

# Sustainability Matters

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Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

6<sup>th</sup> July 2023



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## ISSB Issues Inaugural Global Sustainability Disclosure Standards

"The International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) has today [26<sup>th</sup> June 2023] issued its inaugural standards – *IFRS S1 and IFRS S2* – ushering in a new era of sustainability-related disclosures in capital markets worldwide. The Standards will help to improve trust and confidence in company disclosures about sustainability to inform investment decisions.

"And for the first time, the Standards create a common language for disclosing the effect of climate-related risks and opportunities on a company's prospects. ....

"The ISSB developed *IFRS S1 and IFRS S2* with the benefit of extensive market feedback and in response to calls from the G20, the Financial Stability Board and the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), as well as leaders in the business and investor community.

"This support for a comprehensive global baseline of sustainability-related disclosures demonstrates the widespread demand for a consistent understanding of how sustainability factors affect companies' prospects.

"The ISSB Standards are designed to ensure companies provide sustainability-related information alongside financial statements – in the same reporting package. The Standards have been developed to be used in conjunction with any accounting requirements. They are also built on the concepts which underpin the IFRS Accounting Standards, which are required by more than 140 jurisdictions. The ISSB Standards are suitable for application around the world, creating a truly global baseline. ....

**More:** <https://mailchi.mp/3bbc132c5750/issb-climate-standards> plus [www.ifrs.org/news-and-events/news/2023/06/issb-issues-ifrs-s1-ifrs-s2/](http://www.ifrs.org/news-and-events/news/2023/06/issb-issues-ifrs-s1-ifrs-s2/) and [www.ifrs.org/content/dam/ifrs/project/general-sustainability-related-disclosures/feedback-statement.pdf](http://www.ifrs.org/content/dam/ifrs/project/general-sustainability-related-disclosures/feedback-statement.pdf) 26 pages, 197KB

**Source:** Investor Group on Climate Change, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**Editor:** Why though restricted solely to companies? 

## Australians Release Climate-related Financial Disclosure Consultation Paper

"The Australian government's new rules for climate disclosures, as proposed today [27<sup>th</sup> June], provide many of the elements investors will need to efficiently allocate capital in the transition to a resilient, net zero economy.


The proposals have a far lower i.e. more encompassing thresholds than those mandated in NZ, and has features submitted to but not accepted by New Zealand authorities.

There could be spill-over impacts on some New Zealand entities.

Read the newsletter in full.

**Submissions Close:** 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023

**More:** <https://mailchi.mp/3bbc132c5750/issb-climate-standards> plus <https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-06/c2023-402245.pdf> 31 pages, 855KB

**Source:** Investor Group on Climate Change, 27<sup>th</sup> June. 


## Standardised Natural Capital Management Accounting

"A methodology promoting the integration of nature in business decision making project led by the Value Balancing Alliance (VBA), the Capitals Coalition, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the European Commission's DG Environment) has been .... to develop a standardised Natural Capital Management Accounting (NCMA) methodology for business .....

"The focus ..... is to measure and value how business activities affect societies through changes in natural capital and ecosystem services, and how businesses can identify their dependencies on natural capital through ecosystem services ..... To this end, the NCMA methodology focuses on the application of natural capital accounting in a business decision-making context, that is, in a management accounting rather than an external reporting capacity. In doing so, it also aims to improve data quality and robustness for business decision making, noting .... the data can, in turn, be used for external reporting to stakeholders. ....

**More:** <https://capitalscoalition.org/publication/the-natural-capital-management-accounting-methodology/> plus <https://capitalscoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Transparent-NCMA-Methodology-Final.pdf> 88 pages, 1.79Mb

**Source:** Capitals Coalition, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

**Editor:** Page 12: Natural capital is the stock of renewable and non-renewable natural resources, both biotic and abiotic (e.g., plants, animals, air, water, soils, minerals), that combine to yield a flow of benefits to people. .... 


