

# Sustainability Matters

Compiled and published by Ray Skinner, FCA

Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

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## Crucial Global Climatic System Could Face Tipping Point in Two Years

"A major climatic system which helps regulate weather in Europe and North America could collapse as soon as 2025 due to greenhouse gas emissions, far sooner than United Nations scientists had predicted, according to a paper published overnight in the leading scientific journal *Nature Communications*.

"Danish researchers Peter Ditlevsen and Susanne Ditlevsen analysed sea surface temperatures in the North Atlantic between 1870 and 2020, and say they have found early warning signals of a big change to the system, which might suggest it could shut down as early as 2025, and no later than 2095.

"By comparison, the heatwaves causing havoc across the northern hemisphere over recent weeks are thought to have been exacerbated by global warming of about 1.2 degrees since humans began releasing greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere at the start of the industrial revolution.

"The potential collapse of the AMOC (Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation) had been considered in recent United Nations climate assessments, but it was viewed as unlikely to occur this century. ....

**More:** [www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/crucial-global-climatic-system-could-face-tipping-point-in-two-years-20230725-p5dr6p.html](http://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/crucial-global-climatic-system-could-face-tipping-point-in-two-years-20230725-p5dr6p.html) plus [www.nature.com/articles/s41467-023-39810-w](http://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-023-39810-w)

**Source:** SMH, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

## Just Transitions Guide to Help Aotearoa New Zealand Communities

"We recently held a webinar where we presented our new research-based and action-oriented guide to help communities and organisations run their own just transition processes in response to challenges like climate change, rapid technological change, employment changes in regions and the transition to renewable energy.

"The guide offers practical ideas, methods, and tools enabling communities to come together to solve problems in ways which work better for everyone. It draws on tikanga and mātauranga Māori and includes brief case studies of transitions led by iwi, hapū and Māori communities as well as other communities around Aotearoa.

"The guide is available online and can be downloaded for free from the websites of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and Motu Economic and Public Policy Research. ....

"Let's spread the word to help communities in Aotearoa prepare for and respond to the challenges ahead, in a way which is fair to all.

There is also a recording of the seminar and seminar slides.

**More:** <https://motu.outreach.co.nz/?Ns=&Na=view-msg-public&SMESG-oid=23919&S> plus <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/business-and-employment/economic-development/just-transition/just-transitions-guide> 36Mb, 82 pages

**Source:** Motu, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

## Removing Carbon from Earth's Atmosphere May Not 'Fix' Climate Change

"Removing carbon from Earth's atmosphere may not reverse devastating changes to weather patterns in vulnerable areas, a new study suggests.

"In the study, Korean researchers simulated how removing large quantities of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide from the air might affect the progress of local climate changes related to global warming. The study, based on computer modeling, examined a hypothetical scenario, in which carbon dioxide concentrations continued to rise from present-day levels for 140 years, then were gradually reduced back to the initial levels over another 140-year period ....

"The study results suggest the local climate in these areas would not return to normal for more than 200 years after the carbon dioxide concentrations drop. The Mediterranean region, for example, plagued by ever more severe ....

**More:** [www.space.com/carbon-removal-does-not-reverse-climate-change-effects](http://www.space.com/carbon-removal-does-not-reverse-climate-change-effects) plus [www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.adg1801](http://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.adg1801)

**Source:** Ann Smith LinkedIn comment, 6<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

## Climate Change Means Farms Must Adapt

"Some of New Zealand's farms may become unprofitable unless they adapt to the changing climate and the associated increase in the number of extreme weather events it will bring. Rising temperatures could even mean growing common varieties of kiwifruit will become impossible in regions including the Bay of Plenty.

"That's the warning from a landmark report commissioned by Westpac and carried out by the Agribusiness and Economics Research Unit at Lincoln University. It calls for the agricultural sector to act now to reduce its own carbon emissions and gear up for the inevitable shifts in temperatures, rainfall patterns and storms. ....

"The report highlights dangers threatening incomes: ....

"Grasping new opportunities .....

**More:** [www.acuitymag.com/finance/climate-change-means-farms-must-adapt-westpac](http://www.acuitymag.com/finance/climate-change-means-farms-must-adapt-westpac) plus [www.westpac.co.nz/assets/Business/agribusiness/documents/Lincoln-University-Agribusiness-Climate-Change-Report-Westpac-NZ.pdf](http://www.westpac.co.nz/assets/Business/agribusiness/documents/Lincoln-University-Agribusiness-Climate-Change-Report-Westpac-NZ.pdf) 40 pages, 1.76 Mb. Nov. 2022

**Source:** CA ANZ Auckland Regional News, 7<sup>th</sup> August.

## Talk About It: How Climate Conversation Groups Inspire Action

"When it comes to the climate crisis, discussion doesn't just decrease anxiety – it spurs real change, too.

