

Sustainability Matters

Compiled and published by Ray Skinner, FCA

Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

12th Nov. 2020



Designed by
www.vecteezy.com

Roadmap for Sustainable Finance in New Zealand

"The Aotearoa Circle's Sustainable Finance Forum (SFF) – comprising representatives from banks, insurance companies, industry, Māori businesses and iwi, professional services, civil society, academia, and Government – today [3rd November] released its roadmap for building a sustainable financial system [for New Zealand] by 2030.

"The Circle's *Roadmap for Action* covers three themes – changing mindsets, transforming the financial system and financing the transformation. Under these themes are 11 priority areas each with detailed recommendations.

"Our vision is for a financial system which is more resilient, inclusive, robust, and agile through

incorporation of environmental, social and economic considerations in financial decisions', says SFF co-chair and NZ Super Fund CEO Matt Whineray.

The SFF's kaupapa is to achieve a financial system which:

- Provides for long-term environmental, social and economic prosperity;
- Operates within environmental, human and social constraints and dependencies;
- Moves from a focus on shareholders to a focus on all stakeholders (including our environment and society), and;
- Preserves, enhances, and restores the planet for future generations.

"The current system has proven good at the creation of financial wealth but has largely done so with less consideration of sustaining the quality of our land, water, climate and communities. Changes are needed to embed environmental and social considerations into market mechanisms and fiscal incentives, so ultimately capital allocation decisions by actors within individual businesses are aligned with our shared goals for the planet and its people', says Mr Whineray.

More: www.theaotearoacircle.nz/sustainablefinance for the 11 recommendations plus www.theaotearoacircle.nz/news/2020/11/1/sustainable-finance-forum-sets-out-roadmap-for-a-sustainable-financial-system-by-2030 and <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bb6cb19c2ff61422a0d7b17/t/5f9f2c6d0e604768db28ae65/1604267126720/Recommendation+1+-+Responsibility+Final.pdf> 50 pages 883kb

NB: For the *NZ Herald's* 28 page supplement of 3rd November, search within their website using 'Sustainable Finance' to access the 28 articles

Source: Tim Marshall and Vicki Watson, 3rd November.

The Biden Plan for a Clean Energy Revolution and Environmental Justice

"From coastal towns to rural farms to urban centres, climate change poses an existential threat – not just to our environment, but to our health, our communities, our national security, and our economic well-being.

More: <https://joebiden.com/climate-plan/>

Source: Bruce Gilkison, 10th November 2020.

Editor: This is long and is not a 'brief read'.

UN Goals Provide Starting Point for Next Government

"The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals provide a ready-made framework for a COVID-19 recovery plan. There is no need to invent, or even reinvent.

"As we think about creating a fairer, cleaner and more resilient New Zealand this election campaign, one question looms large – where to start?

"If these are to be our goals, then much of the hard work has already been done to answer that question.

"The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a ready-made framework for a COVID-19 recovery plan which leads to a greener, more inclusive economy and a stronger, more resilient society.

"The SDGs already enjoy widespread support in New Zealand. The Sustainable Business Council, representing companies responsible for 28% of the country's private sector GDP, aligns its work to the SDGs.

"The Government describes the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a 'collective blueprint' for the country.

"Treasury's Living Standards Framework takes a similar approach to the SDGs, representing Treasury's perspective on what matters for New Zealanders' wellbeing, now and into the future. It is designed to prompt thinking about policy impacts across the different dimensions of wellbeing, as well as the long-term and distributional issues and implications.

"Finally, the SDGs provide a coherent, equitable and sustainable plan which works at national, regional, and local levels. There is no need to invent, or even reinvent. The plan is there and it enjoys solid support.

"Recognising this, the CEOs of members of the Global Compact Network Australia, that country's principal sustainability initiative, including CA ANZ's CEO Ainslie van Onselen recently wrote to the Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison asking his Government to use the SDGs as a framework for policy design in planning for a recovery from the economic impacts of the COVID-19.

"That letter talks about using the SDGs to establish a level of ambition for Australia's pandemic-recovery and to create intergenerational value.

"New Zealand's next Government should also be ambitious.

"It requires a whole-of-government (and arguably, across-the-political-spectrum) approach which first acknowledges the current system is and has been lacking, and secondly seeks the development of transformational policies that benefit future generations, although current generations may not necessarily reap all of these benefits.

"While change is perhaps the last preferable option right now, it is what the country needs. The next Government needs to take our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals seriously, so, as we build back from COVID-19, we are also creating a fairer, cleaner and more resilient New Zealand.

More: www.charteredaccountantsnz.com/news-and-analysis/insights/opinion/un-goals-provide-starting-point-for-next-government

Source: Karen McWilliams. 27th October 2020.

How Accountants Can Lead the Climate Revolution: Two Podcasts

These two very listenable podcasts are Episodes 4 and 5 of CA ANZ's *Acuity Podcast live* series. Actually there was one recording session which has been split into two segments;


1. *Risk in action: How accountants can lead the climate revolution*

Our guests in this episode believe accountants can have the most significant impact in the fight against climate change at all levels: from the individual, through to business and industry and even economy-wide. Bruce Gilkison CA and author Jane Gleeson-White [Author of *Six Capitals*] tell us how.