## 2023 Insights on New Zealand Sustainability Professionals

"New research into New Zealand's sustainability profession has found most sustainability professionals are reasonably confident in their current ability to do their role. However, only half of them believe their current capability development is enough for their future role requirements.

Oxygen Consulting, in collaboration with the SBC, SBN and AUT, launched on 29<sup>th</sup> June the *2023 Insights on New Zealand's Sustainability Professionals* report which aims to dig into the challenges and opportunities for those working in the sustainability profession. .... The 2023 findings highlight the lack of professional training options in New Zealand as a major barrier faced by sustainability professionals.

"Sustainability is now a commercial imperative for many organisations and there is an increasing expectation businesses will do it properly, as compliance standards and industry guidelines rapidly evolve, and sustainability becomes fiscally linked to lending or investment requirements. It's a serious game now, so we need highly capable people at the wheel ensuring their organisations are addressing sustainability appropriately.' .....

**More:** <https://sbc.org.nz/lack-of-capability-training-remains-a-significant-barrier-for-sustainability-professionals/> plus [www.oxygen-consulting.co.nz/download-reports](http://www.oxygen-consulting.co.nz/download-reports) 37 pages, 2.87Mb

**Source:** *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023. 

## Recommendations for e-Product Stewardship Scheme Published

"From July 2020 to May 2023, TechCollect NZ led the nation's co-design process for a regulated e-product stewardship scheme with support from their Circular E-stewards Network, and input from a wide range of stakeholders in the e-product and e-waste value chain, across Aotearoa New Zealand and the globe.

"The recommendations reports bring the significant efforts and contributions of so many together, making strong recommendations for a new system of shared responsibility that will help Kiwis to manage e-products sustainably throughout their life cycle, and progress Aotearoa New Zealand's transition to a circular economy.

"All available options were explored during the process to co-develop scheme framing and design recommendations fit for the NZ context, while understanding the current state of our market, and the best parts of well-established schemes overseas.

"The outputs comprise four documents linked to news releases;

- E-Product Stewardship in Aotearoa New Zealand Report One – Scheme Framing and Design Options
- E-Product Stewardship in Aotearoa New Zealand Report Two – Scheme Framing and Design Recommendations
- The International Research Paper: Product stewardship and extended producer responsibility for e-products and e-waste,
- The Network Assessment Report: E-product and e-waste management services in Aotearoa New Zealand

The earliest possible start date for a regulated electrical and electronic product stewardship scheme is expected to be in 2025 per the co-design process timeline and key activities summary infographic.

**More:** <https://techcollect.nz/e-waste-product-stewardship-new-zealand/>

**Source:** *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 29th June 2023

**Editor:** This is a substantial piece of work. 

## None of the Sustainable Development Goals on Course to be Achieved by 2030

"While the world made some progress on SDGs between 2015 to 2019, the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine have caused progress to fall behind projected performances based on pre-pandemic trends.


"At the halfway point of the SDGs, a new SDSN report warns that not a single SDG will be achieved by 2030 at the current rate, and on average less than 20% of the SDG's underlying targets are on track to be achieved.

"The report highlights there is a risk the gap in SDG outcomes between high-income countries (HICs) and low-income countries (LICs) will be larger in 2030 than it was in 2015, putting a decade of progress against the Goals at risk.

"The president of the SDSN and a lead author of the report Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs said: 'Halfway to 2030, the SDGs are seriously off track—with the poor and highly vulnerable countries suffering the most.' .....

**More:** [www.edie.net/report-none-of-the-sustainable-development-goals-on-course-to-be-achieved-by-2030](http://www.edie.net/report-none-of-the-sustainable-development-goals-on-course-to-be-achieved-by-2030) plus <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/> and <https://s3.amazonaws.com/sustainabledevelopmentreport/2023/2023-sustainable-development-report.pdf> 546 pages, 53Mb

**Source:** edie, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023

**Editor:** NZ ranks 27<sup>th</sup> with score of 78.43 way behind for instance Poland, Estonia and Czechia. Finland 1<sup>st</sup> with 86.76 <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/rankings> 

## The Perils of Capitalism and Disinformation: 4 Critical New Books

"You can't stop climate change or the extinction crisis without fighting inequality, injustice and conspiracies.

