

Sustainability Matters

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Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

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Incorporating Sustainability in Management Education: An Interdisciplinary Approach

"Responding to the pressing need of business schools to incorporate sustainability thinking into their curricula, this new book [2019] offers fresh thinking on how to achieve this in practical terms. Structured on a typical MBA programme, each chapter explores how sustainability thinking can be integrated into existing subject areas. Rather than being prescriptive, the chapters provide opportunities to reflect on successes as well as challenges associated with embedding sustainability into MBA courses. Contributors explore the employability implications of sustainability and how these are reflected in course designs, pedagogy and assessments. Filling an important gap in current literature, *Incorporating Sustainability in Management Education* provides important support to Higher Education Institutes who must quickly adapt to this desired change in business school curricula....

"Conclusion: As pressure from mainstream investors as well as other stakeholders on businesses to embed sustainability grows, so too will the capacity of business schools around the world to teach the subject effectively need to grow. We hope our experience with students from more than 30 countries across the world can help build that capacity.

More: www.springerprofessional.de/en/incorporating-sustainability-in-management-education/16447360 plus www.researchgate.net/publication/330907967_Incorporating_Sustainability_in_Management_Education_An_Interdisciplinary_Approach_An_Interdisciplinary_Approach 251 pages, 2.82Mb

Source: Ron Ainsbury, 16th April 2023

Editor: In reflecting upon the item in the 13th April edition of *Sustainability Matters* regarding case studies for teaching, Ron Ainsbury refers to this book to which he contributed. He co-wrote cases on sustainability, plus a chapter about teaching sustainability. The book would seem to be very pertinent to teachers, peak accounting bodies and others. There is a chapter by Prof Rob Grey (now deceased) of CSEAR. Maybe available via libraries. 


Draft Advice to the Second Emissions Budget

"At 5:30pm on Wednesday 26th April the Climate Change Commission will begin public consultation on our most significant advice for this year. This is draft advice, and in it we are proposing 19 recommendations for Government policy to keep pace with Aotearoa New Zealand's emissions reduction commitments.

"This latest draft advice will look a bit different from our first advice, *Inaia tonu nei*, which included advice on Aotearoa New Zealand's first three emissions budgets and the strategic direction of the first emissions reduction plan. The Government has now set its emissions budgets through to 2035 and has released its first emissions reduction plan, which outlines the actions it will take to meet the first emissions budget.

Consultation: 26th April to 20th June 2023.

More: www.climatecommission.govt.nz/our-work/advice-to-government-topic/2023-draft-advice-to-inform-the-strategic-direction-of-the-governments-second-emissions-reduction-plan

Source: Climate Commission, 21st April 2023. 


Concerns Ocean Circulation Will Collapse

"Contributing writer Fred Pearce reports on groundbreaking new research that brings a dramatically different perspective to the likely impact of rising temperatures on ocean circulation. Scientists have long feared warming could cause a breakdown of circulation in the North Atlantic, but new modeling finds the real risk lies in Antarctica's waters, where melting could disrupt currents as soon as the next few decades, with profound impacts on global climate.

"It is the most original research I have seen for some time", says one scientist. 'All the attention has been on the North Atlantic, but I expect there will now be a shift in attention to the Southern Ocean.'

More: <https://e360.yale.edu/features/climate-change-ocean-circulation-collapse-antarctica>

Source: *Yale Environment 360*, 21st April 2023

Editor: Ends with: 'But Rahmstorf says such optimism is ill-founded. Even if future emissions don't rise as much as predicted, it is 'irrelevant' to the near-term fate of the ocean conveyor, he says. The extent of deep-water formation in the next few decades has already been largely determined by past emissions and won't be impacted quickly by any recent changes. 'Which scenario we follow will only start to make a big difference beyond the 2040s', he says. By then, the 40% weakening of bottom-water formation may be all but baked in. 


In the Face of Cascading Crises, What Can I Do?

"This year is Post Carbon Institute's 20th anniversary. It's quite a landmark for an underdog think tank, and I wanted to do something meaningful in celebration (plus it's Earth Day!). Over the last two decades, I have done a lot to reduce my ecological footprint, protect ecosystems, and promote sustainability and resilience, especially in the realms of conservation biology and ecological economics. But there's always more to do, right? So, I thought I'd use this anniversary as a kick in the butt to level up my environmentalism and become a more engaged member of my community.