2. *Accountants to the Rescue: Climate Change; Part 2*

We're jumping back into the issue of climate change and the tangible impacts accountants can have not only assisting businesses they work with but on a broader scale too. In this episode you'll hear about businesses and governments that are rising to meet the challenges of climate change today and into the future.

More: <http://acuitymag.com/acuitypodcast> (1) 35:05 [first 23 minutes], (2)19:35. Transcripts for both.

Source: Bruce Gilkison, 2nd November 2020. 

Consumer Research on Ethical Investment

"As New Zealand prepares to release its sustainable finance roadmap, new research shows [See separate article] more than three-quarters (78%) of New Zealanders with KiwiSaver or other investments believe ethical or responsible investments perform better in the long term.

"The new study, conducted by Dynata for Mindful Money and the Responsible Investment Association Australasia (RIAA), highlights the significant consumer demand for responsible and ethical investment, as the industry continues to grow in its size and influence.

"The study finds savings could be boosted if people see a positive social or environmental benefit from their investments. Nearly two-thirds of New Zealanders would be motivated to save and invest more money if they knew their savings and investments made a positive difference in the world.


"We are seeing overwhelming support from consumers for their hard-earned money to achieve positive outcomes and to avoid causing harm" said RIAA CEO Simon O'Connor. "In an important signal to New Zealand's KiwiSaver, banking and wealth management sectors, 58% of New Zealanders would consider switching their KiwiSaver or other investments to another provider if their current fund engaged in activities inconsistent with their values."

"Demand for ethical investing remains strong through the COVID pandemic" says Mindful Money's founder and CEO, Barry Coates. "Over 90% of those who do not perceive to currently have an ethical investment fund are intending to invest ethically, most of them within the next year. This is evidence of strong growth in the consumer movement."

"Women and those under 50 years of age are those most likely to expect their money to be invested ethically and to move their money to another provider if they find out they are investing in companies engaged in activities inconsistent with their values" said Coates.

"The survey reveals that three quarters (76%) of New Zealanders now expect their KiwiSaver or other financial investments to be invested responsibly and ethically. ...

More: <https://mindfulmoney.nz/media/blog/file/a9/media-release-nz-ethical-investment-consumer-resea.pdf> plus <https://mindfulmoney.nz/media/blog/file/56/responsible-investment-new-zealand-survey-2020-fin.pdf> 19 pages, 6.35Mb

Source: Barry Coates, 28th October 2020. 

Royal Commission Report on Australia's Unprecedented Bushfires

"Australia must prepare for an 'alarming' future of simultaneous and worsening natural disasters, says a long-awaited report into the country's bushfires.

"A royal commission inquiry examined Australia's Black Summer bushfires of 2019-20 – which ravaged vast swathes of the nation – and other disasters.

"At least 33 people died in what was by many measures an unprecedented season.

"The report made more than 80 recommendations to the government.

"They include detailed proposals to improve national response efforts, tools and climate data, among many other areas.

"It also reiterated climate change had exacerbated the extreme conditions which caused the fires, but future projections were more grim.

"The Australian government said it would 'carefully and methodically' consider the proposals.

"The blazes affected every Australian state, destroyed over 3,000 homes, and killed or displaced nearly three billion animals. ...

"The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements warned global warming was 'inevitable' the coming two decades.

"The commissioners said 'compounding disasters' would become more common – where natural hazards such as fires, floods and storms happen simultaneously, or one after another.

"To properly manage natural disasters of national scale and consequence, it is no longer suitable or appropriate to assess disaster risk at an individual hazard', they wrote in the report.

"We must assess the risk of multiple hazard events occurring concurrently or consecutively.'

More: www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-54742909 and <https://naturaldisaster.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/royal-commission-national-natural-disaster-arrangements-report> 594 pages, 16.82Mb, plus appendices

Source: *Carbon News*, 2nd November 2020. 

Fighting Climate Change with Bamboo

"Bamboo is a surprisingly effective carbon sink and is being promoted by the government as a uniquely Chinese solution to climate change.

"They are synonymous with the giant panda, and a ubiquitous part of life and culture across much of the south. China's bamboo forests – all 6.8 million hectares of them – could also play an outsized role in the country's plans to check climate change.

"Fast-growing, versatile and able to thrive on sloping, degraded soils, giant bamboos have long been considered a valuable source of income – sometimes called 'poor man's timber' – as well as an important tool for stabilising slopes and preventing soil erosion.

"More recently, bamboo has gained attention alongside tree-planting for its potential role in removing large amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, ...

"This high yield makes bamboo a surprisingly effective carbon sink and important nature-based approach to mitigating global warming. One study estimates a one-hectare plantation of bamboo and its products could store 306 tonnes of carbon over a 60-year period compared with 178 tonnes for Chinese fir trees.

More: www.eco-business.com/opinion/fighting-climate-change-with-bamboo/

Source: *eco-Business.com*, 4th November 2020. 

New Toitū Carbon Assess Tool Enables Carbon Measurement in Supply Chains and Small Businesses

"Toitū Envirocare's new Toitū *carbon assess* platform enables large enterprises to collate and track the combined carbon emissions of their New Zealand-based suppliers and gives small businesses an easy and affordable way to measure their carbon emissions and benchmark against similar organisations.

"Toitū *carbon assess* gives New Zealand businesses visibility across their climate-related supply chain risk and enables them to work together with their suppliers to reduce carbon emissions, says Toitū Envirocare General Manager Strategy & Partnerships Steve Dixon.