Not every environmental book is an environmental book. Sometimes the best wisdom on how to protect the planet comes from books on other subjects.

"Take the four books in this month's column, for example. None of them are wholly about environmental issues, but they do focus on capitalism, misinformation, inequality and corruption – among the root causes of climate change, environmental injustice and the extinction crisis.

"We can't solve any of these crises without addressing the problems which created them in the first place, so let's dig into these new books about the 'wolves of Wall Street' and other critical topics so we can better protect wolves in the wild — not to mention ourselves;

- *It's OK to Be Angry About Capitalism*. By Sen. Bernie Sanders with John Nichols. ....
- *Foolproof: Why Misinformation Infects Our Minds and How to Build Immunity*. by Sander van der Linden. ....
- *Win Every Argument: The Art of Debating, Persuading and Public Speaking*. By Mehdi Hasan. ....
- *The Big Myth: How American Business Taught Us to Loathe Government and Love the Free Market*. By Naomi Oreskes & Erik M. Conway. ....

**More:** <https://therevelator.org/capitalism-disinformation-books/>

**Source:** Center for Biological Diversity, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023.

**Editor:** Each seems to merit a read. Plus, from February 2023 the first must-read environmental books: From wolves to climate change, these new books will help set the agenda for the year ahead. At

<https://therevelator.org/environmental-books-feb23/>

## Navigating the Polycrisis of Environmental and Social Breakdown


"In recent years, policy think tanks have increasingly adopted the term polycrisis to signify humanity's destabilised status quo.

"Welcome to the *Great Unraveling: Navigating the Polycrisis of Environmental and Social Breakdown* seeks to build a coherent narrative about the roots of the polycrisis, the signs of its arrival and evolution, and why we should be thinking differently about the future. ....

"*Welcome to the Great Unraveling* is intended to help the general public – but particularly academics and researchers, environmental and social justice nongovernmental organisations and their funders, and the media – recognise what the Great Unraveling is, what it means for both human civilisation and the global ecosystem, and what we can do in response. The paper calls attention to four main things:

1. The alarming, rapidly changing environmental and social conditions of the Great Unraveling
2. The need to grapple with complexity, uncertainty, and conflicting priorities – hallmarks of the Great Unraveling
3. The need to maintain social cohesion within societies and peaceful relations between them during the Great Unraveling, while implementing key changes in collective behaviour and managing the negative consequences of past failures to act; and
4. The personal competencies needed to understand what's happening during the Great Unraveling and to respond constructively, primarily by building household and community resilience for this precarious time.

**More:** [www.postcarbon.org/publications/welcome-to-the-great-unraveling/](http://www.postcarbon.org/publications/welcome-to-the-great-unraveling/) Available in 4Mb and 42mb file sizes

**Source:** Post Carbon Institute, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023. 

## Turning Pine Needles from Fire Risk to Renewable Fuel

"The flammability of pine needles, a major fire hazard in the coniferous forests of India's vast sub-Himalayan belt, makes them an abundant source of renewable energy, say researchers.

"Fallen pine needles need to be removed from forest floors because they can ignite during dry spells and set off devastating forest fires, say the researchers from India's state-run Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering (CIAE).

"Their study, published in *Current Science*, looked at how the charring and briquetting of pine needles could potentially help reduce greenhouse gas generation. ...

"Pyrolysis of pine needles also produces biochar which is an ideal material for soil carbon sequestration and can contribute to mitigating climate change, according to the researchers.

"The analysis showed that energy efficiency of 87% can be achieved by combining the three conversion technologies considered – briquetting, charring and pyrolysis.