"I also want to invite you to come along for the ride and challenge yourself to increase your engagement. Given all the combined environmental and social crises we collectively face (what Post Carbon Institute is calling the Great Unraveling), there's a HUGE imperative and plenty of opportunities to change our thinking, behaviour, and institutions for the better. Those of us with an ecological and prosocial worldview can set an example for others in our communities who may be looking for guidance.

"It was tempting to jump straight to committing myself to some actions. But as most of us have learned from years of abandoned New Year's resolutions, jumping in without forethought is a recipe for failure. I needed to make another list first: a set of values that I want to guide my actions. Here are four values I documented which are especially important to me at this time:

More: www.resilience.org/stories/2023-04-21/in-the-face-of-cascading-crises-what-can-i-do/

Source: Post Carbon Institute, 22nd April 2023. 

Climate Economic and Fiscal Assessment 2023


“Jointly produced by the Treasury and the Ministry for the Environment, this report brings together information on the economic and fiscal implications of climate change and New Zealand’s response to it. It highlights the large costs of climate change will be felt unevenly across different sectors and groups of society and future choices made by governments, businesses and households, domestically and internationally, will all influence how the impacts of climate change play out. The assessment includes a chapter providing scenario analyses of the potential costs of purchasing offshore mitigation toward to meet New Zealand’s first Nationally Determined Contribution.

“From web page: ‘This report brings together information on the economic and fiscal implications of climate change and New Zealand’s response to it. The costs of climate change will be large and felt unevenly across different sectors and groups of society. The choices made by governments, businesses and households, domestically and internationally, will all influence how the impacts of climate change play out.

“The purpose of *Ngā Kōrero Āhuarangi me te Ōhanga – Climate Economic and Fiscal Assessment* is to help decision-makers across the public and private sectors identify and manage the risks and opportunities of physical climate change and New Zealand’s transition to a low-emissions and climate-resilient future.

From the executive summary: ‘We invite readers to reflect on the evidence and analysis presented in this report, including the critical gaps, to think about New Zealand’s readiness to face future climate change impacts, and to consider these in the choices we make that will influence our collective future wellbeing.’

More: www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/climate-economic-fiscal-assessment/nga-korero-ahuarangi-me-te-ohanga-2023 98 pages, 4.31Mb

Source: Ken Warren, Treasury, 14th April 2023. 


Building a Wellbeing Economy from the City Up

“Can the economy be redesigned with the purpose of serving the wellbeing of people and the planet first and foremost? Around the world business leaders, government agencies, and citizens are moving beyond the focus of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and economic growth as being the primary markers of success and are instead shifting their thinking towards other indicators that could contribute to a healthy economy.

“Join international expert Dr Katherine Trebeck in a discussion on why a wellbeing approach to measuring success and progress for the economy is gaining momentum and what it looks like in practice. Drawing on insights from overseas, Dr Trebeck will examine what various sectors can do to help build a wellbeing economy. She will share some examples of actions other cities have been taking which demonstrate what a wellbeing economy means at the city-level and will discuss the implications and benefits this approach could bring.

When/Where: Thursday 11th May 2023, 5.30 –7.00pm Auckland. Also online

More: <https://conversations.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/events/building-wellbeing-economy-city>

Source: Auckland Conversations, 13th April 2023. 

Over 2,000 Companies Buy and Sell Recycled Plastic at This Online Marketplace

A global platform is where plastic sellers and seekers keep old shampoo bottles out of the waste stream.

More: <https://reasonstobecheerful.world/cirplus-plastic-recycling-online-marketplace/>

Source: reasons to be cheerful, 19th April 2023. 

Rather Than Mass-Exporting Dairy, we could Grow Berries, Paua and Wheat

“Researchers are looking for backups for if dairy exports shrink. Wheat, chestnuts, paua and blueberries are on the menu, but growing them is only half the battle,

“Sink your teeth into that soft, wheaty hot cross bun. There’s a roughly 70% chance you just made an Australian farmer a little bit richer.

“Given New Zealand has excellent wheat-growers of its own, it seems odd some New Zealand farmers sell their homegrown wheat for cattle feed, while we humans mainly eat the Australian stuff.

“About 70% of our wheat comes from Aussie, according to Lee Matheson, a farm consultant investigating the future of food-growing. Growing a good crop is only half the battle: it has to get to hungry people, at a price which makes farming it worthwhile.....

