities around the world are taking inspiration from Barcelona's 'Superblock' concept. Could this human-centred approach be applied in a supercity like Auckland?'

**When/Where:** Wed. 13<sup>th</sup> March, 5.30pm – 7.00pm. Auckland and online.

**More:** <https://conversations.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/events/superblocks-supercity>

**Source:** Auckland Conversations, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024.