

Sustainability Matters

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Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

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Historic Framework for Nature Adopted at COP15 in Montreal

"After years of delay due to the global pandemic, the brackets have finally been broken in the text of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The Kunming-Montreal Agreement has been adopted by governments at COP15 which rallied together in the final hours to set us on a path to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030.

"The historic framework will catalyse action to reverse nature loss through contributions and implementation from across society and the global economy, with business accountability embedded alongside enhanced resource mobilisation and clear recognition of the role of indigenous peoples.

"The framework ensures the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, and environmental impact assessments within and across all levels of government and across all sectors.

"Through the adoption of Target 15, which was backed by unprecedented support from companies around the world, businesses and financial institutions will be required by governments to assess and disclose their impacts and dependencies on nature by 2030.

"The adoption of Target 15 sends a strong signal that requirements on nature-related assessment and disclosure are on the horizon and business as usual is no longer acceptable. ...

More: <https://mailchi.mp/capitalscoalition.org/capitals-coalition-june-newsletter-7756233?e=92762cc1f8> plus www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-64019324 and www.carbonbrief.org/cop15-key-outcomes-agreed-at-the-un-biodiversity-conference-in-montreal/ also www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/the-global-pact-to-save-biodiversity-is-historic-but-here-s-what-it-leaves-out-20221220-p5c7ne.html

Source: Capitals Coalition, 21st December 2022.

Climate-related Disclosure – Australia

"On 12th December 2022 the Australian government issued a consultation paper seeking initial views on key considerations for the design and implementation of the Government's commitment to standardised, internationally-aligned requirements for disclosure of climate-related financial risks and opportunities in Australia.

"Views are also sought on other matters relevant to this commitment, such as necessary changes to ensure Australia's financial reporting bodies are appropriately positioned for the expansion of international standard-setting priorities on climate and sustainability reporting.

"Submissions in response to this consultation will be used to inform a specific design proposal for further consultation in 2023. At that time, views will be sought on more detailed proposals for the new reporting requirements, their implementation and sequencing.

Submissions Close: 17th February 2023.

More: <https://treasury.gov.au/consultation/c2022-314397>
23pages, 510kb

Source: Investor Group on Climate Change, 12th Dec.

NZ's Climate Standards Published by XRB

"Today [15th December 2022], the External Reporting Board (XRB) published the final Aotearoa New Zealand Climate Standards (Climate Standards), aimed at shifting New Zealand towards a low-emissions economy.

"Following our July 2022 update, the XRB has finalised it'd mandatory framework for Climate Reporting Entities (CREs) to consider climate-change related risks and opportunities. The standards apply from 1st January 2023 and the XRB will publish guidance to assist entities with compliance in early 2023.

"Links are available to access the Climate Standards, the XRB's 15 December 2022 media release and a summary of the main changes to the Climate Standards following consultation. The Climate Standards are made up of three standards:

- Aotearoa New Zealand Climate Standard 1: Climate-related Disclosures (NZ CS 1)
- Aotearoa New Zealand Climate Standard 2: Adoption of Aotearoa New Zealand Climate Standards (NZ CS 2); and
- Aotearoa New Zealand Climate Standard 3: General Requirements for Climate-related Disclosures (NZ CS 3).

"Who needs to read it? Why?

"What does it cover?

"Minimal changes (to draft) ...

More: www.minterellison.co.nz/insights/xrb-publishes-final-aotearoa-new-zealand-climate-standards plus www.xrb.govt.nz/standards/climate-related-disclosures/

Source: Minter Ellison, plus Debbie Kandaaw via CA ANZ Climate and Sustainability Group 19th December.

Value Commission Launched

In December 2022 the Value Commission was formally launched. It will co-design and develop a set of clear and transparent global criteria spanning the creation and use of value factors. The commission will also consolidate existing efforts into an open-access Value Database, empowering organisations to assess and disclose their impacts and dependencies across the capitals.

"The Value Commission brings together over 30 expert Commissioners from around the world to drive transparency and accountability..... and will co-design and develop a set of clear and transparent global criteria spanning the creation and use of value factors and consolidate existing efforts into an open-access Value Database. ...