“The NZ Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre ... looking into a future with less dairying. ... is best known as the outfit which funds research into cutting methane from our multi-billion dollar dairy industry, but it has also funded Matheson and van Reenen to look at what happens if methane-fighting technology doesn’t come off.

“New Zealand’s supply chains and export markets are heavily built around dairy. But the Zero Carbon Act, as well as global consumer pressure, requires us to cut emissions. ‘In the event we can’t crack this [methane], there will be quite a lot of disruption to our sector’, Matheson says. ‘[So] what are the barriers to changing land use to lower emissions, at a big enough scale to make a significant difference? ... [Long article]

More: www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/300847745/why-your-hot-cross-buns-are-made-with-australian-wheat-but-maybe-not-forever plus www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/country-calendar/episodes/s2023-e9

Source: Forever Project, 14th April 2023. 

Accounting for Flood Risk Would Lower American House Prices by US\$187bn


“In the United States, flooding is the most expensive type of natural disaster and yet a new study highlighted this week [2nd week of April] by *The Economist*, suggests including flood risk in the price of American homes could significantly lower their total value. The study estimates accounting for flood risk could decrease the total value of American homes by as much as \$187 billion, or 4.4%.

“Currently, private insurers generally will not offer residential coverage in the case of flooding. As an attempt to offer American’s some form of coverage Congress created the National Flood Insurance Programme (NFIP). The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is a federal program in the United States that provides insurance coverage to property owners in flood-prone areas.

“According to *The Economist*, ‘The combination of subsidised insurance and myopic buyer behaviour means that houses in flood-prone areas are overpriced. One study in 2021 estimated this overvaluation at \$33bn-56bn. But a new paper in *Nature Climate Change*, whose lead author is Jesse Gourevitch of the Environmental Defence Fund, an advocacy group, puts it at \$121bn-237bn, with a central estimate of \$187bn.”

More: www.sustaira.com/news/the-economist-highlights-accounting-for-flood-risk-would-lower-american-home-prices-by-187bn

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

Editor: Although the US situation is very different to other jurisdictions, the overarching issue is likely to be generally similar. 

A Earth Day 2023 Rally Cry for Rebellion and 'Soul Force'


"Many moons ago, the modern green activism movement started with a boat. It was an old fishing trawler captained by John Cormack. A group of young Canadian hippies, Quakers, and ecologists hired it and tried to stage an intervention in the US-led nuclear tests being carried out on Amchitka Island (about a thousand miles off the coast of Alaska) in 1971. Words matter. They could have called the boat anything: The White Peace or The Green Goodwill. The Magenta Hush. The Teal Quietude. Anything. Instead, they got the messaging right: Green is the colour of trees, grass, chlorophyll, life itself. Peace was their mission. The hippies were able to broadcast their message to the world via an onboard radio, but they were intercepted by a US Navy patrol boat and failed in their mission to stop the testing. The tests went ahead; the island was more or less cracked open by the underground nuclear bomb blast. But by the time the hippies returned, and despite their bitter infighting, a movement had been launched. The world watched as a group of everyday citizens actively intervened in a crime against the planet committed by a superpower state: previously unthinkable.

"Almost fifty years later, in April 2019, another boat appeared. This one was candy pink, an old yacht,

"Activism is a broad church, not just the kind which might cause arrest. There are many ways to be active, and to be part of a collective effort, from writing to your MP, to recycling your plastic and bottles, to using social media to creatively speak truth to power.

"Soul force, a truth force, is inside each of us, an inherent power. When we interconnect with others and collectivise, we resemble how the universe works, in sympathy and harmony with everything else. [Long article meriting a read, reflection and perhaps action.]

More: <https://orionmagazine.org/article/extinction-rebellion-2023-protest-peoples-picket-uk/>

Source: Orion, 21st April 2023. 

Science Based Targets – Target Setting and Reduction Pathways


"The second of our three-part Science Based Targets [SBT] webinar series was hosted on Thursday 30th March 2023 to deliver insights and tools to help businesses develop their own targets and reduction pathways. You can access the first part here. [See below.]

"During this masterclass technical expert Stu McKenzie discussed:

- The variations between CLC and Toitū requirements.
- Tools and concepts needed to start developing targets.
- How to decouple growth from setting reduction targets.
- A breakdown of how to tackle and prioritise both short and long-term targets.
- How to overcome roadblocks such as hard-to-abate sectors or industries with no clear SBT guidance.
- How to adapt existing targets to being SBT aligned.

