

# Sustainability Matters

Compiled and published by Ray Skinner, FCA

Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

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## Extreme Weather Warnings Fail to Trigger Climate Action: Study

"Apocalyptic images of raging typhoons, rising seas and submerged buildings do not scare people into worrying about climate change or shifting to planet-friendly lifestyles, a new study suggests.

"A group of Hong Kong residents exposed to a virtual simulation of a super-typhoon projected to hit Hong Kong sometime between 2050 and 2100 were not motivated to change their behaviour, and were actually less inclined to see climate change as a risk or take climate action.

"The simulation was based on Typhoon Mangkhut, which battered parts of the Philippines, Guam and China in 2018, killing 134 people and causing US\$3.8 billion in damage. Storms like Mangkhut are projected to get more frequent and intense as seas warm and sea-levels rise.

"But individuals who experienced what the future climate reality could be like were not motivated to make behavioural changes, particularly climate sceptics and people who already live more eco-friendly lives, the study of 1,500 Hongkongers by Singapore Management University (SMU) found. ....

**More:** [www.eco-business.com/news/extreme-weather-warnings-fail-to-trigger-climate-action-study/](http://www.eco-business.com/news/extreme-weather-warnings-fail-to-trigger-climate-action-study/)

**Source:** eco-Business.com, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

## The Future CAN be Positive

"The future CAN be positive if 'delivered by ordinary community people' – a comment from the USA.

"Robert Reich strikes an optimistic note about the USA in the midst of the gloom of 2022 here .... He starts, however, by saying... 'The anti-democracy movement is still fulminating. Trump is still dangerous. Corporate malfeasance continues. The climate catastrophe is worsening. Inequality is widening. Reproductive rights have been dealt a major setback. The haters and bigots have not retreated.'

"He then asserts it is commitment, tenacity and the unvarnished truth, delivered by ordinary community people across the country, which will see us overcome this gloom. As he says, the leaders of change are not the formal leaders nor the people whose names are known, they are you and me.

**More:** [www.theguardian.com/us-news/commentisfree/2023/jan/01/things-are-getting-better-keep-fighting-2023](http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/commentisfree/2023/jan/01/things-are-getting-better-keep-fighting-2023)

**Source:** IPANZ E-Update, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023.

## Three Books About Degrowth

"Anitra Nelson is an activist scholar affiliated with the University of Melbourne's Informal Urbanism Research Hub (InfUr-). Active in the emerging Australian degrowth network, she is the author of *Small is Necessary: Shared Living on a Shared Planet* (2018), co-author of *Exploring Degrowth: A Critical Guide* (2020), and co-editor of both *Housing for Degrowth: Principles, Models, Challenges and Opportunities* (2018) and *Food for Degrowth: Perspectives and Practices* (2021).

**More:** <https://anitranelson.info/>

**Source:** Climate Declaration, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023.

## Jonathon Porritt on Privilege and Responsibility

"Sir Jonathon Porritt was guest speaker at a recent [24<sup>th</sup> January] Sustainable Business Network event. He was the first to acknowledge how, like many of us, he is part of a privileged elite. His life's work has been about living up to the responsibilities that brings.

"Sir Jonathon's relationship with SBN goes back to meeting our CEO Rachel Brown in 1996. He was in the process of co-founding the UK-based Forum for the Future. The Forum's system change approach to sustainable business has been an ongoing source of inspiration, as has their continued friendship.

"As he spoke Sir Jonathon was one day away from stepping away from the forum and entering a new phase. He described this as a shift towards political campaigning, with an emphasis on young people and their concerns. ....

"Along the way he's authored numerous books. He's inspired countless others to take on the challenge of ecological sustainability. ....

**More:** <https://sustainable.org.nz/learn/news-insights/jonathon-porritt-on-privilege-and-responsibility-1/>

**Source:** SBN, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

**Editor:** It was very interesting to listen to him. You should read this excellent summary.

## Circuses Have Evolved – So Must Climate Summits

"What are UN conferences for? Every year the UN climate body (UNFCCC) finds a new country in which to hold a summit (Cop), at which delegates from nearly 200 nations negotiate an ever smaller number of global climate rules, and journalists wonder what's newsworthy enough to write about.

