

Sustainability Matters

Compiled and published by Ray Skinner, FCA

Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

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Building a Wellbeing Economy from the City Up

"The role of cities in creating an economy fit for the 21st century.

"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.

"International expert Dr Katherine Trebeck discusses 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 examines what various sectors can do to help build a wellbeing economy. She shares some examples of actions other cities have been taking which demonstrate what a wellbeing economy means at the city-level and discusses the implications and benefits this approach could bring.

More:

<https://conversations.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/events/building-wellbeing-economy-city> 11th May. 1hr 25min video, plus podcast and transcript.

Source: Auckland Conversations 27th April 2023.

How to Rethink the Economy with Wellbeing at the Core

"Katherine Trebeck is a political economist, writer and advocate for economic system change. She is the co-founder of the Wellbeing Economy Alliance, an international collaborative organisation focused on economic system change. Dr Trebeck's roles include writer-at-large at the University of Edinburgh, consultant to the Club of Rome, a Strategic Advisor for the Centre for Policy Development, and Economic Strategy Advisor to The Next Economy. She's also the author of *The Economics of Arrival: Ideas for a Grown Up Economy*.

"Dr Trebeck has been in New Zealand for a series of talks and workshops with MBIE, the Productivity Commission, talks hosted by Wellington and Auckland Councils, and accounting firm Grant Thornton. She talks to Kathryn about where she stands on the many different ways people are trying to rethink the 'economy'.

More:

www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetoon/audio/2018890159/how-to-rethink-the-economy-with-wellbeing-at-the-core 18:54

Source: Tim Marshall, 15th May 2023.

The Hidden Costs of Poor House Design - and What We Can Do About It

"Cold, damp and expensive: New Zealand's housing often seems to be in the news for the wrong reasons. What role can good design play in fixing our housing crisis?

More: www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/131963278/the-hidden-costs-of-poor-house-design-and-what-we-can-do-about-it

Source: Forever Project, 12th May 2023.

Sustainable Business Awards 2023 Launch

"Join SBN, along with our category sponsors to celebrate the opening of this year's Awards. Hear from past Award winners, learn what the Awards are all about, and what makes them so special. You'll have the chance to ask any niggly questions about entry, over a glass of something and a bite to eat.

"The Awards are open to everyone – big and small businesses, government agencies, not for profits and individuals – and are free to enter. You can enter in any of nine categories on topics ranging from climate, communication and collaboration to food, nature, social impact and circular economy. There are also awards for individuals.

"Entries opened 22nd May and close 14th July 2023.

"We'd love to have you there, along with other sustainability superstars that you think should be entering!

Change Maker	Outstanding Collaboration
Climate Action Leader	Regenerating Nature
Communicating for Impact	Social Impactor
Going Circular	Sustainability Superstar
Good Food	Transforming New Zealand

When/Where Thurs 22nd Jun 2023, 5:00–6:30 pm.
Auckland and online

More: <https://events.humanitix.com/sbn-awards-launch> plus <https://sustainable.org.nz/sustainable-business-awards/>

Source: SBN, 22nd May 2023.

Leonardo Imagination Fellowship

"Leonardo and the Center for Science and the Imagination are proud to announce our second Imagination Fellowship, starting in August 2023. In this virtual, global program, fellows will develop experimental media projects exploring diverse aspects of Planetary Health Futures, including but not limited to issues of climate, human well-being, interspecies relationships, democracy, emerging social structures, and safeguarding the Earth's habitability for humans and other life forms.

"Fellows will reflect on how their projects support, align with and add new complexity and nuance to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They should also substantively engage with the notion of experimental media, charting new territory in areas like expanded reality, immersive storytelling, worldbuilding, and more. Projects should embrace global perspectives and invite global participation and demonstrate commitment to justice and equity.

"Each fellow will produce a discrete media artifact, and will be supported in collaborative, cross-disciplinary experimentation with practice and process throughout the fellowship period....

Close: 2nd June 2023 at 11:59pm MST

More: <https://leonardo.asu.edu/content/leonardo-imagination-fellowship>

Source: Orion, 19th May 2023

Editor: Previous awardees hail from various countries.

CA ANZ Sustainability Conference 2023

"Our Sustainability Conference is designed to elevate your knowledge and confidence in tackling the sustainability challenges faced by accounting, business and finance professionals every day.