"A lot of consideration has gone into meeting the needs of both ends of the conversation – the enterprises with sizeable supply chains and the SMEs – for compliance and the costs," says Mr Dixon. "For enterprises this standardises the data and simplifies data capture. For SMEs it is an affordable and accessible step to carbon disclosure and a gateway to become certified'

"Speaking to the supplier end of the supply chain, Mr Dixon said SMEs make up 97% of New Zealand's businesses and account for about 30% of New Zealand's business carbon emissions but are generally not engaged or supported in measuring or reducing their carbon emissions.

"Toitū *carbon assess* also enables small businesses to share their carbon footprint with their large business customers, benchmark their footprint against similar-sized organisations, and compare their carbon footprint on an annual basis, using easily accessible business information such as electricity and fuel receipts, flight information, and waste receipts."

"Mr Dixon said *Toitū carbon assess* is designed as software-as-a-service. Suppliers or small business users will pay \$30 per month for access to the tool, or enterprises can subsidise the subscription fee to encourage their suppliers to report on the platform. ...

More: www.toitu.co.nz/news-and-events/news/taking-action/toitu-launches-carbon-footprinting-tool-for-supply-chains-and-small-businesses

Source: Tim Marshall, 2nd Nov. & Ashish Kundalkar.

Australian Pension Fund Settles Landmark Climate Lawsuit

"One of Australia's largest pension funds on Monday [2nd Nov] agreed to settle a landmark climate risk litigation filed by a 25-year-old member who alleged it was failing to protect his retirement savings against climate change.

"REST acknowledged in a statement climate change would lead to catastrophic economic and social consequences and that the phenomenon was a 'material, direct and current financial risk' to the superannuation fund.

"The closely watched case could influence how global funds manage such risks in future and trigger similar cases internationally, where asset owners face increased scrutiny in relation to climate change policy and risk reporting.

"Today's settlement gives me, and REST's almost two million members, the reassurance we need to know that our retirement savings will be invested responsibly in the face of the climate crisis", said plaintiff Mark McVeigh, who brought the case to the Federal Court of Australia in 2018.

"Under the settlement, REST agreed to align its portfolio to net zero by 2050 and report against the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures. ...

More: www.reuters.com/article/australia-climatechange-pensions-lawsuit-idUSKBN27IOFG

Source: *Carbon News*, 3rd November 2020.

"We Love Toilet Paper"

The 'Who Gives a Crap' toilet paper company of Australia was launched in 2012 and is a third-party certified BCorp. 'They are not a non-profit, but also not your typical for-profit business'. They say they fit somewhere in the middle – 'You could call us a social enterprise or a profit-for-purpose business'.

"We love toilet paper because for us, it's our way of making a difference. We started Who Gives A Crap when we learnt 2.4 billion people don't have access to a toilet (now 2 billion – yay for progress!). That's roughly 40% of the global population and means that around 289,000 children under five die every year from diarrhoeal diseases caused by poor water and sanitation. That's almost 800 children per day, or one child every two minutes'. ...

More: <https://blog.whogivesacrap.org/home/gooddeeds/is-who-gives-a-crap-a-charity> with a lot of fun stuff including at <https://au.whogivesacrap.org/pages/about-us>

Source: Bruce Gilkison, 2nd November 2020.

Report Shows an Increase in Companies Publishing Sustainability Reports

"Body Governance & Accountability Institute (G&A Institute), a consulting and research firm focused on ESG and sustainability, issued its 2020 Russell 1000 Research Report on sustainability reporting trends of the companies in the Russell 1000 Index. ...

"The dramatic increase in sustainability reporting that we have seen over the past five years in large-cap US companies is beginning to be seen in smaller companies, as represented in our research on the smaller half of the Russell 1000 Index. Public companies of all sizes are responding to increased adoption of ESG and sustainable investing strategies by institutional investors, including pension funds and mutual funds.'

"Significant findings of G&A Institute's 2020 Russell 1000 Research Report include:

- 65% of Russell 1000 companies published sustainability reports in 2019
- 47% of the reporting companies used the widely accepted GRI Standards
- 23% of the reporting companies in some way referenced or aligned with SASB
- 14% of the reporting companies mentioned or aligned with the TCFD, while 4% of those reported with detailed alignment
- 41% responded to CDP Climate Change questionnaire
- 32% of the reporting companies presented alignments with the SDGs

"This comes at a time when public trust in sustainability reporting is rising sharply, ...

More: www.environmentalleader.com/2020/10/new-report-shows-an-increase-in-companies-publishing-sustainability-reports-compared-to-2018/ plus www.environmentalleader.com/2020/10/public-trust-in-sustainability-reporting-is-rising-sharply/

Source: *Environmental Leader*, 28th October 2020.

Editor: The level of trust is lower among populations in the Economic North.

Discount for Selecting Recycled Packaging

Labwarehouse of New Plymouth offers a discount to purchasers if they select recycled packaging. This does not become apparent until an order is placed – in this instance for a replacement glass industrial thermometer.

How many other NZ companies provide similar incentives?

More: www.labwarehouse.co.nz

Source: Editor as result of an 8th November purchase.

