

Sustainability Matters

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Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children



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Five Winners of Second Earthshot Prize

"Tonight [2nd December 2022], Prince William and The Earthshot Prize revealed the 2022 Earthshot Prize winners – an accomplished group of entrepreneurs and innovators spearheading ground-breaking solutions to repair and regenerate the planet.

"Each winner was awarded a £1 million prize at the second-annual Earthshot Prize awards ceremony,

"Following a rigorous selection process focused on identifying the most inspirational, impactful, and inclusive solutions, the five 2022 winners are:

- Clean our Air: Mukuru Clean Stoves, Kenya – A start-up providing cleaner-burning stoves to women in Kenya to reduce unhealthy indoor pollution and provide a safer way to cook.
- Protect and Restore Nature: Kheyti, India – A pioneering solution for local smallholder farmers to reduce costs, increase yields and protect livelihoods in a country on the frontlines of climate change.
- Revive our Oceans: Indigenous Women of the Great Barrier Reef, Australia – An inspiring women led program that combines 60,000 years of indigenous knowledge with digital technologies to protect land and sea.
- Build a Waste-free World: Notpla, United Kingdom – A circular solution creating an alternative to plastic packaging from seaweed.
- Fix our Climate: 44.01, Oman – Created by childhood friends who have developed an innovative technique to turn CO₂ into rock, and permanently store it underground.

"In its second year, The Earthshot Prize embarked upon an ambitious global nine-month search process, seeking out the most inspiring and innovative solutions to the greatest environmental challenges facing the planet. Over 1000 applications from around the world were considered, with 15 finalists from 10 countries chosen through a selection process supported by an expert advisory panel.

More: <https://earthshotprize.org/five-winners-of-the-second-ever-earthshot-prize-awards-unveiled/> plus https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earthshot_Prize


Source: Editor, 6th December 2022. 

Launch of The Mana Kai Initiative

"The Aotearoa Circle is delighted to announce the official launch of The Mana Kai Initiative, which has brought together sector experts to build a national food network which creates a productive, inclusive, sustainable food system here in Aotearoa New Zealand.

"The *Mana Kai Purpose and Values & Priority Action Areas* documents are the result of an interpretation and combination of hundreds of perspectives from the very first Mana Kai dialogues and surveys, to the final round tables of the Leadership group. Read the full reports, including the eight actions for a more inclusive and sustainable food system.

More: www.theaotearoacircle.nz/news/launch-of-the-mana-kai-initiative 39pages, 5.97Mb

Source: The Aotearoa Circle, 30th November 2022. 


Don't Be Fooled: Climate Disasters Are Highly Lucrative

"As much as wars – or even more – climate disaster represents a great business opportunity, so don't bother those who pour their fortunes into fueling them with talks about stopping it.

"See what happens;

- Investing in wars: A couple of dozens of companies involved in manufacturing the most inhuman weapons of mass destruction – the nuclear warheads, have been supported by over 150 big banks by lending them money or underwriting bonds, according to the Nobel Peace Laureate International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).
- Investing in climate catastrophes: But there is another highly lucrative business: climate change. The world's richest people emit huge and unsustainable amounts of carbon and, unlike ordinary people, 50% to 70% of their emissions result from their investments,
- Once destroyed, business set to make more money: In either case, wars and climate catastrophes cause vast destruction, let alone unspeakable human suffering, and death. Both of them further sharpen the world's unprecedented food crisis. Also here, market lords continue to make high profits.
- More business 'opportunities': Then comes the great business of reconstructing all the money-making business has been greatly contributing. Buildings, highways, bridges, hospitals, schools, universities, etcetera, let alone in further synthetic food. all of these are to be paid for by the victims. But there are more business opportunities,

More: <https://cultureunplugged.com/peace-war-conflict/ipsnews.php?idnews=999122863>


Source: Kit Withers, 25th November 2022. 

A Gentle Radical

"REVIEW: Political biographies and memoirs used to be few and far between in Aotearoa, but recently we've been enjoying a boom. We've seen 'legacy' tomes from Clark-era heavyweights Michael Cullen and Margaret Wilson, more personal memoirs promising a glimpse of the 'real' person behind the political mask (a genre especially favoured by recent National Party leaders), and several unauthorised biographies of our 'world-famous outside New Zealand' prime minister.

