

Sustainability Matters

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Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

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'Silent Spring' Remains a Rousing Call to Action

"Rachel Carson's book of 1962 helped kickstart the environmental movement in America. [And elsewhere too.]

"Once there was a town where Nature's creatures lived in harmony. The seasons passed; the wilderness bloomed. All was as it should be. Then suddenly, everything changed.


'No witchcraft, no enemy action had silenced the rebirth of new life in this stricken world. The people had done it themselves', wrote Rachel Carson in 'Silent Spring'. This fable opens her landmark environmental book, first published in 1962.

"A marine biologist at America's Bureau of Fisheries (the predecessor of the Fish and Wildlife Service), Carson was concerned about the indiscriminate use of DDT and other pesticides in post-war America. At the time prolific quantities were being used in farming and sprayed on the habitats of the Anopheles mosquito which spreads malaria. Worried about the disastrous side-effects of the chemical America's Centres for Disease Control and Prevention called 'the atomic bomb of the insect world', Carson decided to sound the alarm.

"Her skill lay in her ability to communicate dense, scientific information through vivid, lyrical prose. 'As crude a weapon as the cave man's club, the chemical barrage has been hurled against the fabric of life', she wrote.

"Sixty years later, Carson's deep understanding of the 'balance of nature' feels more relevant, and urgent, than ever. Beset by floods, typhoons and the suffocating temperatures unleashed by anthropogenic climate change, the world today is more 'stricken' than the one Carson wrote about. Her words remain a rousing argument for action in the face of destruction. They show that language and creativity can still cut through the spin and partisan politics which hamper meaningful climate action. ...

More: www.economist.com/culture/2022/09/27/silent-spring-remains-a-rousing-call-to-action


Source: *The Economist Today*, 28th September 2022. 

Green Transport Feature

"This week, we unveiled the green transport edition of the Forever Project magazine. Enticing readers with a fabulous cover by artist Gavin Mouldy, we explore rejigging travel to be greener, healthier and more enjoyable. here's three lessons I learned from Eloise Gibson's beautifully written kids-on-bikes feature:

1. At some schools during the late 1970s, up to 70% of students commuted by bike. For the whole country, 20% of students – one in five – cycled. At last count, that's down to 3% for teens and 2% for younger children.
2. Adults are responsible for the decline.
3. While much has changed about being a kid, some things will always be the same.

More: <https://t.comms.stuff.co.nz/nl/jsp/m.jsp?c=%40vRfmbLgs4fCUPuEWyc0y7Z6dtJMLc57phdfQPrZ1GE%3D>

Source: *ForeverProject*, 16th September 2022. 

Parents for Climate Aotearoa Helping Us All to Discuss Climate Issues

"Many of us feel uncomfortable talking about climate change. People tell us they are reluctant to discuss it because they feel overwhelmed, anxious or guilty, they fear confrontation, or think they need to know more about it and don't know where to start.


"Social science points to the value of talking with friends and family about climate change, in a way that is positive for relationships. Discussing shared problems is powerful, and supports social change.

"Parents for Climate Aotearoa is bringing together social and climate science and policy, to help you develop the skills and ability to talk with and listen to friends and family about climate change, starting with your children. We will help to guide you through the important conversations about their feelings and questions, with in-person and online workshops and resources.

"We are running a crowd-funding campaign, ending midnight Sunday 2nd October, to raise money to develop a programme of workshops, resources and materials on how to talk about climate change in Aotearoa. The group is a registered charity, and all donations will be DOUBLED up to a total of \$10,000, thanks to the generosity of Foundation North. Our Givealittle Page: <https://givealittle.co.nz/fundraiser/talking-with-your-kids-about-climate-change>

"Having more people talking about climate change means more inclusive solutions that will work for everyone.

More: www.parentsforclimatenz.org

Source: Parents for Climate Aotearoa, 26th Sept. 2022. 


Global 'Stilling': Is Climate Change Slowing Down the Wind?

"Writer Jim Robbins explores the impact climate change is having on wind speeds. Last year, Europe experienced a six-month 'wind drought', with wind speeds slowing by 15% or more below the annual average, and researchers are forecasting global wind speeds could drop by up to 10% by 2100.

"This wind 'stilling' is being attributed to a rise in atmospheric carbon dioxide levels and a warming of the Earth's poles. Scientists say the slowdown could impact wind energy production and plant distribution and growth, and might affect the Gulf Stream, which drives much of the world's climate.