Cellphone-recorded Coughs Detect Asymptomatic Covid-19 Infections


"Asymptomatic people who are infected with Covid-19 exhibit, by definition, no discernible physical symptoms of the disease. They are thus less likely to seek out testing for the virus, and could unknowingly spread the infection to others.

"But it seems those who are asymptomatic may not be entirely free of changes wrought by the virus. MIT researchers have now found people who are asymptomatic may differ from healthy individuals in the way they cough. These differences are not decipherable to the human ear. But it turns out they can be picked up by artificial intelligence.

"In a paper published recently in the *IEEE Journal of Engineering in Medicine and Biology*, the team reports on an AI model that distinguishes asymptomatic people from healthy individuals through forced-cough recordings, which people voluntarily submitted through web browsers and devices such as cellphones and laptops.

"The researchers trained the model on tens of thousands of samples of coughs, as well as spoken words. When they fed the model new cough recordings, it accurately identified 98.5% of coughs from people who were confirmed to have Covid-19, including 100% of coughs from asymptomatics — who reported they did not have symptoms but had tested positive for the virus. ...

More: <https://news.mit.edu/2020/covid-19-cough-cellphone-detection-1029>

Source: Topio Networks, 5th November 2020. 

The Hidden Fix Radically Shrinking Climate Impact of your Groceries

"Sometimes, the most unsexy change is the best thing to do for the climate.

"While customers might have preferred to see supermarkets rolling out fancy electric trucks and using compostable packaging, it turned out the best thing Countdown could do for the climate was change the invisible gases that keep its fridges cool.


"Fridges are essential for keeping food safe but leaks from the long networks of pipes feeding coolant gas to open-fronted fridges, as well as the open fridges themselves, have a hefty warming impact. These potent, climate-heating gases are also found in the refrigerated trucks that deliver people's online groceries, and in coolstores which keep food chilled throughout the supply chain.

"Some gases used in older fridges — including ones we have at home — are so powerful at heating the climate, 1kg of refrigerant has the same greenhouse impact as 2 tonnes of carbon dioxide, roughly the equivalent of running a car for six months.

"In Countdown's case, gas leaking from cooling systems caused almost half of the global warming created by the supermarket chain's entire operations in 2017, said Countdown's general manager of corporate affairs, safety and sustainability, Kiri Hannifin, an impact greater than the chain's delivery trucks, food waste or electricity use.

"By continuing to retrofit old stores and putting cleaner systems in new stores, Hannifin thought the chain could get three-quarters of the way to meeting its 2030 climate goal — of reducing emissions by 63% — six years early, in 2024, purely by changing refrigerants. 'We are going to go hard on it. [But] the last 20% will be quite tricky to get.' ...

More: www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/123275115/the-hidden-fix-that-is-radically-shrinking-the-climate-impact-of-your-groceries

Source: *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 5th November 2020. 

New York City's East River Now Home to 3 Tidal Power Turbines

"An array of three tidal power turbines are now in operations at New York's Project site in the East River. ... The system is designed to optimise the economics of installation and maintenance over the system's 20-year life, and to prove performance. This design provides for readily scalable systems to larger sizes for deeper and faster tidal straits. ...

"The RITE Project will generate electricity under a pilot project license — the first commercial license for a tidal power project in America. ...

More: www.environmentalleader.com/2020/10/new-york-citys-east-river-now-home-to-3-tidal-power-turbines/

Source: *Environmental Leader*, 28th October 2020. 


Nature and Wellbeing in Aotearoa New Zealand: Exploring the Connection

"We have never been more aware of the benefit of being out in nature, but how much quality time does the 'average' New Zealander spend enjoying the outdoors? While our national parks are places of spectacular wilderness, for many of us, these places are out of reach.

"This ground-breaking book argues for the restoration of 'neighbourhood nature' — places that all New Zealanders can freely access, irrespective of socioeconomic or other factors. New Zealand's experience of the coronavirus pandemic underscores how important these local oases of nature are — and how vital they are to our wellbeing.

"Richly illustrated throughout, this book tells the stories of a wide range of New Zealanders, who — either individually or through organised initiatives — have experienced the wellbeing benefits gained through connection with nature. Their stories are varied but each one is authentic, personal and moving. Drawing on the latest scientific research and through these personal stories, Knight challenges us to contemplate a more nature-rich future.

More: www.khm.co.nz/totara-press plus www.voxy.co.nz/lifestyle/5/374745 191 pages

Source: *Tieke: ECO Alerts & Events*, 4th November. 

Cooler Buildings with 'Cooling Paint'

"What if paint could cool off a building enough to not need air conditioning?

"Purdue University engineers have created white paint that can keep surfaces up to 18°F cooler than their ambient surroundings — almost like a refrigerator does, but without consuming energy.


"According to the researchers, the paint would replace the need for air conditioning by absorbing nearly no solar energy and sending heat away from the building. Without the building heating up, air conditioning wouldn't have to kick on.