"Watch the 54 minute recording or, look at the 28 slides to gain a comprehensive understanding of how to approach setting science-aligned targets and develop emission reduction strategies which align with 1.5 degree target.

More: www.toitu.co.nz/news-and-events/news/reduce/webinar-recap-science-based-targets-how-to-set-targets-and-develop-reduction-pathways


Source: *Toitū's Take*, 13th April 2023. 

Executive Director Position

"Do you want to help us drive more effective climate action in Aotearoa? Do you have good strategic, organisation, management and relationship building skills? Lcanzi [Lawyers for Climate Action New Zealand Inc] is looking for an executive director to help them manage their climate action work, and to expand the organisation's capability and reach. Fixed term part-time contract.

Applications Close: 5:00pm-Wednesday 3rd May 2023

More: www.lawyersforclimateaction.nz/news-events/executive-director-position-contract-for-lcanzi-applications-open-until-5pm-3-may-2023

Source: Lcanzi, 19th April 2023. 

Accounting for Nature: Preparing for Tomorrow's Nature Accounting Needs Today

"Corporate climate and nature goals are inherently linked. Climate change and nature loss have similar drivers—forest clearing, for example, degrades biodiversity and increases GHG emissions. Climate change and nature also interact with one another—biodiverse soils sequester more carbon, while rising temperatures weaken soil's ability to sequester carbon. And solutions for climate change and nature loss are linked—restoring ecosystems on land or in oceans increases biodiversity and enhances potential carbon sequestration.

"Because of these connections, good corporate climate strategies need strong nature components. The timescales involved in climate change mitigation drive climate action to the top of corporate priorities, but measurement of nature risk has only recently risen to a similar level of quality as is available for climate. 'Natural capital accounting' (NCA) helps companies measure the state of nature and manage nature-related risks and opportunities.

"Recently NCA has demonstrated its reliability for measuring biodiversity, water, and other aspects of nature. Moreover, these refined methods are aligned with financial accounting standards. While the shift to leading NCA practices can appear daunting, companies can adopt them in steps, extracting value at each. As a result, a company could get immediate value from simply reorganising its biodiversity data with NCA methods. Overtime, this process promises to deliver more robust valuations of material nature-related risks and opportunities.

More: www.sustainability.com/thinking/accounting-for-nature-preparing-for-tomorrows-nature-accounting-needs-today/

Source: SustainAbility Institute, 14th April 2023. 

Socket Science


"How you charge your EV may not be the safest option.

"As electric vehicle sales continue to charge ahead, an expert has warned of potential issues of not having an adequate home charging set up ... [Long article]

More: www.nzherald.co.nz/business/how-do-you-charge-your-ev-expert-explains-safety-risks/DFORWOK4DFA3VGMCUWRGGKCMDI/ [Paywall]

Source: *NZ Herald*, page C4, 22nd April 2023

Editor: In essence using a 3-point power plug is both very slow and risky and does not manage the charging. Best to have a proper wallbox. These handle 32amps. An electric jug often uses 10amps and just for a few minutes. Standard house supply is 60amps. Not in article:

If a house has its supply split into two for a flat or other unit, each may receive no more than 30 amps; this also presents overload risk. Some, although not complete, guidance at <https://genless.govt.nz/for-everyone/on-the-move/consider-electric-vehicles/charging-an-ev/#home-charging> 

Does No-Resumé, No-Interview Hiring Work? New Data Say Yes

"Three years ago, The Body Shop adopted 'open hiring' in which the most basic skills automatically get you the job. A new analysis suggests it's working.


"Nobody responded to Catherine Bayoudhi when she applied for jobs in late 2022. She had been a hairdresser for 35 years and had no experience in other vocations. After she was forced to leave her job during the pandemic, she joined the UK government's Restart Scheme for people unemployed for nine months or more. But when not a single offer materialised, she began to worry that, at 56, employers were discriminating against her because of her age.....

"Just as Bayoudhi was giving up hope, a job centre informed her about a seasonal job opening as a customer assistant at The Body Shop. Without requesting a CV or cover letter, the application asked only three questions: Do you have the right to work in the UK? Can you work for up to eight hours in a shift? Can you carry loads of 11 kilograms?.....