More: <https://e360.yale.edu/features/global-stilling-is-climate-change-slowing-the-worlds-wind>


Source: *Yale Environment 360*, 16th September 2022.

Editor: NZ and Australia are among countries in bands with predicted slowing wind speeds. Also affects sea temperatures and thus marine farming. 

Are your Funds Caring for People and the Earth?

Dr Robert Howell's recent presentation is now available.

More: <https://www.fabians.org.nz/> or directly from <https://youtu.be/gcxQvEgkadc>

Source: Robert Howell 24th September 2022. 

A Closer Look at the GHG Protocol: Observations and Implications for Standards Setters and Regulators

"A closer look at the GHG Protocol. ...


"An increasing number of companies are disclosing their scope 1, 2 and 3 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The GHG Protocol is a leading source of guidance on the measurement and reporting of GHG emissions and its standards are being referenced/incorporated into climate disclosure standards and rules being developed in local jurisdictions.

"With securities regulators globally moving to make emission disclosure mandatory for many companies, along with the recent creation of the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB), it is important to better understand how emissions are being measured and disclosed. This report, produced in collaboration with the Institute for Sustainable Finance, provides:

- Background on the GHG Protocol and its standard setting process;
- An overview of the key features of the GHG Protocol's Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard;
- Information on how the GHG Protocol standards and guidance are being used; and
- Observations and implications for standard setters and regulators relying on the GHG Protocol.

More: www.cpacanada.ca/en/business-and-accounting-resources/other-general-business-topics/sustainability/publications/closer-look-ghg-protocol 23pages, 562Kb

Source: Debbie Kandaaw CA ANZ Weekly Digest for Climate & Sustainability, 16th September 2022.

Editor: Although developed by CPA Canada the report has general applicability elsewhere. 

Visualising Accounting...More than Meets the Eye


"Ever wonder why corporate reports are inundated with glossy sustainability photographs of green fields, blue skies and happy faces? Are they just decorative space-fillers? A captured reality? A feel-good potion? Or are they something more than meets the eye?

"Visuals such as photographs are becoming as important as words and numbers to communicate accounting information. Particularly, sustainability photographic images provide credibility, emotion and clarity to words and numbers, making the accounting information believable and persuasive. Should users of accounting information believe what they see in these photographs?

"We are excited to host our next session in the Career Advantage Series with Dr Sabrina Chong, Senior Lecturer in Accounting at the AUT Business School. Sabrina will share the fascinating findings of her empirical research about the use and misuse of sustainability photographs in reporting accounting information.

When/Where: Tuesday 4th Oct, 4:00 – 5:00pm. Online


More: www.aut.ac.nz/events/career-advantage-series-visualising-accountingmore-than-meets-the-eye

Source: Sabrina Chong, 18th September 2022. 

Calling us to Action – Climate Change and Business Conference 2022

With 500 in-person attendees and around 140 online, this year's Climate Change and Business Conference was the largest in its 14-year history. RNZ Journalist Hamish Cardwell covered the conference – read his summary.

More: www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/475196/climate-change-forum-weighs-need-for-action-alongside-business-opportunities

Source: SBC Weekly Pānui, 22nd September 2022. 

Regenerative Agriculture Briefing


"In June, investors representing \$17.45 trillion in combined assets called on the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to produce a clear roadmap to achieve a sustainable global food system by 2050.

"Food systems account for around a third of global greenhouse gas emissions, and even if fossil fuel emissions were eliminated today, the investors pointed out, emissions from the agriculture, forestry and land use sectors alone would make it impossible to stay within 1.5^o C of warming.

"And it is not just due to CO2 emissions from deforestation to make room for crops such as cocoa and soya, and heavy use of agricultural chemicals according to the FAIRR investor network, which organised the statement, agriculture accounts for 40% of human-generated methane emissions, with the digestive processes of cattle and other livestock alone accounting for 4% of all global emissions – twice the impact of the aviation sector.

More:

<http://d3m889aznlr23d.cloudfront.net/img/events/458268204/assets/a0a023f6.ecmagsep2022v12.pdf> 60 pages 24.4Mb

Source: Reuters Events, 17th September 2022. 

Patagonia: Founder Gives Company Away to Fight Climate Change

"The billionaire founder of the outdoor fashion brand Patagonia has given away his company to a charitable trust.