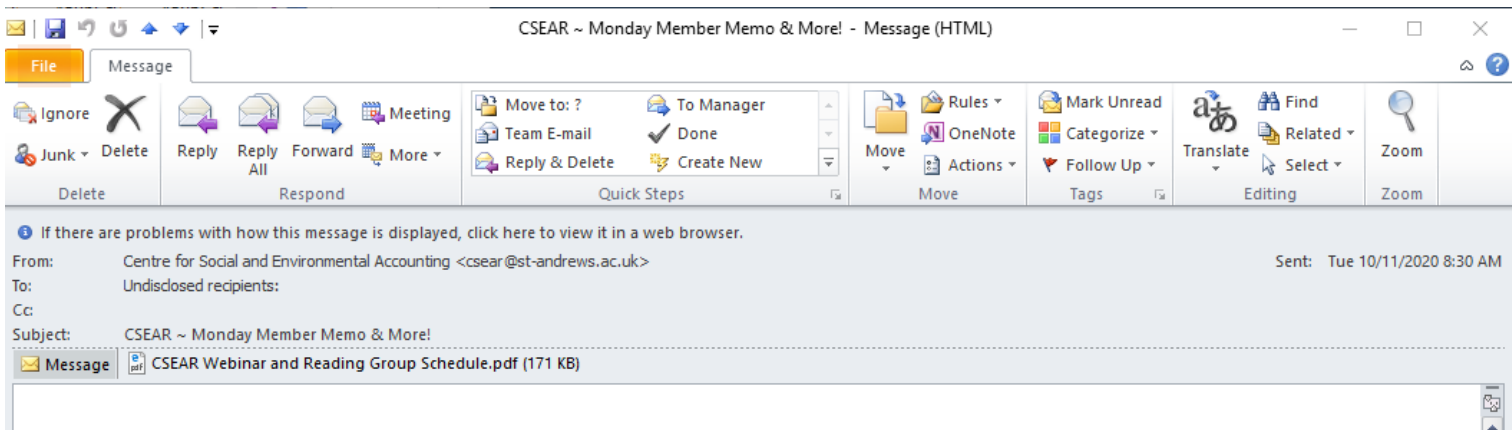
"It's very counterintuitive for a surface in direct sunlight to be cooler than the temperature your local weather station reports for that area, but we've shown this to be possible', said Xiulin Ruan, a Purdue professor of mechanical engineering.

"We're not moving heat from the surface to the atmosphere. We're just dumping it all out into the universe, which is an infinite heat sink',

"Earth's surface would actually get cooler with this technology if the paint were applied to a variety of surfaces including roads, rooftops and cars all over the world ...

More: www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2020/Q4/this-white-paint-could-reduce-the-need-for-air-conditioning-by-keeping-surfaces-cooler-than-surroundings.html

Source: *SnippETS*, 5th November 2020. 



CSEAR | Centre for Social & Environmental Accounting Research
Accountability Transparency Responsibility

CSEAR November **Member** Memo & More!

Have you read the CSEAR Blog? Contribute a story, article, book review or conference commentary today:

<http://csearweb.blogspot.com/>



Save the Dates 2020-2021

For the CSEAR Online Reading Group
Organised by Matt Sorola

Every third Thursday every month (at the same time for each session).

19 November, 2020
17 December, 2020
21 January, 2021
18 February, 2021
18 March, 2021
22 April, 2021
20 May, 2021

*****The Next Reading Group*****

Storytelling in Accounting w/Leanne Morrison

CSEAR Reading Group - Asia/Pacific

Thu 19/11/2020 08:00 - 09:00

Link

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://tbs-education-fr.zoom.us/j/81843535464?pwd=Vlp2QWt2VUI2eENHdUNYZZFOTmptQT09>

Meeting ID: 818 4353 5464

Passcode: CSEARead

CSEAR Reading Group - Africa/EU

Thu 19/11/2020 14:00 - 15:00

Link

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://tbs-education-fr.zoom.us/j/81843535464?pwd=Vlp2QWt2VUI2eENHdUNYz2FOTmptQT09>

Meeting ID: 818 4353 5464

Passcode: CSEARed

What stories do we tell each other about nature, and about our own position within nature? What stories to companies and other organisations tell us about their relationship with nature? The stories we tell, the words and images we use to describe these relationships shape the ways we treat nature (and ourselves). This shaping occurs on individual, social and cultural levels. In this session, let's dig deep into the history of these stories, and what effect they've had on what companies like to call 'sustainability'.

Dr Leanne J Morrison (RMIT University, Australia) is an academic who loves thinking and writing about the connections between business, nature and people. She uses storytelling, dialogics and art to help explore these relationships in an attempt to circumvent the seemingly inevitable.

ADVERTISING MATERIALS:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFWcng1baw4>

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:

Birkin, F. (1996). "The Ecological Accountant: From the Cogito to Thinking Like a Mountain." *Critical Perspectives on Accounting* 7(3): 231-257.

Simons, I. (2014). "Sacred Stories and Silent Voices: What The Big Bad Wolf Can Teach Us*." *The Journal of Corporate Citizenship* (54): 11-22.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pWQe00W6Wk>

If you would like to know more about the reading group (purpose, aim, rules, expectations, etc...), you can find out more at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xe7VAT4NFMEFvqTSDynxMWOYtR5jMcUqIhvsXcq8hmY/edit?usp=sharing>



Did You Know?

SDG IMPACT ASSESSMENT

In 2015, the United Nations agreed on 17 'Sustainable Development Goals' to guide public policies and to inspire societal actors to promote sustainable development worldwide. The ambition expressed in these Sustainable Development Goals is unprecedented. The goals and the overarching UN "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" aim at nothing less than "Transforming Our World".