"Pine needles differ from other types of plant biomass in that they are not easily decomposed by microbes and accumulate on the forest floor. ....

**More:** [www.eco-business.com/news/turning-pine-needles-from-fire-risk-to-renewable-fuel/](http://www.eco-business.com/news/turning-pine-needles-from-fire-risk-to-renewable-fuel/) plus [www.currentscience.ac.in/Volumes/124/10/1210.pdf](http://www.currentscience.ac.in/Volumes/124/10/1210.pdf)  
6 pages, 504KB


**Source:** eco-Business.com, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023. 

## Why Birds and Their Songs Are Good for Our Mental Health

"A study published in the journal *Science* reveals that listening to bird songs has significant mental health benefits. Researchers found exposure to natural sounds, especially bird songs, reduces stress and improves cognitive functioning. The study suggests incorporating nature sounds into urban environments can enhance mental well-being. The calming effects of bird songs can help combat the negative impacts of urbanisation and contribute to improved mental health for individuals living in urban areas.

**More:** [www.carbonees.com/single-post/snippets-for-25-may-2023](http://www.carbonees.com/single-post/snippets-for-25-may-2023) plus [www.washingtonpost.com/wellness/interactive/2023/birds-song-nature-mental-health-benefits/](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wellness/interactive/2023/birds-song-nature-mental-health-benefits/)

**Source:** *SnippETS*, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

**Editor:** Unfortunately with my hearing impediment I'm now seldom able to hear birds. 

## Lake Onslow Not Getting a Fair Hearing, Environment Commissioner Warns


"Consumers could pay back \$15 billion to construct the Lake Onslow power station and still have cheaper energy bills compared to doing nothing.

"That's because the pumped hydro station would significantly lower peak-time electricity prices, according to modelling by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment.

"But consumers aren't familiar with Lake Onslow's strengths or weaknesses – because both proponents and opponents typically use hyperbole rather than serious analysis, commissioner Simon Upton said.

"Upton's team analysed the economic costs and benefits of four energy scenarios: the construction of Lake Onslow, the closure of the Tiwai Point aluminium smelter, the establishment of a large 'green hydrogen' factory in Southland and business as usual. ....

**More:** [www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/132320507/lake-onslow-not-getting-a-fair-hearing-environment-commissioner-warns](http://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/132320507/lake-onslow-not-getting-a-fair-hearing-environment-commissioner-warns)

**Source:** Editor, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023. 

## 3M in \$10.3 Billion Settlement Over "Forever Chemicals" in Water Systems

"Chemical manufacturer 3M Co. will pay at least \$10.3 billion to settle lawsuits over contamination of many U.S. public drinking water systems with potentially harmful compounds used in firefighting foam and a host of consumer products, the company said Thursday.

"The deal would compensate water providers for pollution with per- and polyfluorinated substances, known collectively as PFAS - a broad class of chemicals used in nonstick, water- and grease-resistant products such as clothing and cookware.

"Described as 'forever chemicals' because they don't degrade naturally in the environment, PFAS have been linked to a variety of health problems, including liver and immune-system damage and some cancers.

"The compounds have been detected at varying levels in drinking water around the nation [USA]. The Environmental Protection Agency in March proposed strict limits on two common types, PFOA and PFOS, and said it wanted to regulate four others. Water providers would be responsible for monitoring their systems for the chemicals. ....

"The settlement will be paid over 13 years and could reach as high as \$12.5 billion, depending on how many public water systems detect PFAS during testing that EPA has required in the next three years, ....

"The payment will help cover costs of filtering PFAS from systems where it's been detected and testing others, ....

"Earlier this month [June], three other companies – DuPont de Nemours Inc. and spinoffs Chemours Co. and Corteva Inc. reached a \$1.18 billion deal to resolve PFAS complaints by about 300 drinking water providers. ....