"Fans of the genre can add a new title to their bedside pile: A Gentle Radical, Gareth Hughes' comprehensive biography of former Green Party co-leader Jeanette Fitzsimons, who died unexpectedly in 2020, aged 75.

More: www.stuff.co.nz/entertainment/books/300604953/book-review-a-gentle-radical-by-gareth-hughes plus <https://shop.greens.org.nz/collections/read-it/products/a-gentle-radical-by-gareth-hughes-signed-by-gareth> and www.goodreads.com/book/show/61200263-a-gentle-radical

Source: Greens, 5th December 2022. 



Nature's Treasures: Tales of More Than 100 Extraordinary Objects from Nature

"Reveal extraordinary stories from nature by best-selling author Ben Hoare with this awe-inspiring animal book for curious kids aged 7-9.

"The world is filled with curious objects made by plants, animals, and even by the Earth itself. The wonder of wildlife is so much bigger than young minds can fathom and there is always more to learn. *Nature's Treasures* is a stunning nature encyclopaedia for young readers to explore, with reference pages packed with fascinating information, little learners will be captivated as they dive into this collection of more than 100 intriguing items from the natural world and discover the stories behind them. Whether it's learning how bristly mouths help huge whales capture tiny animals, how minute scales make butterflies shine in the sunlight, or how studying a leaf skeleton can tell us how it transports food, children can learn all sorts of fun animal facts from the storybook descriptions.

"Arranged into four chapters: Animals; Plants, fungi, and algae; Minerals and rocks, and Made by nature, objects are shown with truly stunning photography and colourful illustrations to help kids understand the science behind them. The lively descriptions by best-selling nature writer Ben Hoare explore the remarkable tales of each item and all are packed with fascinating information.

More: <https://bookshop.org/p/books/nature-s-treasures-tales-of-more-than-100-extraordinary-objects-from-nature-ben-hoare/18280026>

Source: Orion, 2nd December 2022. 

Directors' Guide to Climate Governance

"Boards play a vital role in guiding businesses and markets towards a climate resilient future. In New Zealand, Boards are now accountable by law for ensuring climate risk is adequately managed.

"In 2022, Deloitte in partnership with Toitū Tahua: Centre for Sustainable Finance and Sustainable Business Council delivered a five-part Climate Risk Governance Lab Series to support non-executive directors to upskill on climate governance. A collaborative effort, the content was a key delivery of the Centre's Governance implementation Group.

"The course content for the lab series formed the basis of a new, free resource for directors: the *Directors' Guide to Climate Governance*.

"The new guide:

- Is designed to support directors to steward companies through the risks posed by climate change and identify opportunities in the transition to a low-emissions economy
- Is based on international best practice
- aligns with the New Zealand Climate Disclosure Standards
- Includes insights shared by New Zealand directors who participated in the lab series.

More: www.sustainablefinance.nz/capability-building/climate-governance-readiness-programme 47 pages, 4.5Mb

Source: SBC Weekly Pānui, 1st December 2022 

Kelp Farming Is Reviving an Ancient Practice — and a Modern Economy

"An Indigenous-run business is using regenerative ocean farming to clean up a New York bay and create local jobs. ...

"Since operations began she said the water appears clearer and more birds fly overhead. ...

More: <https://reasonstobecheerful.world/regenerative-kelp-farming-new-york/>

Source: reasons to be cheerful, 30th November 2022. 

Homes Made of Straw No Fable, with Benefits for Buyers and Environment

"Every tonne of grain produced in New Zealand yields the same weight in straw, according to the director of Nelson company Finline Architecture.


"Up to 40% of that straw was burnt every year, said , citing the Foundation for Arable Research

"Using straw differently – and more widely – to build homes in New Zealand would not only cut the harmful gases released by burning the crop residue, and help keep the carbon it sequestered locked away, Garbarczyk said.

"It would lead to homes which emitted less carbon, during construction and after, and which cost less to build and heat than houses typically built now, she said.

"Key to the proposal, was building homes with prefabricated panels which contained straw. Straw had 'phenomenal' insulating properties, and was already used in the construction of some houses in Aotearoa,

More: www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/130477662/homes-made-of-straw-no-fable-with-benefits-for-buyers-and-environment


Source: Forever Project, 25th November 2022. 