"With sessions designed to enhance your understanding of ESG developments and future trends, we're shifting the conversation from discussions around conceptual climate risk to embedding sustainable business practices at every level, making sustainability part of business as usual.

"Our Sustainability Conference is designed to elevate your knowledge and confidence in tackling the sustainability challenges faced by accounting, business and finance professionals every day.

When/Where Fri, 23rd June; Noon to 5:45pm NZT and 10:00 – 3:45pm AEST. Online.

More:

<https://store.charteredaccountantsanz.co.nz/Sustainability-Virtual-Conference-2023> (Switch between AUS and NZ) Three add-ons provided. Available to CAANZ members and non-members.

Source: *Acuity Magazine*, June-July 2023 page 8., 23rd May 2023.

Launch of the Agri-Adaptation Roadmap

"Farmers, growers and producers are experiencing first-hand the devastation of increasing extreme weather events. The development of these climate change scenarios provides consistent data for the sector who are seeking to mitigate and adapt and will serve as the basis for the *Agri-Adaptation Roadmap*.

The *Agri-Adaptation Roadmap* launch will share the priority actions developed by the food and fibre sector, for the food and fibre sector, in response to the impacts of climate change.

"Complementary to the earlier release of the *Agri Sector Climate Change Scenarios* report, the roadmap will include a pathway of implementation activity for government and industry to increase the resilience of the sector and ensure sustainable prosperity for future generations.

When/Where Wed. 7th June, 2023 at Noon. Online.

More: www.theaotearoacircle.nz/agriadaptation 60 pages, 11.6Mb plus www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/the-aotearoa-circle-webinar-launch-of-the-agri-adaptation-roadmap-tickets-625781147257

Source: Aotearoa Circle, 23rd May 2023.

Editor: See page 19 for linkage to scenario planning under TCFD for Climate Related Entities in NZ.

The Upper Atmosphere Is Cooling, Prompting New Climate Concerns

"Contributing writer Fred Pearce reports on new research which finds our carbon emissions are not only warming the lower atmosphere but cooling the upper atmosphere. Satellite data reveal that between 2002 and 2019, parts of the upper atmosphere cooled by 1.7°C, and researchers estimate temperatures there could drop by 7.5°C by the end of this century.

"The dramatic changes aloft are fueling concerns about the effects this cooling could have on the ozone layer and its potential to create turmoil with the weather on Earth. Increases in CO2 are now 'manifest throughout the entire perceptible atmosphere', one physicist says, which is 'driving dramatic changes scientists are just now beginning to grasp.'

More: <https://e360.yale.edu/features/climate-change-upper-atmosphere-cooling>

Source: *Yale Environment 360*, 19th May 2023.

Editor: Most of the NSASA satellites which have provided the data are reaching the ends of their lives.

Sustainability Enterprise Helps Kiwi Kids

"Ripple collects your outgrown or unwanted kid's clothing direct from your doorstep (or your workplace). Good quality items are packaged up into 'Gear Box' clothing parcels, which are passed through community partners to kids who need them. All clothes are reused or recycled - there is no waste.

More: www.ripplemovement.co.nz

Source: Carers NZ, 11th May 2023.

Climate investment in Aotearoa

"This brief paper, intended for attendees at the April 2023 *Investing in Climate Solutions* conference convened by several Community Trusts, Philanthropy New Zealand, Tōpūtanga Tuku Aroha o Aotearoa and Toitū Tahua, the Centre for Sustainable Finance. It provides an outline of the climate investment landscape which may assist attendees[and others].

"We understand attendees may include Non-Government Organisations and philanthropic investors who wish to do more to address climate change, as well as their advisers.

"The following pages show a number of climate impact investment options, whether aiming for investment returns or impact benefits, or a combination of both. They consider the following:

- What level of Climate Impact may be expected from this form of investment?
- What level of Potential Returns may be expected?
- Is it a form of climate change 'Mitigation' (reducing emissions, so climate change has a reduced impact) or 'Adaptation' (dealing with the consequences and impacts of climate change) – or both?
- Is it a kind of Investment or Granting – or possibly both?
- Is it a form of Equity or Debt – or possibly both?