"..... Crosby said she hopes initiatives like We Outside will be a starting point for more inclusive conversations about climate change. The goal, she said, is to hold space 'where people can be open and curious about the way they are affected by their environment and nature, and [also] how they affect their environment and nature – ultimately encouraging them to move that into action.'

**More:** <https://reasonstobecheerful.world/climate-conversation-groups-action/>

**Source:** reasons to be cheerful, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

## Citizens' Assemblies Give Hope for Reinvigorating Democracy

"An experiment in deliberative democracy on the future of Tamaki Makaurau Auckland's water supply gives hope for reinvigorating democracy and complex decision making.

"Last year, Koi Tū: The Centre for Informed Futures and Watercare partnered on a novel approach to involve Aucklanders in a decision-making process that could become a model throughout the country.


"The organisations set up a citizens' assembly to learn first-hand from Auckland residents about their preferences for meeting the city's future water needs. The water-supply is under pressure from a growing population, changing rainfall patterns due to climate change and a long-term need to reduce the water take from the Waikato River.

"The process and lessons learnt, and how deliberative democracy was localised for a New Zealand context, are covered in a new Koi Tū case study report, *Citizens' assembly on the next source of water for Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland*.

"Dr Anne Bardsley,....., says the assembly was part of Koi Tū's Complex Conversations research programme, designed to promote informed public decision-making and help citizens find agreement on complex issues. 'There is real potential for tackling long-term difficult to discuss issues through these sorts of facilitated public processes', she says.

"After four weekends of deliberation, the assembly recommended direct recycled water as the next source of water for Auckland, recognising engaging the Auckland public in education on the safety and quality of the water would be necessary to facilitate acceptance.....

**More:** <https://informedfutures.org/citizens-assemblies-give-hope-for-reinvigorating-democracy/> plus <https://auckland.figshare.com/ndownloader/files/39685036> 51 pages, 2.28Mb

**Source:** IPANZ, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023. 

## The Colour of Grass Roots: Diversifying the Climate Movement

"In this e360 interview, we talk with environmentalist Heather McTeer Toney about efforts by Black communities to block the expansion of U.S. petrochemical facilities in places like Louisiana's 'Cancer Alley' and the Texas Gulf Coast. Toney, executive director of the Beyond Petrochemicals campaign, says these initiatives show the important role which Black, Latino, and Indigenous communities need to play in the fight against pollution and climate change 'We can't separate climate and the environment from all other social justice concerns', she says. 'The reality is, every single one of our issues touches the others, and climate change touches all of them.'

**More:** <https://e360.yale.edu/features/heather-mcteer-toney-interview>


**Source:** *Yale Environment 360*, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023. 

## Regenerating Nature in Aotearoa New Zealand: The Transformative Role of Business

"Today [27<sup>th</sup> July] we're launching a new report revealing the crucial role businesses have in regenerating nature in NZ. ....

"We're also launching our Regenerate Nature Programme today. It includes a raft of initiatives to help you take nature action in your business. They focus on raising awareness, making investing in nature easy, and enabling strategic collaborations.

**More:** <https://sustainable.org.nz/media/nnjhr0sb/regenerating-nature-in-aotearoa-new-zealand-report.pdf> 52pages, 6.42Mb

**Source:** SBN, 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023. 

## Disaster Recovery Efforts Can Service More than One Goal

"In the aftermath of last week's [second week of July] floods, my home state of Vermont faces a daunting path to recovery. Flooding damaged homes and businesses. Roads and bridges washed out, and communities have been cut off from the rest of the state. Vermont has walked this path before, after Tropical Storm Irene, and we are not alone in facing a recovery now. As the climate crisis deepens, more places will be spending more time in recovery mode.

"Recovery isn't just a difficult task. It's also one with lasting consequences. Rebuilt infrastructure will – hopefully – stand for decades to come. Over its lifetime, it will influence climate resilience, carbon emissions, health, well-being and social equity.

**More:** [www.resilience.org/stories/2023-07-21/disaster-recovery-efforts-can-serve-more-than-one-goal/](http://www.resilience.org/stories/2023-07-21/disaster-recovery-efforts-can-serve-more-than-one-goal/)

**Source:** Post Carbon Institute, 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**Editor:** Useful ideas for NZ and elsewhere. 


## ETS Judicial Review Success

"We have some exciting updates following our recent success in LCAZNI's judicial review of the regulations set by the Minister for Climate Change under the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).