"Luckily, at Cop27 in Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt, in November, the delegates manufactured a last-minute crisis which provided some good copy. But quite a few of the correspondents had already filed their 'what's the point of this annual circus?' articles by then.

"Nearly 50,000 people attended Cop27. This obviously had nothing to do with the inviting beaches and lively night life of the Red Sea resort.

"Nor, in reality, did it have much to do with the UN climate talks. Only a few thousand of those attending were national negotiators. The rest – as every year – were representatives from businesses, international organisations, NGOs and research institutes. They were taking part in a physically adjacent but otherwise largely separate global climate expo. The Cop fringe programme ran to thousands of events and meetings.

"That the formal UN talks have become rather small should not be a surprise. ....

"Visit any modern circus and you'll see it has evolved since the days of freak shows and performing lions. It's time for Cops to do the same.

**More:** [www.climatechangenews.com/2023/02/05/circuses-have-evolved-and-so-must-un-climate-summits/](http://www.climatechangenews.com/2023/02/05/circuses-have-evolved-and-so-must-un-climate-summits/)

**Source:** *Climate Home News*, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

## Valuing Nature: The Case for Nature-Related Assessment & Disclosure


"The connection between nature and business is deep, with trillions of dollars of economic value across geographies and sectors dependent upon nature and its services.

"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.

"Few companies, if any, can claim to be fully removed from the impacts of natural systems on the global economy. As nature degradation and loss increase, the private sector will likely be impacted by resulting reductions in global annual GDP. The protection of natural systems now could not only mitigate potential economic losses but also provide positive benefit to businesses while improving biodiversity, limiting the effects of climate change, and strengthening local economies.

"As more corporates recognise the business case of protecting natural systems, the case for nature-related disclosure will follow. Like the way the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) Framework supports more comprehensive reporting on climate, the TNFD Framework will help guide companies in disclosing information relating to nature-related risks and opportunities.....

**More:** <https://capitalscoalition.org/publication/valuing-nature-the-case-for-nature-related-assessment-disclosure/> 28 pages, 495KB

**Source:** Capitals Coalition, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023. 

## Miracle Trees!

"Maradi, Niger – For centuries, rich woodlands dotted this dusty, sun-blasted region south of the Sahara. There were fat locust bean trees, wispy bushes, and sparse pockets of winter thorn and tamarind. By the time Ali Neino was a boy in the 1980s, however, just one lonely tree sprouted from his family's land, and he could see clear to the horizon.

"There was no vegetation in between the village and the fields', recalls Neino, 45 'No trees, no shrubs, nothing.'


"Decades of drought, land-clearing, and demand for firewood had left Niger nearly treeless. Intensive farming to feed the world's fastest-growing population ensured new trees would not take root. Government efforts to reforest in the 1970s failed. Sixty million trees were planted; fewer than 20% survived.

"But on a recent stroll along his family's farm outside Dan Saga, Neino pointed to the trees growing everywhere. Sun-bleached acacia trunks poked through the soil. Branches and fallen leaves littered the yellow dirt. Five kinds of acacia grew. There were fruit-bearing trees and a type of warty bush known as dooki.

"In the past 35 years, as scientists begged nations to get serious about reviving forests, one of Earth's poorest countries, in one of the planet's harshest regions, added an astonishing 200 million new trees – maybe more. Across at least 12 million acres of Niger, woodlands have been re-established with little outside help, almost no money, and without driving people off their land. The trees here weren't planted; they were encouraged to come back naturally, nurtured by thousands of farmers. Now, fresh trees are popping up in village after village. As a result, soils are more fertile and moister, and crop yields are up .....

**More:** <https://archive.ph/sJAVa> plus <https://actions.sumofus.org/a/with-your-help-we-could-see-the-rebirth-of-millions-more-trees>

**Source:** SumofUs, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

**Editor:** SumofUs now known as Ekō; 10M subscribers. 

## Mushrooms and Hemp Insulation


"David Benjamin's recipe for construction materials sounds like witchcraft: Mix corn stalks with hemp and mushroom roots, pour the mixture into moulds which resemble the shapes you need, and voilà, the building material will grow all by itself. In five days!

"Simply put, this is the process of mycotecture, architecture with mushrooms.