"For example, studies may show every dollar invested in coastal wetlands provides \$5 in protection of a company's coastal infrastructure, say a low-lying factory. By applying the value factor of '\$5' per \$1 invested....

"It is a three-year collaborative project hosted by the Capitals Coalition with the intention to hand it over to an internationally recognised third party after this time to act as its permanent host.

More: <https://capitalscoalition.org/project/the-value-commission/>

Source: Capitals Coalition, 1st December 2022.

First Annual Climate Change Statement to Australian Parliament

"The Climate Change Authority has published its advice for the first Annual Climate Change Statement to Parliament, as tasked by the Minister for Climate Change and Energy under the Climate Change Act 2022 (the Act).

"The report sets a baseline for the current status of climate policies and emissions reductions in Australia, and presents the framework the Authority will employ in future years to assess progress towards Australia's emissions reduction targets.

"Australia has taken significant steps in the past twelve months, adopting a net zero target and a more ambitious 2030 target, with the Government legislating these and commencing implementation of its Powering Australia plan.

"Much more work is required. Australia needs to decarbonise at an average annual rate of 17 Mt CO₂-e to achieve its 2030 and 2050 targets, 40% faster than it has since 2009. The growing intensity of climate change impacts means Australia also needs stronger adaptation and resilience efforts.

More: www.climatechangeauthority.gov.au/news/authority-releases-advice-annual-climate-change-statement 89 pages, 6.58Mb

Source: Investor Group on Climate Change, 1st Dec 2022

Climate Risk in Financial Statements

- The impact of climate risks on financial statements is increasing
- Critical accounting estimates is the financial statement area which is most impacted by climate risks
- The reporting of climate risks in financial statements is most prevalent in the utilities and energy industries

"Updated research by CA ANZ, the University of Melbourne and the University of Queensland has found the proportion of financial statements impacted by climate-related risks is increasing year on year around the world.

"The report provides an update for balance dates between 31st December 2021 and 31st July 2022. We sampled:

More: www.charteredaccountantsanz.com/news-and-analysis/insights/research-and-insights/climate-risk-in-financial-statements

Source: CA ANZ 14th December 2022.

Ten Retrofits to Protect Homes Against Flood, Fires, Heat and Cold

"A new NSW program will provide scientifically proven advice on how best to retrofit and protect homes against climate change and extreme weather, such as the floods which have left families homeless, and reduce energy bills.

"The program by the Bushfire Building Council of Australia will provide homes with a single assessment. The Disaster Resilience and Energy Efficiency Ratings program will give advice, ratings and professional help – and train builders and tradespeople.

"Experts say it could also end a cycle of disadvantage where the most vulnerable Australians live in houses which are the least likely to survive – and the most expensive to heat, cool and insure....

"Without change, the council estimates the cost of disasters in NSW will total \$372 billion between 2020 and 2060, an average of \$9.3 billion in direct economic losses per year.....

"Ten [Australian specific] retrofits which protect homes

More: www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/ten-retrofits-to-protect-homes-against-flood-fires-heat-and-cold-20221117-p5bzae.html

Source: SMH, 7th December 2022.

Without Exception Always an Excellent Resource

The 8th December edition of *SnippETS* is typical of its fortnightly mailings.

Have a look, better still have a read, or even better take some action.

More: www.carbonees.com/single-post/snippets-for-8-december-2022

Source: *SnippETS*, 8th December 2022.

Seven Actions for 2023

"The new year represents a new paradigm of private sector action on our global sustainability challenges and seizing the greatest opportunities of our time.

"While climate change, water scarcity, and nature loss continue to impose hundreds of billions of dollars of damage, aligning strategies with the transition to a cleaner zero emissions economy has always been smart investment and solid business practice.

"We have now decisively shifted to a new era where that is the default assumption of institutional investors and companies. For all of us who have championed a healthier, more resilient, and more inclusive economy, this is a time of optimism. But it is also a time of risk. As much momentum as we have behind us, we are still woefully behind in meeting the global goal of slashing climate emissions in half by 2030. We have no time to lose.

"That's why the coming year will be critical. It will present both new challenges and new opportunities for the private sector. With just 7 years left to meet our goal, here are 7 actions that will be key to our success in 2023 and beyond:...