**More:** [www.cbsnews.com/news/3m-10-8-billion-settlement-pfas-forever-chemicals-water-systems/](http://www.cbsnews.com/news/3m-10-8-billion-settlement-pfas-forever-chemicals-water-systems/)

**Source:** *atAdvocacy News*, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**Editor:** It is likely these same chemicals are also used in other countries. 

## Climate Governance for NFP Directors: Starting the Journey to Net Zero

"In recent years, directors of NFPs have consistently told us they are concerned about climate change but unsure how to get started against competing priorities and limited resources. To assist NFP directors in addressing climate change governance, the AICD has developed a practical guide with PwC.


"This new guide provides a simple roadmap for NFPs seeking to make a difference at a local level. It includes tools and specific examples to take action to address climate change, such as reducing energy consumption or transitioning to renewable energy sources.

"Specifically, the guide covers the following:

- Understanding and improving your organisation's carbon footprint
- Understanding your climate governance obligations.
- Considering stakeholder views on climate
- Assessing climate risks and developing mitigation measures
- Considering climate opportunities.

**More:** [www.aicd.com.au/risk-management/framework/climate/climate-governance-for-nfp-directors-starting-the-journey-to-net-zero.html](http://www.aicd.com.au/risk-management/framework/climate/climate-governance-for-nfp-directors-starting-the-journey-to-net-zero.html) plus [www.aicd.com.au/content/dam/aicd/pdf/news-media/research/2023/NFP-Climate-Governance-Guide.pdf](http://www.aicd.com.au/content/dam/aicd/pdf/news-media/research/2023/NFP-Climate-Governance-Guide.pdf) 45pages 4.39Mb

**Source:** Debbie Kandauw, CA ANZ, Weekly Digest for Climate & Sustainability, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**Editor:** Refers to NZ's SBN – can you find the reference? 

## Auckland Climate Festival 2023

"The Auckland Climate Festival is an annual festival held in Tāmaki Makaurau. It is a space for us all to come together as a city to celebrate, catalyse and accelerate climate action. Since its inception in 2021, the Auckland Climate Festival has doubled in size, seeing over 150 events, initiatives and activations hosted in 2022. In 2023, we are excited to build on the successes of previous years to deliver another dynamic and impactful Auckland Climate Festival.

"The Festival is a time for all Aucklanders to engage in climate action through attending a diverse range of events, initiatives and activations taking place all across the region.

"ACF is a month long .... creating space for us to come together as a city to celebrate, catalyse and accelerate climate action.


"Running for the third time, Aucklanders will engage in climate action through attending a diverse range of events, initiatives and activations taking place all across the region.

"The festival's open platform invites climate leaders to engage with communities, mana whenua, rangatahi, businesses and government to co-create the festival programme as a whole-of-society response to the climate emergency.

"The ACF organising team acts to convene climate leadership and provides a platform and thematic structure for the festival events, initiatives and activations. Event organisers are responsible for organising and hosting their own event(s), initiatives and activations

**When/Where:** 31<sup>st</sup> Aug. to 29<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2023 Auckland

**More:** [www.aucklandclimatefestival.co.nz/news-content/74f29e64-c1fd-4242-8cad-76b4768a2b28](http://www.aucklandclimatefestival.co.nz/news-content/74f29e64-c1fd-4242-8cad-76b4768a2b28) plus [www.aucklandclimatefestival.co.nz/faq](http://www.aucklandclimatefestival.co.nz/faq)

**Source:** Go Well, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023. 

## Consumer Plastic Packaging

"Speaking of produce, from Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023, plastic fruit and vege bags will be consigned to history. Many of you, I suspect, have been using reusable produce bags alongside carry bags for ages. But from July, everyone will join in as new rules limiting plastic take force. All up, the Ministry for the Environment tells me, the regulations will prevent 1 billion hard-to-recycle plastic items from being created and eventually ending up in landfill – or waterways and oceans.