"Last week, less than two weeks after the High Court agreed with us and found there were serious flaws in Cabinet's decision-making process, Cabinet significantly changed the unit limits and price control settings under the ETS. Cabinet decided to bring the settings in line with Climate Change Commission's advice.

"This is a major change to the ETS, and means it is a much more effective tool for meeting Aotearoa's emissions reduction targets. The price floor for carbon will almost double from December, and the number of emission units available for auction over 2023-2028 will be reduced by 17.6 million. We could not have hoped for a more impactful response to our case.

**More:** [www.lawyersforclimateaction.nz/newsletters/lcanzi-newsletter-july-2023](http://www.lawyersforclimateaction.nz/newsletters/lcanzi-newsletter-july-2023) plus [www.lawyersforclimateaction.nz/news-events/lcanzi-welcomes-new-ets-settings-following-successful-judicial-review](http://www.lawyersforclimateaction.nz/news-events/lcanzi-welcomes-new-ets-settings-following-successful-judicial-review) and [www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/132618885/after-court-loss-ministers-lift-the-lid-on-the-cost-to-pollute](http://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/132618885/after-court-loss-ministers-lift-the-lid-on-the-cost-to-pollute)


**Source:** LCAZNI, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023. 

## Development of a Company-Level Cost-Benefit Analysis Framework

"What is the true value of water stewardship? With the water crisis playing out in real time across the globe, the days of misusing and misvaluing the world's most precious natural resource are over. But for many companies working to better manage water, developing a complete financial picture which bolsters the business case for action is, itself, a work in progress.

"A new analysis from Ceres and the consultancy Bluerisk introduces a framework which sheds light on the full value of water by estimating the cost of solutions and potential business and societal benefits of water management strategies. The analysis includes an illustrative example showing how the cost-benefit analysis framework can be applied to help a company identify opportunities and prioritise action for the greatest impact. ....

**More:** [www.ceres.org/resources/reports/development-company-level-cost-benefit-analysis-framework](http://www.ceres.org/resources/reports/development-company-level-cost-benefit-analysis-framework) 14 pages 1.01Mb

**Source:** Ceres, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023. 

## **Scaling Limestone Calcined Clay Cement (LC3): Learnings from the First Movers**

"RMI is hosting a global webinar on limestone calcined clay cement (LC3) with leading industry experts this August. LC3 is a new cement blend which uses limestone and calcined clay and has up to 40% lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions than Ordinary Portland Cement.

"The webinar will discuss the potential of LC3 cement as an innovative decarbonisation lever and the deployment of best practices, business cases, as well as opportunities and challenges. The webinar will prominently feature a panel discussion with some of the first movers in the industry who will share their experiences. Dr. Karen Scrivener of Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), will also be delivering a keynote at the webinar.

**When/Where:** Wed, 30<sup>th</sup> Aug, 10:00–11:30 a.m. ET. Online

**More:** <https://rmi.org/events>

**Source:** RMI 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023

**Editor:** More about LC3 at <https://lc3.ch/> and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limestone\\_Calcined\\_Clay\\_Cement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limestone_Calcined_Clay_Cement)

## **Climate Action Aotearoa. The Funders Commitment on Climate Action**

"In October 2021, a collective of Community Trusts launched Climate Action Aotearoa: the Funders Commitment on Climate Action. Climate Action Aotearoa signals the beginning of a collective willing to take considered action on climate change in Aotearoa. The aim is for all funders in Aotearoa to join and for philanthropy to enable the big shifts we all need to make.

"The commitment is designed to be a high-level document that other New Zealand philanthropic funders are encouraged to sign up to. ....

"The signatories which have undersigned this commitment include; Foundation North, Trust Waikato, BayTrust, Toi Foundation, Eastern and Central Community Trust, Wellington Community Fund, Rātā Foundation, The Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury, Otago Community Trust, Community Trust South, Biome Trust Aotearoa, The Gift Trust, Seed The Change | He Kakano Hapai, and The Values Trust. ....

"The Funders Commitment on Climate Action includes seven-parts, encompassing a unique Aotearoa perspective reflecting Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Māori aspirations, and reporting back to our communities and stakeholders the actions that signatories undertake. ....