"King emphasises The Body Shop's program has taken several years to develop, and should not daunt others who are interested in adopting the practice. Other organisations should first consider changing one aspect of their hiring processes, then work outwards from there. This could mean removing background checks or simply relaxing job requirements. 'Don't think about what you can't do', she says. 'Think: 'Is there one thing that I could do?'"

More: <https://reasonstobecheerful.world/body-shop-open-hiring-no-resume-interview/>

Source: reasons to be cheerful, 19th April 2023

Editor: I know of a highly skilled and capable person with a diverse range of skills, aged mid-late 40's living in the UK who applied for over 10,000 (ten thousand) roles before a job centre paid for further retaining. Even then all employers and insurers wanted fully skilled even though the industry was short of people. 

Tax: The Silent T in ESG

"Since the United Nation's publication of the *Who Cares Wins* 2005 report, which first brought together financial institutions to examine the role of ESG in asset management and financial research, businesses have been embarking on a process premised on a deep conviction ESG factors play a critical role to stronger and more resilient organisations, as well the sustainable development of societies. Eighteen years have passed since the report, and the integration of ESG issues in business and policy has become more urgent and expansive. Businesses are seeing ESG issues as playing an increasingly important role in value creation and are looking beyond the short-term risks and opportunities.

"I will start with how tax plays a critical role in a well-functioning society (the 'S' and the 'E'), followed by how tax transparency provides opportunities to support confidence around businesses and their social contributions (the 'S' again), then the importance of strong governance frameworks for businesses (the 'G'). Finally, I will share observations on how tax has already addressed many of the challenges associated with issues like ESG reporting and managing environmental impacts (using a global carbon pricing scheme as an example).

"The risks and opportunities associated with environmental and social trends, together with stakeholders' and the broader community's expectations for better accountability and corporate governance, mean businesses need to approach tax through an ESG lens

More: www.ato.gov.au/Media-centre/Speeches/Other/Tax--the-silent-T-in-ESG/

Source: Debbie Kandauw, CA ANZ, Weekly Digest for Climate & Sustainability, 21st April 2023. 

Ten Tips to Get Manufacturers Started on Circular Economy

"Learn how to reduce your risks and costs, make your business more resilient, build your brand, and identify new income streams;

- 1: Understand circular concepts
- 2: Understand circular tools
- 3: Get your data in order
- 4: Identify the risks your manufacturing business faces
- 5: Identify the circular opportunities available to your business
- 6: Find the best way in for your manufacturing business
- 7: Collaborate
- 8: Educate and listen
- 9: Break your circular project into stages
- 10: Bring this information together in a plan


More: www.thinkstep-anz.com/resrc/blogs/ten-tips-to-get-started-circular-economy/

Source: thinkstep, 18th April 2023. 

Beached Seaweed Turned into Bricks for Sustainable Construction

The sargassum seaweed blocks contain 40% sargassum. Since 2021 almost 6,000 tons of the seaweed has been used.

More: www.goodnewsnetwork.org/visionary-gardener-turns-piles-of-beached-seaweed-into-bricks-for-sustainable-construction/ plus www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/mar/07/great-atlantic-sargassum-belt-seaweed-visible-from-space

Source: atAdvocacy News, 25th April 2023. 

Changes to Corporate Governance Code and ESG Guidance Released by NZX

"Following a thorough consultation process which began at the end of 2021, New Zealand's Exchange (NZX) published its final updates to the NZX Corporate Governance Code and the ESG Guidance Note (Guidance Note) in December 2022. Following approval by the Financial Markets Authority, directors of listed issuers are now expected to ensure the updated standards set by the Code and the Guidance Note are being met.

"With respect to the Code, NZX remains of the view an issuer's board is best placed to determine its own corporate governance settings and processes. The Code continues to be a set of recommendations for issuers to adopt and adhere to on a voluntary basis, under the existing 'comply or explain' framework.

"The upshot of the recent Code revisions are directors are expected to:

- Be held more accountable to investors – for example, while determining a director's independence, setting their remuneration framework and exercising their duties as directors.
- Place more focus on ESG factors and reporting, and be proactive in making their reporting useful and accessible.
- Stay up to date and continue educating themselves on important corporate governance considerations, including ESG.

"The Guidance Note largely complements the changes to the 'Reporting and disclosure' section of the Code, as described below.

More: www.iod.org.nz/news/articles/changes-to-nzx-corporate-governance-code-and-esg-guidance-note-released

Source: SBC Weekly Pānui, 20th April 2023. 