Yet, five years after the launch of the goals, the question urgently arises: Will these 17 Sustainable Development Goals really help resolve the pressing challenges of economic development, poverty eradication, social justice and global environmental protection?

To address this question, a network of leading research institutions and individual scholars has come together to compile the first comprehensive assessment of all the scholarly knowledge on the steering effects of the

Sustainable Development Goals:

The 2022 SDG Impact Assessment.

The central question of the SDG Impact Assessment is whether the Sustainable Development Goals have become a transformative force in governance, from local to global levels. More specifically, the Assessment asks whether, to what extent and how the Sustainable Development Goals have led to political and institutional changes in six key areas:

the global governance of sustainable development, with a focus on the steering efforts of and within the UN system the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals at multiple levels, including current knowledge on factors that explain progress as well as barriers

interlinkages among and integration of Sustainable Development Goals

global and local inclusiveness of programmes and policies to implement Sustainable Development Goals

ecological integrity of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at planetary level existing

knowledge on assessment indicators and methods.

The SDG Impact Assessment is written by a team of over 60 international scholars and coordinated by the GLOBALGOALS Project at Utrecht University.

GET TO KNOW THE SCIENTIFIC STEERING GROUP, THE COORDINATING LEAD AUTHORS AND THE CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

If you want to contribute to the SDG Impact Assessment by adding your own research and policy papers, please contact us at: globalgoals@uu.nl

Source: <https://globalgoalsproject.eu/sdg-assessment/>

SEAJ Updates - Call for Papers Special Issue

Accounting and Climate Finance: Engaging with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Deadline: December 15, 2020

[Direct Link to Information](#)

Following our recent commentary (Charnock & Thomson, 2019), we are calling on SEA scholars to engage with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC synthesizes climate research to provide an authoritative evidential basis for national and international climate talks and policies. To date, economics has been the main voice of the social sciences within the IPCC synthesis reports. Yet the IPCC claims that this is because other disciplines are not reaching out with their relevant peer reviewed insights (Skea, 2019).

The IPCC's 3rd Working Group (WG III) is synthesising research on climate finance but have faced serious difficulty in gathering academic work. While the lack of an agreed definition is something the IPCC look to remedy (IPCC, 2017b), climate finance often refers to "the financial resources dedicated to adapting to and mitigating climate change globally, including in the context of financial flows to developing countries." (UNFCCC, 2018, p. 21). It is therefore seen as playing an integral part in transforming industries in line with low-carbon transitions, ensuring developed nations support mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing nations, and creating conditions for technological innovation (IPCC, 2014).

Of course, SEA research on climate change extends far beyond finance. But our work and insights build a foundation for further, deeper and ongoing engagement into the possibilities and problems of climate finance becoming central to achieving global climate goals. This special issue provides one starting point for engaging with the IPCC. They are a key member of our audience, one that has turned to the social sciences, hoping that we can re-present existing insights and cases with an emphasis on their policy- and IPCC-relevant aspects.

WG III have provided an array of key themes where insight is required (IPCC, 2017b). As explored in our commentary, we see a range of SEA insights as being highly relevant to the IPCC, from those on how to measure and account for carbon emissions, to financial sector risk assessments (Coulson & Monks, 1999; Busch &



Hoffmann, 2007; Bebbington & Larrinaga-González, 2008; Bebbington et al., 2019) and accountability, governance and regulatory dynamics (Gond & Piani, 2013; Macve & Chen, 2010; O'Sullivan & O'Dwyer, 2015).

They have called on us to reach out, and this special issue is one opportunity to do so. We also see potential links between the special issue paper development process and any social and environmental accounting fringe events at COP 26 in late-2020.

The key point is that the IPCC is in dire need of research insights from communities such as ours (IPCC, 2017a, p. 35). They have defined their problem space, evidence gaps and information requirement, which we suggest are a useful resource in identifying topics of relevance to this special issue (IPCC, 2017b).

In line with SEAJ's commitment to providing a forum for diverse forms of policy-oriented articles, scholarly output, short pieces, commentaries, literature reviews, polemics, essays and reviews, we welcome submissions relevant to the special issue topics taking any of these forms. Relevant topics to this special issue include, but are not restricted to:

- Accounting's roles in the politics of a financialized atmosphere
- Climate finance accountabilities between nations, especially regarding United Nations mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund and Article 9 of the Paris Agreement
- Measuring and accounting for the carbon emissions impact of climate finance activities
- Applications of scenario analysis and stress testing within climate finance and investment
- Alignment of organisational, national and international climate finance targets and policies
- Enabling conditions for changing investment and lending patterns
- The impact (or otherwise) of disclosures on investment and lending communities
- Integration of climate change into strategic investment planning
- Organisation-level use of low- and zero-carbon technology roadmaps for investment planning
- Bridging temporal gaps between long-term impacts and short-term investment decisions
- Multi-disciplinary conceptual research insights on climate finance, such as an accounting perspective on the concept of transformation (see Fazey et al., 2018; also see Charnock & Thomson, 2019)
- Conceptual analysis of accounting's potential roles in climate finance (see Bebbington et al., 2019, which draws on Miller & Power, 2013)
- Case studies pertaining to climate finance and climate risk assessment
- Emerging trends across climate finance, including investors' views on and usage of climate finance and climate risk assessment

Authors are encouraged to contact the Guest Editors to discuss proposed contributions:

Robert Charnock, University of Birmingham, UK, (r.j.charnock@bham.ac.uk)

Ian Thomson, University of Birmingham, UK, (i.thomson@bham.ac.uk).