"Yvon Chouinard said any profit not reinvested in running the business would go to fighting climate change.

"The label has amassed a cult following due to sustainability moves like guaranteeing its clothes for life and offering reasonably priced repairs.


"It is famous for an advert titled 'Don't buy this jacket' asking shoppers to consider costs to the environment.

"The brand's website now states: 'Earth is now our only shareholder.'

"Mr Chouinard has always said he 'never wanted to be a businessman'. A rock climbing fanatic, he started out as making metal climbing spikes for himself and his friends to wedge into rocks, before moving into clothing and eventually creating a hugely successful sportswear brand with a cult following.

"Founded in 1973, Patagonia's sales were worth around \$1.5bn this year, while Mr Chouinard's net worth is thought to be \$1.2bn. 'But he has always shied away from his wealthy status, telling the New York Times he was "horrified to be seen as a billionaire'. ...

More: www.bbc.com/news/business-62906853


Source: OD Action News, 16th September 2022. 

Introduction to Power

"How have humans become powerful enough to disrupt the world's climate, trigger the sixth mass extinction, and cause serious harm to the biosphere? And with all the abilities and technologies we've accrued, why do we so often oppress instead of uplift one another? Join us as we explore the hidden driver behind the converging crises of the 21st century. It all comes down to power – our pursuit of it, overuse of it, and abuse of it. Learn how different forms of power arose, what they mean for us today, and why giving up power just might save us.

" Hosted by Melody Travers (Absolute AI podcast) and Rob Dietz (Crazy Town podcast). New episodes weekly September through November 2022.

More: <https://power.postcarbon.org/podcast/> 41:25 plus www.resilience.org/excerpts-from-power-2021/

Source: Post Carbon Institute, 22nd September 2022. 

What Melting Tibetan Glaciers Reveal About Disease and Global Warming

"As the Covid-19 pandemic wreaked havoc worldwide in 2020, scientists scrambled to produce vaccines. Millions of lives were lost, even though the existence of coronaviruses – the class to which the virus causing Covid-19 belongs – was well known. Scientists had known coronaviruses could infect humans for over 60 years, but they were not considered a serious enough threat to be studied for a possible vaccine until the 2003 SARS outbreak, which killed 10% of people who contracted it. The threat level escalated when Covid-19 transferred from animals to humans in 2019.


"According to experts, microorganisms have the capability to present danger spanning centuries. Modern and ancient pathogenic microbes trapped in ice could lead to epidemics or even pandemics when released.

"There was [a] study which showed virus found on frozen bodies of 1918 Spanish flu victims is still capable of infecting others. This is only 100 years old', says Gautam Menon, professor of physics and biology, and director of the Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability at Ashoka University in India.

"Global warming accelerates glacier retreat, and the enhanced meltwater discharge can increase the chance of these virulence factors interacting with local plants, animals and humans', the Lanzhou University study says.

"Menon stresses since humans do not have defences against these microbes because they originate from unexpected sources, this will become an increasingly important problem associated with global warming.

More: www.thethirdpole.net/en/climate/melting-tibetan-plateau-glaciers-microbes/

Source: eco-Business.com, 21st September 2022. 

Japan's 'Zero Waste' Village Is a Model for Small-Town Sustainability

"In Kamikatsu, recycling isn't just an environmental imperative — it's the glue that unifies a community.

"The Zero Waste Center in Kamikatsu, Japan, looks like a peculiar kind of flea market: everything from metal ring pulls to plastic bottle lids, mirrors and thermometers are neatly stored in a row of yellow baskets. ...

"Sorting waste into 45 different categories is much more difficult than you might imagine', says Hiroshi Nakamura, the architect who designed and constructed the pioneering space, 'but they are willing to do it.'

".....the centre has become the centrepiece of an ambitious goal: Kamikatsu's effort to reuse or recycle everything it produces. In doing so, the town of less than 2,000 people, set on the Japanese island of Shikoku, has become a world-leading example of how a community can eliminate waste.

"Kamikatsu's target to eliminate waste without resorting to incinerators or landfills was set in 2003, when it launched the nonprofit Zero Waste Academy and became the first municipality in Japan to make a 'Zero Waste' declaration. While the town has so far fallen short of the lofty goal, initially set for 2020, Kamikatsu recycled 81% of all its waste in 2020,, up from 58.6% in 2008, and much greater than Japan's national average of 20%

"Nowadays, there are still many things which are excessive, useless and disposable', says Asari. 'We need to change our mindset to reduce them. We must now steer toward the realisation of a sustainable circular economy.'