"This is not intended to be an exhaustive or definitive list. It provides more detail on mitigation solutions as these are generally more developed; more detail may be added on climate adaptation solutions in future versions of this document.

More: www.sustainablefinance.nz/updates/climate-investment-in-aotearoa plus www.sustainablefinance.nz/s/UPDATED-Climate-investment-in-Aotearoa-April-2023.pdf 23pages 3.1Mb

Source: Debbie Kandauw, CA ANZ, Weekly Digest for Climate & Sustainability, 19th May 2023.

This Foldable Coffee Cup Wants Us to Ditch Plastic Lids for Good

"Single-use plastics are finally starting to disappear from the market, as countries like Canada, China, India, Japan, and more implement single-use plastic bans and regulations.

"But – humans still crave their to-go orders and morning coffee, and sometimes you just forget to grab the travel mug on the way out the door.

"The Good Cup is a foldable, recyclable vessel which acts as a mini takeout container for hot and cold drinks.

"The cup eliminates the need for a separate lid, as the folding design features a notch that locks into place to maintain that on-the-go reliability – without crowding landfills.

"The Good Cup is fully recyclable and re-pulpable, made with compostable paper and recyclable bio-based coating. It can be composted at home or sent to recycling facilities – where the paper can be recycled up to seven times before heading back to the Earth....

More: www.goodgoodgood.co/articles/compostable-coffee-cup-good-news

Source: AtAdvocacy, 7th May 2023.

#NoFly: Walking the Talk on Climate Change

"In June 2018, Swede Maja Rosén founded "We stay on the ground" with a pledge not to fly in 2019, and a goal of persuading 100,000 other Swedes to join her. In August, her compatriot Greta Thunberg began her school strike for climate.


"Today, the No Fly movement has spread around the world, with the Flight Free 2020 campaign reaching eight countries, and Greta is a household name, with the September strikes drawing 4 million people globally. What a difference a year makes!

"The New Zealand scientist Shaun Hendy made his own flight-free year in 2018, attracting widespread publicity in the media, partly thanks to *Stuff's* 'Quick! Save the Planet' series. In #NoFly he describes why he made the pledge, how it worked out, and how he sees New Zealand's low-carbon future playing out.

"Shaun credits University of Auckland psychology professor Quentin Atkinson for giving him the push he needed. The theory of 'costly signalling' says people can better send honest signals about themselves if their message is accompanied by taking some action which requires effort. (Philanthropy, risk-taking, and conspicuous consumption are the classic examples.) Indeed, psychological studies have found, not surprisingly, who people strongly dislike hypocrisy and regard hypocrites as untrustworthy (whereas lying, strangely enough, is all right).

"This is a very short book with just four short, tightly-organised chapters. [136 pages October 2019.]


More: <https://blog.planetaryecology.org/2019/10/> plus www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/48888874

Source: Simon Wilson, *Canvas*, 13th May 2023. 

Regulators Crack Down on Corporate Carbon Neutrality Claims

"The European Parliament last week [2nd week of May 2023] supported new rules that would make it harder for companies to make misleading claims about the climate impacts of their products. "The draft law, ... bans companies from using terms such as 'climate neutral' if they cannot be backed by detailed evidence. ...

More: <https://climatechangenews.com/2023/05/17/regulators-crack-down-on-corporate-carbon-neutrality-claims/>

Source: Climate Home News, 20th May 2023. 

The Liveability Challenge 2023


"The global population is set to hit 8 billion this year. With rapid urbanisation gripping Asia, the decarbonisation of our economies and cities has become more urgent than ever. Bangkok and Jakarta are sinking. Bangladesh is hit by the worst floods in a century. Guangzhou's coastline is disappearing.

"At the same time, climate change is warming our oceans and making it more acidic. Our marine ecosystems are under severe threat, exacerbated by overfishing and pollution. With rising constraints on land, water, and energy, food security has also risen to the top of the agenda. How can we establish circular, net-zero urban food systems?

"This year, from a record-breaking 600+ entries from 82 countries, the battle to win up to S\$2.5 million funding is now down to 8 finalists. Representing Singapore, United States, Israel, UK and the Philippines, the shortlist for The Liveability Challenge 2023 feature innovative solutions on climate change and food and nutrition.