CSEAR Activity Initiative Updates

Dear CSEAR Community,

As part of the CSEAR's new initiatives, and to stay engaged with the community despite not being able to travel, we will be running monthly Webinars, in addition to the existing online Reading Groups. This will be a great (online) space to (re)connect with CSEAR members and like-minded scholars; learn of new research in the social and environmental accounting space; and get up to date information on special issues, ideas for future research etc., and be prompted/motivated to excel in your own research.

The CSEAR Webinars will take place on the 1st Thursday of each month, 4 pm (UK time), and the CSEAR Reading Groups, run by Matt Sorola, will continue to take place on the 3rd Thursday of each month, 8am (UK time) and 2pm (UK time).

Please note that whereas the online Reading Groups will stay on Zoom only, the Webinars will be live streamed on the CSEAR Facebook Group, allowing interactions for live comments both on Zoom and on Facebook (they will also be recorded and immediately made available in the Group, especially for all the Aussies/New

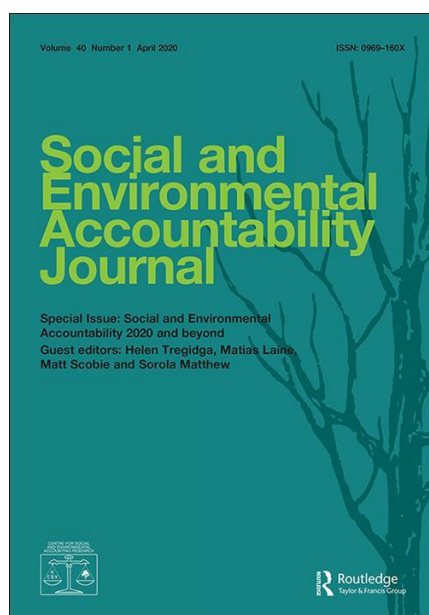
Zealanders/Asian/Pacific Islanders who are likely to be sleeping at the 4 pm UK time slot – but we will also try and change the time if we have a speaker from that region... this is TBD). If you are not a member of the CSEAR Facebook group please join now!

If you would like more information please contact Lori Leigh, Administrator in the CSEAR UK office at: csear@st-andrews.ac.uk

Share your updates and recent publications with our international network.

Would you like to be showcased in a Member Memo or would you like to be connected to a featured member? Let us know by contacting:

csear@st-andrews.ac.uk



More Calls for Papers

I would like to share with you that the Special Issue on China by *Sustainability Accounting, Management and*



Policy Journal (SAMPJ) is now published: <https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/issn/2040-8021/vol/11/iss/5>

This Special Issue on China is linked to the CSEAR North Asia conference held in 2017. I am honored to be one of the co-editors for this Special Issue together with three other academics from Jinan University, Liverpool University and Peking University.

Artie W. Ng, PhD, FCPA, FCMA
Principal Lecturer and Deputy Director
School of Professional Education & Executive Development
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Tel: (852) 3746-0713

Email: artie.ng@speed-polyu.edu.hk

CALL FOR PAPERS Special Issue of Accounting Forum “Accounting for the Circular Economy”

The deadline for submission to the Special Issue of Accounting Forum on Accounting for the Circular Economy has been **extended to January 31, 2021**

The updated call for paper is attached and the online version of the call can be found here: https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/accounting-forum-circular-economy/?utm_source=TFO&utm_medium=cms&utm_campaign=JOL12537

Guest Editors: Diane-Laure Arjaliès, Ivey Business School, Western University (darjalies@ivey.ca)
Michelle Rodrigue, École de comptabilité, Université Laval (michelle.rodrigue@fsa.ulaval.ca)
Andrea (Andi) Romi, Rawls College of Business, Texas Tech University (andrea.romi@ttu.edu)

Meditari Accountancy Research: Special Issue - Call for Papers

The Call relates to a Special Issue (SI) of Meditari Accountancy Research journal. The theme of this SI is as follows:

COVID-19 and accounting: Threats to, and opportunities for, accounting education, research and publication, and innovation in professional practice.

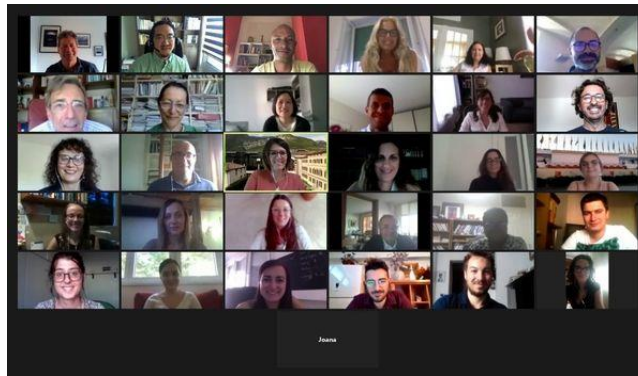
The Call is found at the following Emerald link:

<https://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/journal/medar/covid-19-and-accounting-threats-and-opportunities-accounting-education-research-and>

As advised in the Call, potential contributors are requested to develop a research proposal for consideration by the SI guest editors.