More:

www.forbes.com/sites/mindylubber/2023/01/11/scientists-say-we-have-seven-years-to-act-here-are-seven-actions-investors-and-companies-can-take-right-now

Source: Ceres, 14th January 2023.

IFRS/ISSB Corporate Reporting Series

"The Corporate Reporting Webinar Series offers a deep dive into the International Sustainability Standards Board's (ISSB) two proposed standards, one on general requirements for sustainability-related disclosures and one on climate-related disclosures. We'll discuss how companies can start the ground work, data gathering and processes for ISSB reporting by using tools already widely available for businesses and investors.

"The series consists of three parts:

- Part 1: Better information for better decisions – Introduction to investor-focused sustainability disclosure
- Part 2: Any size or stage – Getting started on climate disclosure
- Part 3: Connectivity and controls – the path to investor-grade disclosure

"Experts will discuss current good practice and how companies can prepare for the ISSB's global baseline of disclosure requirements, including with the help of the SASB Standards, TCFD recommendations and CDSB guidance. We'll also discuss how the Integrated Reporting Framework can connect sustainability and business performance, and how effective processes and controls can enable investor-grade disclosure that is consistent and reliable.

"With a strong focus on education and practical application, the webinar series provides resources and insights for high-quality sustainability disclosure.

When/Where GMT time 24th January, 31st January and 7th February. Online. Recordings for registrants

More: www.ifrs.org/news-and-events/news/2023/01/issb-corporate-reporting-webinar-series

Source: IFRS, 17th January 2023.


Handbook of Accounting and Sustainability

"This Handbook provides a comprehensive study of research, practice and policy at the nexus of accounting and sustainability, or sustainable development. Internationally renowned accounting academics in the field offer critical discussions of the topic to stimulate debate as the future policy infrastructure is formed.

"Chapters explain key drivers of developments at the nexus, critique those developments, summarise the findings of research on key themes in the field, and suggest areas for further research, offering evidence-based practice and policy solutions. The Handbook sets the scene by exploring accounting, power, social justice and unsustainability, before moving on to appraise the role of enterprise value-based integrated reporting in (un)sustainable development. It further analyses contemporary issues in the field, including climate change-related disclosures, accounting for greenhouse gases and emissions trading schemes.

"The thorough coverage of key issues in accounting and sustainability, and the analysis of research literature in the Handbook will make this a critical read for accounting and business researchers and students. It is an invigorating guide for policymakers and policy influencers, accounting professionals and business leaders looking to move forward in a more sustainable way.

More: www.e-elgar.com/shop/gbp/handbook-of-accounting-and-sustainability-9781800373501.html 448 pages, July 2022, plus worth reading in its own right, <https://drCarolAdams.net/accounting-and-sustainability-an-introduction/>

Source: Sue Wild, 23rd December 2022. 

USA Federal Supplier Climate Risks and Resilience Proposed Rule


"On November 10, 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration took historic action to address greenhouse gas emissions and protect the Federal Government's supply chains from climate-related financial risks. In support of President Biden's Executive Orders on Climate-Related Financial Risk and Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs Through Federal Sustainability, the Administration proposed the Federal Supplier Climate Risks and Resilience Rule, which would require major Federal contractors to publicly disclose their greenhouse gas emissions and climate-related financial risks and set science-based emissions reduction targets.

"As the world's single largest buyer of goods and services – purchasing over \$630 billion in the last fiscal year alone – the Federal Government faces significant financial risks from climate change. Supply chain disruptions over the past year have impacted every sector, including the Federal Government and its critical contractors and subcontractors. The new Federal Rule would strengthen the resilience of vulnerable Federal supply chains, resulting in greater efficiencies and reduced climate risk.

"Under the proposed Rule, 'major' Federal contractors receiving more than \$50 million in annual contracts would be required to publicly disclose Scope 1, Scope 2, and relevant categories of Scope 3 emissions, disclose climate-related financial risks, and set science-based emissions reduction targets. Additionally, 'significant' Federal contractors with more than \$7.5 million in annual contracts but less than \$50 million would be required to report Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions. Federal contractors with less than \$7.5 million in annual contracts would be exempt from the proposed rule. The 60-day public comment period for this proposed rule closed on 13th January 2023.