When/Where Thurs 8th June 2023, 2:00–6:00pm Singapore time. In person and online.

More: <https://events.eco-business.com/flagship-events/the-liveability-challenge-2023>

Source: eco-Business.com, 18th May 2023. 

CA ANZ launches Carbon Accounting FAQ's

"A new Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ) publication addresses frequently asked questions (FAQs) arising in the evolving area of carbon accounting, and links to practical resources to assist climate-related accounting activities.

"Carbon and climate-related accounting practice is evolving fast. Approaches and terminology are rapidly changing, as are the aspirations and expectations of accountants applying their accounting skills and experience to climate-related issues.

"As accountants tackle carbon accounting and the many varied and evolving approaches and terminologies, this has prompted them to ask many questions. To address these, and contribute to the carbon accounting community of practice, CA ANZ has published a set of FAQs.

"Members are asking us all sorts of questions connected to carbon accounting; from 'how do I account for carbon offsets', 'what's the difference between net zero and carbon neutral' to 'what are my obligations to prevent greenwashing and everything in between' says Karen McWilliams FCA, CA ANZ Sustainability and Business Reform Leader. 'While often there aren't definitive answers, in these FAQs we explain the issue and where relevant link members to practical resources for a deeper dive.'

"Issues covered in these FAQs include activities designed to measure, track and report greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by organisations, measured as carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂-e), and related concepts such as carbon credit/offset. They also address member specific questions such as how to avoid greenwashing, and interaction of the Code of Ethics and the carbon accounting landscape.

"These FAQs are designed as a starting point on the journey. Many FAQs relate to emerging and evolving issues, and responses are based on information available at the time of publication.

More: www.charteredaccountantsanz.com/news-and-analysis/insights/research-and-insights/ca-anz-launches-carbon-accounting-faqs plus www.charteredaccountantsanz.com/-/media/2340e733696245f2a36be33b8b8c63b6.pdf 17 pages, 664Kb

Source: Debbie Kandauw, CA ANZ, Weekly Digest for Climate & Sustainability, 19th May 2023. 

Sustainable Procurement – IT Products

"IT products are a source of greenhouse gases (GHGs) throughout their entire life cycle – from manufacturing through to distribution, use and disposal. With improvements in design, manufacturing, technology and user behaviour it is possible to limit the impact. TCO Certified is the world's leading sustainability certification for IT products, and a tool that helps purchasers and purchasing organisations get sustainability right. The demand for more sustainable IT products continues to be high. When purchasers globally is asking for sustainable criteria, the signal to the IT industry sets the process in motion, which the number of new certified products is showing.

"As many as 122 new product models were certified during March. A new all-time high in a separate month since the launch month of TCO Certified, generation 9. The 122 product models come from ten different brand owners. Displays and notebooks are the most popular product categories, followed by desktop computers and headsets. In total, there are now around 4,000 products certified according to TCO Certified

More: www.ecovoice.com.au/continued-strong-growth-for-more-sustainable-it-products/ plus <https://tcocertified.com/about-tco-development/>

Source: EcoVoice, 6th May 2023. 


Wellbeing Economy Alliance

"The Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll) is the leading collaboration of organisations, alliances, movements and individuals working towards a Wellbeing Economy, delivering human and ecological wellbeing. We were born in 2018 as a time-bound project to catalyse a transition towards a Wellbeing Economy by promoting radical connection and collaboration between different actors of the new economy ecosystem, so we can achieve impact larger than the sum of our parts.

"We envision a world where everyone has enough to live in comfort, safety, and happiness. Where all people feel secure in their basic comforts and can use their creative energies to support the flourishing of all life on this planet. Where we thrive in a restored, safe, and vibrant natural environment because we have learned to give back as much as we are given. A world where we have a voice over our collective destiny and find belonging, meaning and purpose through genuine connection to the people and planet that sustain us.

"We do this by working on three simultaneous fronts with our members and partners, which we consider essential pillars for systemic transformation:

More: <https://weall.org/about-weal> with the New Zealand Hub at <https://weall.org/hub/newzealand>


Source: Editor 22nd May 2023. 

The Ancient 'Wonder Material' Sucking CO2 Out of the Atmosphere

"Though public awareness is low, some scientists believe 'biochar' is quietly becoming the world's first major carbon removal success story.