**The First CSEAR Italy International Research Webinar
September 4th 2020**





Here Is Another Network You May Be Interested in Supporting:

Alternative Accounting Research Network (AARN)

<https://www.alternativeaccounting.org/>

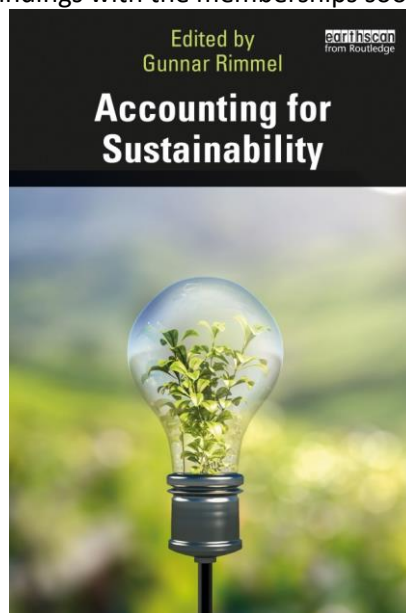
For more information, please contact:

jane.andrew@sydney.edu.au



For Taking the Time to Complete the CSEAR Website Survey

The website committee will be reviewing the responses to our summer survey and look forward to sharing the findings with the memberships soon.



A Case Competition

Please note the information on the International Case Competition, which is a global competition, now in its fourth year, for all students to develop business solutions to a challenge to a judging panel of industry leaders in the finance and accounting community.

This year's case is supply chain resilience and climate change impact, and tasks students with using lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic to identify solutions to create stability in the supply chain that mitigate the



risks and adapt to the opportunities posed by climate change. Applications for the competition open in November, and the event will be enabled for virtual participation.

Please visit: <https://a4sicc.com/>

This will provide more information and allow you to subscribe for competition updates, which will include important logistical information as well as announcements of judges and exclusive materials such as podcasts and blogs.

If you'd like to discuss this further please contact Helen Slinger at: helen.slinger@accountingforsustainability.org

Helen Slinger
Executive Director
The Prince's Accounting for Sustainability Project (A4S)
+44 (0)7467 147516
Clarence House, London, SW1A 1BA

Please Join and Be CSEAR Member and Receive the SEA Journal Articles in 2020 Today – It's quick and easy:
[I Want to Be a CSEAR Member in 2020](#)

Benefits include: A friendly community to network, learn about updates and activities related to accounting and sustainability.



In Other News:

[What the Limits of Traditional Accounting Means for the Future of Food](#)

[Mobile Accounting - Is it the Future?](#)

[New Study Reveals How Accounting Practices Can Improve Businesses' Sustainability](#)

[10 Reasons Sustainability Needs To Be Part of Your Digital Transformation Strategy](#)

[World's Top Banks Must Stop Funding Factory Farming to Prevent Future Pandemics, Say Campaigners](#)

[From CSR to ESG: How Your Business Should Be Reporting Sustainability](#)

[The Future of Accounting Education](#)

[Unusual Accounting Expenses 'Not So Unusual' As Virus Wears On](#)

[Why Has the UK Space Agency Won An Award for Sustainability?](#)

[It's Called the Sustainable Development Goals Index for a Reason](#)

[Government Funds Mental Health Training for 5,000 Accountants](#)

[Will Blockchain Technology Replace Accountants?](#)

[Deriving Business Opportunities from Italy's Covid-19 Measures](#)



Since the 2019 Finance for the Future Awards, the finance community have had many challenges to face. However, it has been inspiring to witness the innovation, collaborative thinking and partnership that has shone through in times of adversity.

This year, we will be bringing the Finance for the Future community together through a series of interactive virtual events. This will be an opportunity to hear from finance leaders who are committed to creating sustainable outcomes and understand what can be learnt from the current context.

The series of three events will take place in December as part of [The Accounting for Sustainability Summit 2020](#), an event hosted by Finance for the Future founding partner, A4S.

Driving change in the finance community: how education can re-shape the future of finance

Monday 7 December 13:00 – 14:30 (GMT)

Through the biggest crisis of the 21st century, innovation and drive for change has continued to be demonstrated by the global finance community. In this event, speakers will highlight the role that the academic and educational communities can play in transforming finance for a sustainable future.

Authentic Integrated Thinking: connecting purpose, people, planet and profit within everyday decision making

Tuesday 8 December 13:00 – 14:30 (GMT)

The COVID-19 and climate change crises have highlighted the importance of integrated thinking to the resilience and viability of organisations. This masterclass will explore integrated thinking and what it means in practice, steps to embed it within your organisation, and what part it can play in a sustainable recovery. In this interactive session, participants will hear practical examples from previous Finance for the Future Award winners: Alan Stewart, CFO at Tesco and Joe Allanson, EVP, Chief Accountant and Controller at Salesforce.

Moving financial markets: how can we accelerate financial markets to drive a green and fair economy?

Wednesday 9 December 12:30 – 13:30 (GMT)

In this session, participants will explore how financial institutions, products and services can move financial markets towards a more sustainable economy. Practical examples will be discussed from the previous winners of the Finance for the Future awards. Join this interactive session and hear from key actors in the financial markets, including Sarah Breeden, Executive Director at the Bank of England.

We hope that you will accept our invitation to join us. To register for these events and view the wider activities of The A4S Summit 2020, please click [here](#).



VISIT US ONLINE