More: <https://reasonstobecheerful.world/kamikatsu-japan-zero-waste-recycling-town/>

Source: *reasons to be cheerful*, 21st September 2022. 

Green Office Toitū 1st Year Celebration

"On Friday 28th October Green Office Toitū, Otago Polytechnic, Auckland will be celebrating the first year of signing up to the world-wide 'Green Office'. This is a movement based in Europe.

"The Green Office Movement involves students, staff and academics working to advance sustainability in and beyond higher education. The Green Office Model, a student-led and staff-supported sustainability platform, is at the core of this movement and currently has 45 members with the one in Auckland being the only one in Australasia.


"Our vision is higher education institutions become catalysts for sustainability; our mission is to institutionalise sustainability in higher education'

"The Green Office (GO) Movement stands for institutionalising sustainability in higher education by empowering students and staff as change-makers. ...

"With a Green Office, you establish a sustainability office which informs, connects and supports students and staff to act on sustainability. Unlike volunteer-led initiatives, your Green Office is funded and approved by university management and is jointly led by students and staff. '

More: www.greenofficemovement.org/join/#tab-5d225435be343353f3e plus www.greenofficemovement.org

Source: Dani Mayo, 12th September 2022.

Editor: Contact Dani.Mao@op.ac.nz for more info. 

O Tātou Ngāhere Conference: *Regenerating Our Landscape with Native Forest*


"Tāne's Tree Trust, in partnership with Pure Advantage, is taking O Tātou Ngāhere to an important next level to produce a conference which builds on the successful programme of work behind the campaign.

"Join us and hear directly from the experts in an event which will shine more light on the WHY and HOW of native forest regeneration and management.

"We have various sponsors joining the endeavour, such as Trees That Count who are working to build a movement mobilising all New Zealanders to help regenerate the whenua via an innovative digital marketplace to connect tree funders and planters.

When/Where: 27th – 28th October 2022. Wellington


More: www.otatoungahereconference.org.nz/

Source: Pure Advantage 20th September 2022. 

Superhome Tours 2022 – What you May have Missed

While this year's Christchurch tours are now over the stories of the featured homes, with photos, are available to view – as are other homes. They are said to be some of NZ's most healthy and energy-efficient homes. National tours are put on in Christchurch, Wanaka, Greymouth, Auckland, Cambridge, Havelock North and Greytown.

More: <https://superhome.co.nz/tours/superhome-tours-2022> plus www.newsline.ccc.govt.nz/news/story/see-inside-christchurchs-superhomes


Source: *Newsline*, 23rd September 2022. 

2022 CFO Sustainability Snapshot Survey

Discover the results of the survey and engage in an interactive CFO panel discussion.

When/Where: 8:00 – 9:30am, 19th Oct, Auck, Wgtn, Chch. Register by Wednesday 12th October

More: https://surveyapac.deloitte.com/jfe/form/SV_6gvtNyy3ja1ivGe

Source: *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 22nd September 2022. 

Denmark Becomes First Country to Pledge 'Loss and Damage' Finance

"Denmark has become the first fully-fledged country to pledge funds to developing countries specifically for 'tab og skader', which translates to 'loss and damage'.

"The Nordic nation committed 100 million DKK (\$13m) to build resilience and help climate victims recover during a ministerial meeting on the sideline of the UN General Assembly in New York on Tuesday.

"While the amount pledged is relatively small compared to mitigation and adaptation finance, the move breaks a taboo among rich countries over giving money to address the unavoidable losses and damages already caused by climate change.

"Announcing the funds, Denmark's development minister Flemming Møller Mortensen said: 'I saw for myself in Bangladesh this spring that the consequences of climate change need increased focus.'

"It is grossly unfair that the world's poorest should suffer the most from the consequences of climate change, to which they have contributed the least. With this new agreement, we are putting action behind words', he continued.

More: www.climatechangenews.com/2022/09/20/denmark-first-country-pledge-loss-and-damage-finance/

Source: *Climate Home News*, 24th September 2022. 

What it will Take to Deliver the SDGs

"Former Unilever boss Paul Polman explains why businesses need to get out of the traditional mindset of doing 'less bad' and move towards regenerative, restorative and reparative actions that drive a new net-positive movement.