Bolstering Biodiversity in Suburbia

"Contributing writer Janet Marinelli reports on new research showing thoughtfully planted gardens in urban areas can bring back natural areas and foster biodiversity. Marinelli travels to the Hempstead Plains Preserve where, amid quintessential suburbia, a volunteer group is bringing back grasslands which once covered a vast area of Long Island, New York. Recent studies demonstrate such conservation gardens – planted in commercial zones, residential yards, schoolyards, and corporate landscapes — can provide crucial habitat for birds, pollinators, and other wildlife.

More: <https://e360.yale.edu/features/hempstead-plains-long-island-wildlife-conservation-gardens>

Source: *Yale Environment 360*, 2nd December 2022

Editor: Convert your lawn to a better use? And have you noticed the dearth of large shrubs, trees and hedges, the prevalence of ugly 1.8m high timber fences in new subdivisions in NZ? The sections are tiny and the roads very narrow. 


Push Clothing Brands to Pay a Living Wage

"The women who make our clothes do not make enough to live on – keeping them in poverty. Despite long hours away from their families, working full time plus many hours of overtime, big clothing brands do not pay garment workers enough money to cover the basics of life – food and decent shelter.

"Oxfam's What She Makes campaign demands big clothing brands pay the women who make our clothes a living wage. Together, with your voice demanding action, and Oxfam's direct engagement with brands, we urge clothing companies to take the crucial next step in creating a fairer fashion industry.

- On average, just 4% of the price of a piece of clothing sold in Australia goes toward worker's wages at garment factories
- If brands absorbed the cost of paying living wages within their supply chains, it would cost them less than 1% of the price of a garment
- By not paying a living wage, brands are keeping women who make clothes in poverty.

More: www.oxfam.org.au/what-she-makes/about-the-campaign/ plus www.oxfam.org.nz/appeals/living-wage/ and www.oxfam.org.au/what-she-makes/company-tracker/

Source: Oxfam NZ, 5th December 2022. 

Negotiations Begin on a UN Treaty to End Plastic Pollution

"New Zealand is participating in global negotiations to establish an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution.

"In March, 193 nations endorsed a historic decision to end plastic pollution and negotiate an international legally binding agreement to end plastic pollution by the end of 2024.


"The landmark decision includes the need to address the full lifecycle of plastic, including production, design and disposal. It will also take aim at microplastics – extremely small pieces of plastic debris broken down from the disposal and breakdown of consumer products.

"The amount of plastic in our seas, soil and waterways is a growing global problem, causing harm to the environment, including marine life, and microplastics also have adverse health consequences.

"Plastic pollution ruins our landscapes and can be fatal to our marine life. It has been found in fish, shellfish and seabirds around the world [and] Antarctica.

"New Zealand alone generates about half a million tonne of plastic products each year, from imported resins and plastic materials. More than half is made in to plastic packaging, and the rest becomes products for agriculture and construction. [Merits reading full article and the Notes.]

More: www.mfat.govt.nz/en/media-and-resources/aotearoa-new-zealand-begins-negotiations-on-a-un-treaty-to-end-plastic-pollution/

Source: *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 1st December 2022. 

Why Climate Mitigation Equals Defeat

"The question of climate change prevention has been buried beneath anxieties about survival. Pat Baskett argues if mitigation is the answer, we're already losing.


"Twenty years ago my climate activist friend, former MP and Greens co-leader, Jeanette Fitzsimons, wouldn't have a bar of the word mitigation. For her it signalled defeat. The priority was prevention, not strategies to mitigate the effects of an overheated world.

"We believed we could make it: the question was how.

"Nothing has changed in the answer to that question. It remains the same as when the question was first presented by climate scientists more than 40 years ago. As one UK-based activist group calls it, we have to STOP OIL NOW!

"That answer is, and has always been, too hard. We're in a collective state of denial, but not of the message itself. Surveys show that for increasing numbers of people, climate disruption is a major concern. But we have submerged the question of prevention beneath anxieties about survival. Of ourselves and of this way of life we hope will continue for our children.

More: www.newsroom.co.nz/pat-baskett-why-climate-mitigation-equals-defeat

Source: Editor, 30th November 2022. 

Case Study: Home EV Charging Pilots

"Like many organisations, Waka Kotahi and Kāinga Ora provide dedicated vehicles for staff who are required to spend a lot of time in the field or away from a centralised office. Home charging is a practical solution for these drivers and minimises the need to use work-based or public chargers during the working day.