**More:** [www.climateactionaotearoa.co.nz/post/funders-commitment-inaugural-report](http://www.climateactionaotearoa.co.nz/post/funders-commitment-inaugural-report) plus [www.climateactionaotearoa.co.nz](http://www.climateactionaotearoa.co.nz)

**Source:** *Place newsletter* (Silvia Purdie), 17<sup>th</sup> July.

## **Don't Let a Good Story Get in the Way of the Truth**

"There's every good reason for someone to look for a simple handbook to guide them through 'how to do sustainability'. It's an entirely rational human response to a legitimate feeling of overwhelm and over-complexity. Responding with any degree of effectiveness to the herculean challenge that is making yourself / your company / your country / your planet sustainable enough to support life for future generations is hard. It takes courage, tenacity, grit and patience. It takes having some tough conversations in the face of some pretty challenging trade-offs. And, increasingly, it takes an encyclopaedic understanding of a dizzying plethora of frameworks. ....

**More:** [www.linkedin.com/pulse/dont-let-good-story-get-way-truth-gerri-ward/](http://www.linkedin.com/pulse/dont-let-good-story-get-way-truth-gerri-ward/)

**Source:** Alison Howard, LinkedIn share 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023

**Editor:** Excellent article.

## **Masterclass: Communicating Sustainability**

"Learn how to communicate sustainability effectively, authentically and impactfully.

"This practical one-day event will show you how to share your sustainability story and report progress, while avoiding the greenwash trap.

"At this Masterclass, you'll come away equipped with tools and knowledge you can apply to your business right away. The day comprises plenary presentations, panel discussions and a selection of workshops. There will be ample time for networking with like-minded professionals.

"Topics include: Greenwashing, sustainability storytelling, sustainability reporting, media relations, digital tools and AI, strategy, campaigns, best practice and more.

"Speakers include: Aotearoa New Zealand's leading sustainability communicators: Jon Duffy and Gemma Rasmussen from Consumer NZ; Jo Bye from EECA; Simon Coley from Karma Drinks and All Good Organics; Vincent Heeringa and many more.

**When/Where:** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023. Auckland.

**More:** <https://sustainable.org.nz/learn/events/masterclass-communicating-sustainability>

**Source:** SBN, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

## **How Do Australian Banks Stack Up on Climate Action?**

"Banks talk a big game when it comes to their climate commitments, but when you scratch beneath the surface, actions don't always match ambition.

"In this Australian-first benchmark of banks' climate commitments, we go into the details to uncover which are leading and which are lagging behind. Read for yourself and make sure the banks see it too.

"Send them our report and tell banks you won't sit back while they profit from the climate crisis, from families devastated by floods, from koalas becoming endangered from bushfires.

"They need to hear it. This is the decade we must shift away from the carbon-intensive economy and that decision sits with the banks. What we fund now is the future we're creating.

"Banks are powerful players in our economy – behind nearly every home loan, business, major infrastructure project, or other development is a bank financing the activity. They decide what projects get financed, and which don't – from big polluting coal power stations to world-leading renewable energy projects – and in doing so, shape the future of Australia. Together we can push our banks to help create a sustainable economy and a thriving future for everyone and everything we love.

"By comparing the banks for what they actually do rather than what they say, we can show them the road map to a world where money is used so nature and people thrive and create some healthy competition between them to speed things along. ....

Out of a max score of 100; their aggregated scores for; targets, strategy and action, governance, and reporting are;

ANZ	34.70	Macquarie Bank Group	46.02
Westpac	46.94	NAB	55.04
Commbank	62.04		

**More:** [www.acf.org.au/net-zero-benchmarks](http://www.acf.org.au/net-zero-benchmarks) plus [https://assets.nationbuilder.com/auscon/pages/22443/attachments/original/1691718063/Banks\\_Net\\_Zero\\_Benchmarking\\_Report.pdf](https://assets.nationbuilder.com/auscon/pages/22443/attachments/original/1691718063/Banks_Net_Zero_Benchmarking_Report.pdf) 30pages, 4.89Mb

**Source:** ACF, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023

**Editor:** The report provides 19 recommended next steps for the banks.

## Training: *Asking Climate Questions at Candidate Meetings*

"With the general election coming up, MPs and candidates often hold meetings for the public (that's you!), and answer questions from audience members.

"This is where we come in. By asking powerful climate questions – and recording the answers – we can show the politicians and the public the importance of climate justice. That's why asking questions at a public meeting is so powerful – it gets climate action on the mind of the politician, and prompts them to make a commitment (whether for or against) that's on record. Sometimes, the crowd will even applaud the question – putting even more heat on the politician.


"This training will give you all the tools to help out with this, and find you a suitable role – whether you want to be a question-asker, event-researcher, video-recorder, or something else.

"All you'll need is your computer and an internet connection.