More: www.sustainability.gov/federal-sustainability-plan/fed-supplier-rule.html

Source: Ceres, 16th December 2022.

Editor: Trickle down effects will go beyond the US. 

The Sustainability EXPO – Rolleston

"Presentations: Attend presentations from experts on a wide range of current topics, such as avoiding plastics, plastic alternatives, why buy locally or organic, the sustainable use of soil in your garden, and climate change.

"Exhibitors: Explore future living options, including home design improvements and renewable energy, energy efficiency, waste minimisation and Tiny Homes. Expand your knowledge around sustainable living – electric transport, worm farms, waste and water recycling, sustainable households and products.

When/Where 21st and 22nd January. Rolleston, Canterbury

More: <https://sustainabilityexpo.nz>

Source: John Veix, 1st January 2023. 

How to Talk About Climate Change with 'that' uncle at Christmas

"Holidays mean time with family – including some who you may not see eye-to-eye with.

"The topic of climate change can be divisive in Emma's family, and things can get heated.

"We've ... had to say 'no more of these discussions at family gatherings', she said.

"But I think that ... is quite sad and I'm wondering how actually to not pretend like there's nothing wrong, but actually address it together [but] not to ruin Christmas.'

"It's not a debate to be won: Dr Jess Berentson-Shaw has researched how to talk to people about climate change and has some practical suggestions.

"Firstly, lose the mindset it is a debate to be won: brain research shows is not effective in changing minds and can make people double down.

"Think about this as an exercise in deepening people's understanding, and persuasion over a longer-term relationship', she said.

More: www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/480564/how-to-talk-about-climate-change-with-that-uncle-at-christmas plus www.theworkshop.org.nz/publications/how-to-talk-about-climate-change-a-short-guide-2019


Source: The Forever Project, 16th December 2022. 

Valuing Nature: The case for Nature-related Assessment and Disclosure

"This report by the SustainAbility Institute by ERM and the Capitals Coalition, addresses challenges facing companies in the complex and rapidly evolving nature arena, particularly those regarding the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) Framework scheduled to launch in September 2023.

More: www.sustainability.com/thinking/valuing-nature-the-case-for-nature-related-assessment-and-disclosure 28 pages, 496kb


Source: The SustainAbility Institute, 13th January 2023

Editor: Page 25: With so much at stake, action is not a choice but a necessity for companies. Fortunately, as this guide outlines, the tools to enable this action are or will soon be available. By following their guidance, companies can mitigate their nature-related risks and capitalise on their nature-related opportunities, securing their future and that of the natural world. 

Washington, Students Learn About Climate Change Like Nowhere Else

"Food justice classes and mock G7 summits are on the curriculum in the first US state to fund 'climate change education' in public schools. ...'Education is an incredible way to combat climate change and issues associated with social injustice'.

More: <https://reasonstobecheerful.world/washington-first-state-fund-climate-change-public-school/>

Source: reasons to be cheerful, 18th January 2023. 

President of the Cop28

"The United Arab Emirates (UAE) government has appointed Sultan Al-Jaber to be the president of the Cop28 climate talks in November.

"Al Jaber heads the state-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (Adnoc), the twelfth largest oil company in the world, and the emirates' much smaller renewable energy firm Masdar.

"He has been a key figure in national climate and energy policy for over a decade. While Al Jaber has promoted renewable energy, in November 2021 he called for increased global investment in oil and gas.

"The oil and gas industry will have to invest over \$600bn every year until 2030 just to keep up with the expected demand," he told an Abu Dhabi oil conference.

"Renewable energy is the fastest growing segment of the energy mix but oil and gas is still the biggest and will be for decades to come. The future is clean but it is not here yet. We must make progress with pragmatism", he said.

More: www.climatechangenews.com/2023/01/12/uae-puts-oil-company-boss-in-charge-of-cop28-climate-talks/

Source: *Climate Home News*, 14th January 2023. 

academyEX Launched


With its roots in The Mind Lab and Tech Futures Lab, academyEX was launched on 9th January 2023. They say they add a further education dimension for those who wish to be educated in thinking and acting for the future. "The academy will offer scalable learning management systems and education solutions through its edtech arm which focuses on large scale online learning solutions". Among the offerings will be those which have a 'sustainability' flavour although necessarily in the ways they may not have been thought of before.