"The trials looked at the costs and practicalities involved in setting up home-charging systems.

More: www.eeca.govt.nz/insights/case-studies-and-articles/home-charging-for-government-electric-vehicles/

Source: ECCA, 2nd December 2022. 

Draft Resolution Seeking Climate Justice at UN Court Published

"Vanuatu has published a draft UN resolution requesting an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on states' legal obligation for climate action and the consequences of causing harm.

"While the court, which is the UN's main judiciary arm, has no binding authority, its opinion could inform lawsuits around the world and strengthen vulnerable countries' position in international negotiations.

"Vanuatu is facing sea level rise and increasingly powerful cyclones which periodically cripple its economy. As emissions rise and the world remains off track to meet its climate goals, overheating is threatening the archipelago's ecology, livelihoods and infrastructure.

"The draft resolution aims to establish the legal avenues for climate justice for present and future generations. It was prepared with a broad coalition of 17 countries, including Angola, Bangladesh, Germany, Mozambique, **New Zealand**, Portugal and Vietnam and a number of small island states.

"Kevin Chand, a legal advisor to Vanuatu's permanent mission at the UN, told *Climate Home* more than 100 countries have indicated they will support the resolution – over the simple majority threshold of countries needed to give the ICJ a mandate in a vote at the UN general assembly. But he is not stopping there. 'We are looking for a larger majority because this is a signal to the court', Chand said.

"The nation's permanent mission to the UN said it will begin consultations with other member states over the next few weeks, with a vote expected early 2023.

"One of the key targets is the EU, which the core group of backers hopes will formally endorse the resolution.

More: www.climatechangenews.com/2022/11/30/vanuatu-publishes-draft-resolution-seeking-climate-justice-at-un-court/ plus www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/479087/vanuatu-s-icj-resolution-on-climate-change-wins-more-supporters-at-cop27 For draft resolution visit www.vanuatuicj.com/resolution

Source: *Climate Home News*, 3rd December 2022. 

Delivering Sustainability & Climate Reporting


"With the External Reporting Board's Framework for Reporting Climate-related Financial Disclosures imminently coming into force and an expansion of its remit to include a wider range of entities deemed likely. Organisations of all kinds need to understand their obligations around the measurement and reporting of climate impact.

"Allied to this, a global movement driven by stakeholders of all kinds is fuelling the need for businesses to consider, analyse and report on their sustainability impacts more broadly than just their emissions. This important new event looks in detail at what this means practically for organisations and supports a low carbon future by helping them prepare to deliver transparency around sustainability and climate impact through the development of strong, consistent sustainability reporting. Key themes;

- Taking the first step in your climate reporting journey
- Practical methods of handling additional reporting
- Imagining how future business success will be defined
- Establishing global sustainability reporting frameworks and standards
- Offsetting carbon on the path to net zero

When/Where: 27th – 28th February, 2023. Auckland

More: <https://brightstar.zohobackstage.com.au/DeliveringSustainabilityandClimateReporting>

Source: SBN 7th December 2022. 

The Industrial Energy Efficiency Playbook

"This report, developed with ABB and other members of the Energy Efficiency Movement, provides a playbook for executives to address energy efficiency to help mitigate climate change and rising costs. It details 10 actions which industrial leaders should consider for their organisations (see Fig. 1) beyond basic energy efficiency 'hygiene' measures like switching equipment off when not in use, converting fluorescent or halogen lighting to LED or insulating walls and piping.

"The 10 actions have had to meet some essential criteria:


- 1) They rely on mature – secure, widely available – technologies;
- 2) They are material enough to have a meaningful impact on both energy costs and emissions; and
- 3) They can be deployed quickly without complex or expensive integrations. One of the most attractive aspects of energy efficiency for industry is that in many cases companies can enjoy significant improvements with little or no capital spending.

"This list is by no means exhaustive and should be viewed as an inventory of short and medium-term opportunities for industry, as well as an invitation to discuss and document the solutions, use cases and best practices in energy efficiency.

[Page 18] 'We at times think we have done enough on efficiency', concludes ABB's Morten Wierod. 'But technology has developed a lot over the last 10 years. It's opened a new door for energy efficiency. The technology we need is already available – and the time to implement it is now.'