**When/Where:** Wed, 23 Aug. 2023 at 7:00 - 8:15pm. Online.

**More:**

<https://community.climatechange.org.nz/events/training-asking-climate-questions-at-candidate-meetings>

**Source:** 350 Aotearoa, 1<sup>st</sup> -August 2023. 

## Mainstream Economists Accused of Playing Down Climate Threat

"Mainstream economics has consistently understated the economic damage of climate change, according to two recent reports.

"As economic models fail to include tipping points, floods, droughts or indoor work, they hugely underplay the economic damage that global warming will do, the reports argue.

"The models are relied upon by investors, politicians, central bank governors and influential bodies like the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

"An IPCC report last year, which was signed off by all governments, summarised these models to conclude warming of around 4°C 'may cause a 10-23% decline in global GDP by 2100 relative to global GDP without warming'. Other parts of the same report warned of catastrophic physical impacts at that level of warming.

"The professional body for the UK's actuaries (IFA), whose job is to judge risk for insurance companies and pension funds, published a report last month which argued influential economic models like this 'jar with climate science'. ....

"While Hodge says flaws in models are inevitable because they are intrinsically difficult and require a lot of computing power, Keen says they are a result of groupthink.

"He said economic journals are edited by economists who accept 'shoddy standards' when articles 'confirm what economists wish to believe'.


"These articles are often peer-reviewed, he says, only by other mainstream economists who are 'defending the faith' and not by climate scientists.

"The IPCC appoints economists who have been published in these journals to edit the economic chapters of its reports, he says, which therefore reflect the flawed economics. ....

**More:**

[www.climatechangenews.com/2023/08/08/economics-climate-threat-models/](http://www.climatechangenews.com/2023/08/08/economics-climate-threat-models/)


**Source:** Climate Home News, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

**Editor:** For many years it has been apparent the education of economists in this arena is deficient. 

## 'Old ladies': How Senior Swimmers Clean Up

"The Old Ladies Against Underwater Garbage (OLAUG) clear trash by hand, diving and hauling out everything from beer cans to fishing rods to tires. Conservation is of course the goal, but OLAUG is not just about the cleanup itself – it's also about showing the world what older women are capable of, and the sheer wonder and satisfaction of the experience.

**More:** <https://reasonstobecheerful.world/protecting-indias-imperiled-wildlife-3d-printed-teeth/>

**Source:** reasons to be cheerful, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023. 

## Over 85% of Vietnam's Major Businesses Commit to ESG Standards

"More than 85% of Vietnam's 500 fastest-growing companies (FAST 500) have committed or plan to comply with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards, according to a survey conducted by the Vietnam Report Company (Vietnam Report).

"As the global community continues to prioritise environmentally friendly and sustainable practices, Vietnam is also placing a great deal of emphasis on achieving carbon neutrality by the year 2050. FAST500 companies are aware of the importance of ESG standards and are in the process of adopting this strategy, the report states.

"Specifically, 14.8% of companies surveyed had initiated and implemented some of their ESG obligations, while 37% had fully planned and implemented their commitments. Only 14.8% of companies have no ESG commitments or have yet to develop a concrete implementation plan, while 33.3% are in the planning stage. ....

"In addition, a carbon emissions tax under the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) will be implemented in the EU, one of Vietnam's key markets, starting in 2023. Businesses which want to continue participation in this market will have to comply with these standards. Therefore, ESG will be critical to creating long-term value for companies. It will become a key factor in their success in the international marketplace. ....

**More:** <https://vietnamnet.vn/en/over-85-of-vietnam-s-major-businesses-commit-to-esg-standards-report-2125545.html>

**Source:** Ron Ainsbury (Currently working in Vietnam), 12<sup>th</sup> August 2023. 

## Weaving Climate and Ecological Resilience into Our Whenua

"Call to Action. Aotearoa New Zealand's rivers are polluted and choked with sediment, and forests are falling silent. Storms rage across our landscapes, driven by human-induced climate change, destroying communities and livelihoods, taking lives, and scarring the land. Ecosystems are collapsing, and sea levels and temperatures are rising.

"Papatūānuku is in trouble. And so are we, her people.

"The interrelated climate, fresh water and biodiversity crises are driven by human action, and inaction.

"We now face an existential crisis. We caused this mess; we must fix it.

"To this end, Pure Advantage and Tāne's Tree Trust, with a growing alliance of partners, including mana whenua groups with their ancestral connections with the land, are calling on Government, businesses, local communities, and every person in Aotearoa New Zealand to support and commit to an urgent and ambitious programme to restore indigenous forests and sequester carbon, tackle the extinction crisis and cleanse waterways across the land: .....

**More:** <https://pureadvantage.org/reclaiming-papatuanuku/>

**Source:** Pure Advantage, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023. 