Based in Auckland, whilst delivering mainly online locally and globally, the mission is to enable impactful futures via a broad arena of offerings.

"With the new Earth Futures Lab, academyEX is bringing the most innovative ways of learning (which makes learning available to non-traditional learners who are typically excluded from education) to some of the most pressing questions of our times – how can we deal with climate change and live sustainably?

"academyEX is a Tertiary Education Organisation registered by the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) to deliver qualifications approved by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) under the provision of the Education and Training Act 2000. From their assessments NZQA is highly confident about the academy's educational performance and self-assessment capability.

More: <https://createsend.com/t/j-119801C426A991052540EF23F30FEDED> plus <https://academyex.com/about>

Source: GoodSense, 23rd December 2022. 

183 Ways the World Improved in 2022

"Happy New Year! And welcome to our annual year-end roundup of the brightest, boldest ways the world improved, evolved or otherwise changed for the better.

"It's a randomised bingo-ball tumbler of a list, pulled straight from the pages of 'reasons to be cheerful', and we hope it brings you some cheer as we leap into 2023 together. Let's go!

More: <https://reasonstobecheerful.world/the-year-in-cheer-2022/>

Source: reasons to be cheerful, 31st December 2022. 

Australia-Asia Solar PowerLink Collapse

"One of Australia's most ambitious renewable energy projects has entered into voluntary administration after shareholders could not come to a consensus on the future direction and funding of the plan to power Singapore using a 4,200km submarine cable, scheduled to begin construction in 2024.

"The A\$30 billion (\$27.57 billion) Sun Cable, backed by billionaire climate crusader Mike Cannon-Brookes and iron ore magnate Andrew Forrest, will likely seek expressions of interest for a recapitalisation or sale of the entire business, the company said 11th January

More:

www.theedgesingapore.com/news/sustainability/singapore-based-sun-cable-collapses-threatening-australia-asia-powerlink-solar

Source: TheEdge, Singapore, 12th January 2023. 

Why was Roman Concrete Self-Healing? – Riddle Solved


"An unexpected ancient manufacturing strategy may hold the key to designing concrete that lasts for millennia.

"The ancient Romans were masters of engineering, constructing vast networks of roads, aqueducts, ports, and massive buildings, whose remains have survived for two millennia. Many of these structures were built with concrete: Rome's famed Pantheon, which has the world's largest unreinforced concrete dome and was dedicated in A.D. 128, is still intact, and some ancient Roman aqueducts still deliver water to Rome today. Meanwhile, many modern concrete structures have crumbled after a few decades.

"Researchers have spent decades trying to figure out the secret of this ultradurable ancient construction material, particularly in structures that endured especially harsh conditions, such as docks, sewers, and seawalls, or those constructed in seismically active locations.

"Now, a team of investigators from MIT, Harvard University, and laboratories in Italy and Switzerland, has made progress in this field, discovering ancient concrete-manufacturing strategies which incorporated several key self-healing functionalities. The findings are published today [6th January 2023]

More: <https://news.mit.edu/2023/roman-concrete-durability-lime-casts-0106> plus www.fastcompany.com/90831179/this-ancient-roman-building-technique-could-help-cut-carbon-emissions

Source: *The Economist*, 13th January 2023. 

New Zealand is Stuck in the Mud

"..... Despite this, New Zealand is stuck in the mud. For all the declarations and aspirational talk, the country looks increasingly unlikely to make its first climate goal. The Government promised to shave 9 million tonnes off the country's carbon footprint out to 2025 (a target many activists say is highly insufficient). That task is going to be pretty tough to achieve if the electricity-consuming and greenhouse gas-producing aluminium smelter sticks around past 2024, as it seems likely to do. But most frighteningly, the Government showed last year it was perfectly happy to defer a key climate policy without unveiling anything to take its place – when Energy Minister Megan Woods announced a 12-month delay to the biofuels mandate.

"Ministers' call to ignore the Climate Change Commission was also unnerving.

More:

<https://t.comms.stuff.co.nz/nl/jsp/m.jsp?c=%40lbqePcYq1OGd%2BBITXIFExSwCehqiDKlg1HKYNUHKRO%3D>

Source: Forever Project, 13th January 2023. 