More: <https://reasonstobecheerful.world/netzero-coffee-husks-biochar-climate-reduce-emissions>

Source: reasons to be cheerful, 24th May 2023

Editor: A potential use for NZ's wood slash challenge? 

Turning Off the Tap: How the World Can End Plastic Pollution and Create a Circular Economy

"The report proposes a systems change to address the causes of plastic pollution, combining reducing problematic and unnecessary plastic use with a market transformation towards circularity in plastics. This can be achieved by accelerating three key shifts – reuse, recycle, and reorient and diversify – and actions to deal with the legacy of plastic pollution.


"Reuse refers to the transformation of the 'throwaway economy' to a 'reuse society' where reusing plastic products makes more economic sense than throwing them away. The report highlights the importance of accelerating the recycling market for plastic recycling by ensuring that recycling becomes a more profitable venture.

"Reorient and diversify refers to shifting the market towards sustainable plastic alternatives, which will require a shift in consumer demand, regulatory frameworks and costs.

"The report highlights these solutions are available now and a systems change, underpinned by the necessary regulatory instruments, will result in a range of economic benefits and reduce damage to human health, the environment and the climate.

More: www.unep.org/resources/turning-off-tap-end-plastic-pollution-create-circular-economy 88 pages 7.44Mb plus www.edie.net/ending-plastic-pollution-a-4-5trn-cost-saving-opportunity-says-un/

Source: edie, 18th May 2023.

Editor The focus seems to be on reducing and improving plastic use and disposal in its various guises whilst not addressing production. A glaring omission? 

Govt Taken to Court for Ignoring Climate Commission on ETS

"The [New Zealand] High Court has been asked to overturn a Cabinet decision to artificially deflate the price of carbon because it went against the advice of the Climate Change Commission.

"The climate-concerned lawyers behind a previous major legal action against the Government and the Commission filed a new statement of claim on Tuesday [16th May], this time targeting Climate Change Minister James Shaw. Lawyers for Climate Action (LCANZI) says Cabinet's decision to reject the advice of the commission on price controls in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) violated the Zero Carbon Act's requirements.

"While Shaw recommended following the commission's settings in full, Cabinet overrode him in a late November meeting due to concerns about the impact of a rising carbon price on the cost of living. As the climate minister, it was ultimately Shaw's responsibility to carry out Cabinet's decision.

"In its advice last month on future ETS settings, the commission scolded the Government for ignoring its advice.


"Weakening decisions on NZ ETS settings and climate policy in general during times of adverse economic conditions, which climate change is only likely to exacerbate, is not sustainable in the long run and will greatly compromise our chance of meeting the climate change targets set out in the act', Carr wrote.

"At the time, climate policy expert Christina Hood said the harsh language in the report was the most critical the commission had been of a government decision.

"This is much clearer and stronger than anything we've seen the Commission come out with before. It's a real shot across the bows', she said.

"They obviously think the Government has made a mistake and are not pulling any punches in saying so.'

More: www.newsroom.co.nz/sustainable-future/govt-taken-to-court-for-ignoring-climate-commission-on-ets

Source: LCANZI, 17th May 2023. 

Nurturing Our Humanity: How Domination and Partnership Shape Our Brains, Lives, and Future

"*Nurturing Our Humanity* offers a new perspective on our personal and social options in today's world, showing how we can build societies which support our great human capacities for consciousness, caring, and creativity. It brings together findings – largely overlooked – from the natural and social sciences debunking the popular idea that we are hard-wired for selfishness, war, rape, and greed. Its ground-breaking new approach reveals connections between disturbing trends like climate change denial and regressions to strongman rule. Moving past right vs. left, religious vs. secular, Eastern vs. Western, and other familiar categories which do not include our formative parent-child and gender relations, it looks at where societies fall on the partnership-domination scale. On one end is the domination system which ranks man over man, man over woman, race over race, and man over nature. On the other end is the more peaceful, egalitarian, gender-balanced, and sustainable partnership system.....

More: www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/45150709 376 pages, August 2019, plus www.resilience.org/stories/2023-05-08/what-could-possibly-go-right-episode-100-riane-eisler/ and <https://rianeeisler.com/bookshelf/>

Source: Post Carbon Institute, 17th May 2023. 