More:

<https://search.abb.com/library/download.aspx?documetid=9akk108467a5406> 20pages 3.75Mb

Source: Reuters Events, 6th December 2022. 

Sustainable Management of Groundwater Extraction: An Australian Perspective on Current Challenges

"NCGRT research partner's from around the country recently published a joint paper highlighting challenges for sustainable management of groundwater allocations and gaps in technical tools, implementation, and fundamental understanding. The paper included survey results of groundwater professionals who ranked the challenges.


[Page 15] "This study examined 18 challenges involved in sustainably managing groundwater allocations and conducted a survey of industry professionals to rank these challenges. Of the top six ranked challenges, identifying water requirements of groundwater dependent ecosystems is predominantly a gap in process understanding. Of the others, three are gaps in technical tools, one represents a gap in information, and one is a gap in implementation. ...

"While this study focussed on water allocation issues in Australia, other countries face similar water management issues and many of the challenges are of global interest. Issues related to water allocation, management of GDEs, groundwater metering, governance, water pricing and provision of sufficient resourcing are receiving increased attention globally.

"Of course, sustainable groundwater management involves more than water allocation, and there is also scope for further improvements in water efficiency (to reduce demand) and water quality protection both in Australia and globally.'

More:

www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S221458182002750 19 pages 5Mb

Source: NCGRT, 6th December 2022. 

NZ is on Climate Glide Time

"Many firsts were achieved at COP27 to which Aotearoa enthusiastically signed up, but we have a chasm between climate commitment and action

"Opinion: We are a tiny country, home to 5 million people with five political parties in parliament. Yet we can't agree on many core issues essential to our future wellbeing. We argue endlessly about them. We fail to act.

"What then are the astronomical odds that almost 200 countries, home to 8 billion people, can agree unanimously on a bunch of new climate commitments?

"Well, they did last Sunday [20th November] at COP27 in Egypt. For example, Russia, China and the US – fighting over many issues including Russia's war against Ukraine – agreed with each other and all other countries to add some important new elements to the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).


"Moreover, the negotiations pushed some key countries to shift their positions to make consensus possible. Notably, the US reversed its long, strong opposition to a finance mechanism for developing countries suffering escalating loss and damage from climate catastrophes. [Long article by Rod Oram – a 'should read'].

More: www.newsroom.co.nz/sustainable-future/nz-is-on-climate-glide-time

Source: Editor, 30th November 2022.

Addenda: COP:- See also Rod's 1hour video update at <https://sustainable.org.nz/learn/news-insights/rod-oram-everybody-everywhere-every-day-just-has-to-do-what-they-can/> 'Everybody, everywhere, every day, just has to do what they can', plus 'Every fraction of a degree counts. Every single action matters.' SBN, 1st December 2022

See also; Landmark decision at COP27 to set up Loss and Damage Fund at <https://climatenetwork.org/2022/11/20/landmark-decision-at-cop27-to-set-up-loss-and-damage-fund/> LCA NZI Newsletter, 5th December.

Editor: There's heaps more of course about COP27. 

Firms Failing to Turn Biodiversity Commitments into Action, CDP Warns

"As Governments prepare to negotiate mandatory environmental disclosure from 7-19 December at COP15 in Montreal, the data reported through CDP in 2022 shows just 31% of companies have made a public commitment or endorsed biodiversity-related initiatives, with another 25% planning to do so within the next two years.

"If these companies follow through, by the end of 2024, more than 56% will have voluntarily made commitments or endorsed initiatives related to biodiversity.

"While commitments are a necessary starting point, CDP's data indicates companies are not yet translating them into tangible action.

"More than half (55%) of companies with a public commitment have not taken actions to progress their biodiversity-related commitments in the past year. Nearly three-quarters (70%) of these companies do not assess the impact of their value chain on biodiversity.

"Many leading companies have for years recognised the absolute need to understand their relationship to the natural world: the material and systemic risks they face, the opportunities available to them and the impacts they have on the environment.

"This is also clearly reflected in the nearly 8,000 companies engaging with CDP on biodiversity.

"COP15 must close the loop and turn interest into action."

More: www.edie.net/firms-failing-to-turn-biodiversity-commitments-into-action-cdp-warns/

Source: edie, 1st December 2022. 