"Fungi and facades are unlikely friends architects usually prefer not to mention in the same breath. But Benjamin named his New York architecture firm The Living because he wants exactly that: to bring architecture alive, literally. 'Biological systems are adaptable; they live, breathe and regenerate themselves', he says in his office in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. 'Imagine buildings had these traits! This would change our way of life radically.'

"Maybe even more importantly, organic materials do not create trash. 'Forty percent of the trash in our landfills is from construction', .... 'Maybe we better look for materials which don't sit in landfills for centuries and millennia.' ....

**More:** <https://reasonstobecheerful.world/for-more-sustainable-affordable-housing-just-add-mushrooms/>


**Source:** reasons to be cheerful, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023. 

## Energy Storage is Going Underground

"If you say energy storage today, most people think you are talking about batteries. The intermittency of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind means sometimes there is more electricity available than is needed. Batteries can take that excess electricity and store it until such time as it can be put to work. But there are other ways of storing electricity which rely on potential energy.

The article describes two methods. One using compressed air, the other sand.

**More:** <https://cleantechnica.com/2023/01/14/energy-storage-is-going-underground/> plus [www.mdpi.com/1996-1073/16/2/825](http://www.mdpi.com/1996-1073/16/2/825)

**Source:** Rob Skinner, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023. 

## 'Climate Quitters': 20% of UK Workers Turn Down Jobs Based on Poor ESG Commitments

"KPMG surveyed around 6,000 UK adult office workers, students, apprentices and those who have left higher education in the past six months on their attitudes to work.


"The results, published today (24<sup>th</sup> January), show ESG factors are influencing employment decisions for almost half of UK workers. Indeed, the survey found 46% want the company they work for to publish and demonstrate ambitious ESG commitments.

"The survey also found 20% of respondents have turned down job offers based on a company's ESG values not aligning with their own. This rises to 33% for those aged 18-24, suggesting this could become a much more common trend over the coming years. ....

"Reports suggest 3.2 million workers will need to 'boost their skills' if the UK is to meet its 2050 net-zero target. This figure covers upskilling and retraining. Among the sectors most affected, the report states, are construction and transportation, where 30% and 26% of workers respectively will need upskilling.

"However, new jobs created to help drive the UK's transition to net-zero could pay 18% more than the national average salary – and 30% more than the average salary offered by companies in high-emitting sectors.

**More:** [www.edie.net/climate-quitters-one-fifth-of-uk-workers-have-turned-down-jobs-based-on-poor-esg-commitments/](http://www.edie.net/climate-quitters-one-fifth-of-uk-workers-have-turned-down-jobs-based-on-poor-esg-commitments/)

**Source:** edie, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023. 

## Climate Action Grants


"Our Climate Declaration is anxious to promote this year's round of Climate Action Grants in honour of our founder, Jeanette Fitzsimons. These are for projects involving activists under 30 years, the age group with whom Jeanette had an especial affinity and for whom the climate-changed future is a reality.

"Last year we awarded three grants to:

- Waiheke High School for a project to reduce and recycle waste.
- Earth Action Trust Auckland for their zero waste education programme and social enterprise with young, new New Zealanders.
- Bruce Mahalski to run a competition for schoolchildren to make climate-themed posters, involving hundreds of school children. The posters were exhibited in shop windows, galleries and museums.

"To support this year's grants programme please find donation details at our website. Donations qualify for a tax refund.

**More:** [www.ourclimatedeclaration.org.nz](http://www.ourclimatedeclaration.org.nz)

**Source:** Climate Declaration, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023. 

## A Report Card for 2022 – How Would You Guess New Zealand Fared?

"The Conversation prepared a report card for New Zealand for 2022. As an experiment, think what would be on your list, and see what you discover reading this article.....

"Just a taste. New Zealand is still rated extremely highly for democratic values and standards, is the 4<sup>th</sup> most gender equal country, suicides are down, our prison population is down, and there has been a large increase in median weekly earnings from wages and salaries.

"On the negative side, New Zealand fell a place in the World Happiness Report rankings, we have a deteriorating environmental performance, and our poverty rates compare badly within the OECD. Slightly better news is the number of children living in poor households has declined.

"Considering our media reporting and social media commentary, I am not sure we would have guessed this.