More: www.edie.net/listen-paul-polman-on-what-it-will-take-to-deliver-the-sdgs 26:22

Source: edie, 21st September 2022. 

Mia Mottley Builds Global Coalition to Make Financial System Fit for Climate Action

"Barbados' prime minister Mia Mottley is building a global coalition of nations committed to overhaul the financial system and unleash trillions of dollars of investments to the climate frontlines.

"The leader of one of the world's smallest nations is working to deliver a new global finance compact for vulnerable countries trapped between financial stress and the inability to prepare for the next climate disaster.

"Addressing the UN general assembly on Thursday, Mottley laid out a plan to transform the global finance architecture and make it fit to address the climate crisis. This is neither 'idle thought or arbitrary comment on our part', Mottley told the plenary hall in New York. ...


"The outcome [of the retreat she convened] was the 'Bridgetown Agenda' – a set of core messages designed to reform the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), institutions set-up at the end of World War II and still dominated by the US and Europe. ...

"The next push for Mottley will be the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, which start next month [October].

"As the largest shareholder in both institutions, she will need the US government on board.

"UN chief António Guterres has made clear he backs Mottley's agenda. Speaking to the press on Wednesday [21st Sept.], he called on Washington to 'get behind these ideas now'.

More: www.climatechangenews.com/2022/09/23/mia-mottley-builds-global-coalition-to-make-financial-system-fit-for-climate-action/

Source: *Climate Home News*, 24th September 2022. 


Natural Climate Solutions and the Voluntary Carbon Market: A Guide for C-suite Executives

"Climate targets are not on track. People's lives, business success, and natural systems are under threat from global warming if temperatures rise by more than 1.5°C.

"A new guide by the Sustainability Institute by ERM and the Natural Climate Solutions Alliance, Natural Climate Solutions and the Voluntary Carbon Market, provides a comprehensive overview of the opportunities associated with Natural Climate Solutions (NCS) and their numerous socio-economic benefits to local communities and society at large.

"In the face of climate and nature emergencies, businesses can either act and adapt to build an impactful legacy or risk failure. While deep decarbonization of their value chains (Scopes 1, 2, and 3) should be the main priority, it is not enough. The urgency of the climate crisis requires that businesses demonstrate leadership by counterbalancing their annual unabated emissions through the purchase of high-quality Natural Climate Solutions carbon emissions reduction and removal credits.


More: www.sustainability.com/thinking/natural-climate-solutions-voluntary-carbon-market-guide-for-c-suite-executives/ 44 pages, 5.88Mb

Source: Sustainability Institute, 23rd Sept. 2022. 

'Double Standard' on Climate Change: Helicopters Allowed but Car Use to be Cut

"An Auckland Council transport plan wants car use to halve, but says little about the environmentally destructive aircraft used by extremely wealthy people to get around. That's a double standard, the group argues. ...

More: www.stuff.co.nz/environment/129935388/double-standard-on-climate-change-helicopters-allowed-but-car-use-needs-to-be-cut

Source: Forever Project, 23rd September 2022. 

Fossil Fuel Non-proliferation Treaty Initiated by Vanuatu at UN General Assembly

"Vanuatu, a Pacific island nation of 310,000 people, has called on countries at the UN general assembly to sign up to a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty, ending all new coal, oil and gas projects and phasing out existing ones.

"The island is the first country to call for such a treaty. ...

"During his speech, Vurobaravu also urged world leaders to support Vanuatu's campaign to request an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on countries' legal obligations to protect people from climate harm. ...

"If a majority of countries at the UN general assembly give the ICJ a mandate to act, the court will be tasked with interpreting what international human rights and environmental laws mean for countries' responsibility to act on the causes and impacts of climate change.

"The UN general assembly is one of few bodies authorised to request advisory opinions from the ICJ, which settles legal disputes between countries. ...

"A resolution is expected to be introduced to the general assembly in October and a vote will take place late 2022 or early 2023.

"New Zealand, Samoa, Costa Rica, Bangladesh, Tuvalu, Liechtenstein, Fiji and Singapore have all said they will support Vanuatu's campaign.

More: www.climatechangenews.com/2022/09/23/vanuatu-calls-fossil-fuel-non-proliferation-treaty-un-general-assembly/

Source: *Climate Home News*, 24th September 2022. 