"Included are:

- 600 million plastic plates, bowls and cutlery
  - 200m plastic straws
  - 150m single-use produce bags
  - 367.5m plastic fruit and vegetable stickers.
- Apparently, NZ uses up to 7.4 billion plastic labels each year, .... We then export 7 billion of them overseas, mainly on kiwifruit. These stickers will be phased out over two years.

"Jill Ford, a waste reduction campaigner with RefillNZ, said: '..... a lot of it could easily be avoided. It's a good start, but it's too slow. I'd like to see it happen a lot faster, but we've got to give the [waste and recycling] industry enough warning or else we're going to end up sending lots of plastic and paper to under-developed countries', she said. 'They are not going to invest millions into new machinery unless they know it's actually going to happen.'

"Ford added: 'We're not making producers responsible. .... We need to have less of this crap. We've got all this packaging, things are covered in plastic... We need to start putting a cost on producing all this rubbish.'

**More:** <https://t.comms.stuff.co.nz/nl/jsp/m.jsp?c=%40%2FmtgAL5m71vy%2BpRDVA99A%2FcahT7yk3%2F%2Bt7fftgGkaqw%3D&cid>

**Source:** Forever Project, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023. 

## Climate Ambition To Advocacy: A Framework for Responsible Policy Engagement

"The enormous uptake of corporate climate action commitments is one of the great successes since the Paris Climate Agreement. The growth in companies setting targets through the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) has been incredible, passing 5,000 companies in early 2023. This corporate climate ambition must be accompanied by the other '4 A's of Climate Leadership', the framework for credible climate action developed by the We Mean Business Coalition: action, accountability and – of course – advocacy.

"Because to deliver the change required this decade to keep the goals of the Paris Agreement within reach, we must harness the positive dynamic between public climate policy and corporate climate action.

"Ultimately, corporations do not operate in isolation. They will not meet their climate targets without strong climate policy.

"Companies serious about meeting their climate targets know the right government policies and regulations are critical to accelerate progress. By advocating for pro-climate measures and intervening when their trade groups lobby against them, business can help bring about policies that unlock investment and deliver action at scale – and cut their emissions faster.


....  
"The Responsible Policy Engagement (RPE) framework enables companies to reap the business benefits of responsible advocacy and respond to rising stakeholder expectations. It was developed by the We Mean Business Coalition and Ceres, alongside a taskforce of leading NGO partners with input from over 60 companies, and brings together the best available tools, guides, standards and case studies.

**More:** [www.wemeanbusinesscoalition.org/blog/close-the-advocacy-gap/](http://www.wemeanbusinesscoalition.org/blog/close-the-advocacy-gap/) plus [www.wemeanbusinesscoalition.org/rpe/](http://www.wemeanbusinesscoalition.org/rpe/) 24pages, 9.51Mb

**Source:** *Climate Home News*, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**Editor:** Page 6. The 4 A's of Climate Leadership:

- Leading businesses respond to the climate crisis with AMBITION.
- They deliver on that ambition with ACTION.
- They speak up to secure wider change through ADVOCACY.
- And they drive progress by demonstrating ACCOUNTABILITY.

Plus Page 6. RPE is defined as: External corporate policy engagement that recognises the threat of climate inaction and supports policy interventions and investments that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at a pace in line with net zero by 2050. This external engagement is enabled by internal processes that align corporate functions with climate targets. 

## A Guide to Materiality in Sustainability

"This guidance document introduces the concepts of materiality and stakeholder engagement and is meant for people within organisations involved with sustainability and sustainability reporting. It is a starting point for Sustainable Business Council (SBC) members beginning their journey to explore materiality and stakeholder engagement.

"It includes key definitions, a suggested approach to the materiality process, an overview of materiality assessments and best practice examples to help bring it all to life. ....

"The document was developed to provide an overview of the process and is not a substitute for utilising experts.

**More:** <https://sbc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/SBC-Materiality-Toolkit.pdf> 5 pages, 775KB

**Source:** *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023. 