**More:** <https://theconversation.com/nz-report-card-2022-some-foreign-bragging-rights-but-room-for-improvement-at-home-194626>

**Source:** IPANZ E-Update, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023. 

## Toolbox for a More Sustainable Supply Chain

"Find out how *Docket* makes it easy to check and improve the sustainability of your business and supply chain. Cut carbon emissions, design out waste, regenerate nature, eliminate modern slavery and keep your workers happy, safe and healthy.

"*Docket* has been created by a public-private partnership to help your business meet best practice in sustainable procurement. Whether a small-scale supplier or a corporate procuring from others, *Docket* can help your business.


"Learn what *Docket* has to offer:

- Quick self-assessment to see how well your business is looking out for the environment and your team.
- Tools and resources which can help you introduce sustainability into your business or improve on what you're already doing.
- Helpful ways to share your sustainability achievements with your customers and networks.

"And, of course, you can share *Docket* with your suppliers to make your business – and theirs – more sustainable. ....

**When/Where:** 12:30 – 1:15pm Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2023. Online

**More:** <https://sustainable.org.nz/learn/events/docket-new-sustainability-tool-for-business-webinar/>

**Source:** SBN, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023. 

## Celebrate Environmental Action and Sustainable Living in Auckland

"Join us for locally hosted sustainability events. Engage with a thriving community of eco-champions, learn to live lightly, do something for the environment, reconnect with nature and refuel your enthusiasm to help create a better, greener tomorrow!

"EcoFest is growing this year as we team up with EcoMatters, The Beautification Trust and Waiheke Resources Trust to collectively showcase all that Auckland has to offer in the sustainability space! The festival has a new look but the same passion for local action and impact!

"Anyone can host/ facilitate an event, as long as it falls within the dates of the festival, and the primary focus of the event is sustainability. This is your event, we are the platform to connect you to an audience of keen participants, and to offer ideas and support, where possible, to make your event great! Some examples from previous years include: guided bush walks, volunteer restoration days, beach clean-ups, sustainability networking events, zero waste workshops, composting and food growing workshops, climate action and advocacy talks, cooking with leftovers, eco-art and much much more...

"If you're involved in sustainability and would like to engage with the public during Auckland's largest environmental festival, register your interest to host today. We will offer guidance and resources on how to create and run events (for those who need it). Registering an event is completely free, and all registered events will be marketed online across Auckland throughout the festival. ...

**When/Where:** 18<sup>th</sup> March – 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Auckland-wide

**More:** <https://kaipatiki.org.nz/ecofest>

**Source:** Kaipatiki Trust, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023. 

## WEF: Global Risks Report 2023


"Last year's Global Risks Report warned that a divergent economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic risked deepening divisions at a time when collaboration was urgently required to address looming global challenges. Yet despite hard-learned lessons around the interdependence of global risks, few would have anticipated the extent of instability that would soon unfold, this time driven by a new war in Europe.

"The health and economic aftereffects of the pandemic have quickly spiraled into compounding crises. Carbon emissions have climbed, as the post-pandemic global economy fired back up. Food and energy have become weaponised by the war in Ukraine, sending inflation soaring to levels not seen in decades, globalising a cost-of-living crisis and fueling social unrest. The resulting shift in monetary policy marks the end of an economic era defined by easy access to cheap debt and will have vast ramifications for governments, companies and individuals, widening inequality within and between countries. ....

"Yet much-needed attention and resources are being diverted from newly emerging or rapidly accelerating risks to natural ecosystems, human health, security, digital rights and economic stability which could become crises and catastrophes in the next decade. ....

**More:** [www.weforum.org/reports/global-risks-report-2023/in-full](http://www.weforum.org/reports/global-risks-report-2023/in-full) 98 pages, 21.5Mb

**Source:** Debbie Kandaw CAANZ, Weekly Digest for Climate & Sustainability, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**Editor:** In the next 2 years 5 out of 10 global risks are environmental. In the next 10 years the top 4 global risks relate to climate change - failure to mitigate, failure for adaptation, natural disasters and extreme weather events and biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse. (See graphic). 

## ***The Climate Book: The Facts and the Solutions***

"We still have time to change the world. From Greta Thunberg, the world's leading climate activist, comes the essential handbook for making it happen.

"You might think it's an impossible task: secure a safe future for life on Earth, at a scale and speed never seen, against all the odds. There is hope - but only if we listen to the science before it's too late.


"In *The Climate Book*, Greta Thunberg has gathered the wisdom of over one hundred experts – geophysicists, oceanographers and meteorologists; engineers, economists and mathematicians; historians, philosophers and indigenous leaders – to equip us all with the knowledge we need to combat climate disaster.

"Throughout, illuminating and often shocking grayscale charts, graphs, diagrams, photographs, and illustrations underscore their research and their arguments. Alongside them, she shares her own stories of demonstrating and uncovering greenwashing around the world, revealing how much we have been kept in the dark.

"This is one of our biggest challenges, she shows, but also our greatest source of hope. Once we are given the full picture, how can we not act? And if a schoolchild's strike could ignite a global protest, what could we do collectively if we tried?

"We are alive at the most decisive time in the history of humanity. Together, we can do the seemingly impossible. But it has to be us, and it has to be now.

**More:** <https://bookshop.org/p/books/the-climate-book-the-facts-and-the-solutions-greta-thunberg/18503131> 464 pages, Feb 2023, plus [www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/61153762](http://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/61153762)

**Source:** Orion, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023. 

## **Rich Countries' Stinginess, Spread Too Thin**

"This week's devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria wasn't caused by climate change. But it is another strain on a humanitarian system which, because of climate change and rich countries' stinginess, is spread too thin.

"More and more people are needing help as climate change makes storms, floods, droughts and heatwaves worse. Alongside that, there are the regular disasters – the earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, wars, pandemics and terrorist attacks.

"But the supply of help isn't keeping up with demand. We published a deep dive this week into how cutbacks at the United Nations hindered the international community's response to the floods in Pakistan.


"Six months on from the rains, about 200,000 people are still displaced, a harvest has been missed, winter has come and malaria is rife. 'Humanitarians have failed in this disaster', Islamic Relief's Pakistan chief told us.

"That's not surprising as the UN agency tasked with coordinating the international response had just seven people working for it in Pakistan when floods hit – down from 35 in 2016.

"They scrambled in staff from other countries when disaster struck. The same people are probably off to Turkey now. They'll be somewhere else next. But the UN shouldn't have to play whack-a-mole when people's lives are at stake.

**More:** <https://mailchi.mp/climatehome/cables-become-cool-2689044?e=d7df48baf0>

**Source:** *Climate Home News*, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023.


**Editor:** See story about Pakistan's plight. 

## **What Now for Auckland? Four Ideas for a More Climate Resilient City**

"Auckland's floods may have been historic but flooding on a similar scale will strike again soon. What can Aotearoa's largest city do to prepare? We asked four experts for their big ideas. ....

**More:** [www.rnz.co.nz/news/in-depth/483551/what-now-for-auckland-four-ideas-for-a-more-climate-resilient-city](http://www.rnz.co.nz/news/in-depth/483551/what-now-for-auckland-four-ideas-for-a-more-climate-resilient-city)

**Source:** *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 9<sup>th</sup> February

**Editor:** We have the solutions. The ideas are not new – just reminders of four things (among others) known for years which need to be done which decision-makers avoid to keep the rates down. It's not complicated. 

## **The Role of Regulation and Policy in Incentivising Scope 3 GHG Reporting**

"Summary: There are a lack of organisations reporting on their Scope 3 emissions, which does not measure up to the proposed priority in decarbonising business activities. To incentivise organisations to increase their Scope 3 disclosures, regulations enforced by governments or regulatory bodies as well as corporate policies will be essential.


"Why it Matters: Incentives drive action and therefore organisations have a key role to play in setting internal policies to enforce Scope 3 reporting. Multinational companies can also act as a driving force to encourage government action in expanding reporting requirements to incorporate Scope 3 disclosures and support SMEs in improving their emission measurement and disclosure.

Actionable Insights: .....

Analysis: .....

**More:** <https://insight.reuters.com/sustainable-business/articles/role-regulation-policy-incentivizing-scope-3-reporting-2023-02-06>

**Source:** Reuters Events 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**Editor:** This content is currently listed as free to access. It will be available to access without subscription until 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2023. 

## **Still Present Although Gone**



**Janice Mary Skinner**

1<sup>st</sup> July 1946 to 13<sup>th</sup> February 2022 