

Sustainability Matters

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Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

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An Optimist's Guide to the Planet

"This Crave Original [documentary] Series captures Coster-Waldau's search for the people, ideas, traditions, and attitudes which can transform fear of the future into hope, climate angst into optimism, and human disconnection into engagement.

"In each of the six episodes, Nikolaj and his affable team criss-cross the globe exploring humanity, witnessing its power for good and learning about some of the remarkable solutions (both old and new) which inspire his optimism for the future.

More: www.imdb.com/title/tt27096916/ See the four reviews each scoring 10/10, plus www.bloomberg.com/originals/series/an-optimists-guide-to-the-planet Six episodes plus trailer

Source: fixthenews, 5th April 2024. 


An Outline of Some of the Government's Retrograde Action Since Elected

In February, Pure Advantage collaborated with several other NZ leading environmental NGO's to create a joint submission to the Environment and Climate Sub-Committee on the Implementation of the Environment Chapter of the NZ-UK Free Trade Agreement.

The case they made is the New Zealand Government is not acting consistently with the obligations in the Agreement, putting the interests of New Zealand exporters at risk. The NGO's requested the opportunity to be heard in support of their submission (and presumably have yet to have a response).

More: <https://pureadvantage.cmail19.com/t/r-e-tihrbht-xyukjuu-jh/> plus <https://pureadvantage.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/NZ-UK-FTA-joint-submission-Feb-2024.pdf> and www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/509211/environmental-groups-say-government-s-plans-breach-free-trade-agreement

Source: Pure Advantage, 9th April 2024.

Editor: This submission clearly summarises the retrograde actions the Government has taken regarding matters related to the environment since its election in November. It is easy to read and merits reading even if you have no direct interest in trade between NZ and the UK. 

SBN is Literally on the Move

As of Monday 8th April SBN has moved from its office in Elliot Street in Auckland's CBD closer to the waterfront to Level 5, 48 Emily Place.

The new space is much larger and will be able to host small events and courses on site. There is open invitation to 'drop in anytime'.



Source: SBN 3rd April 2024. 

Sustainability Reporting – The Guide to Preparation

"The demand for sustainability reporting is growing, further amplified by stakeholders' and regulatory requirements for organisations to be more equitable and sustainable.

"The need for reporting of sustainability-related information, which is ideally interconnected with financial information, is not limited to large or complex organisations. All organisations need this information to develop and continually improve their business strategies, implement and monitor them. Further, organisation stakeholders, from regulators, investors to the suppliers and customers in the value chain require this information to assess stewardship.

"Developed with proportionality in mind and structured around an eight-stage sustainability reporting cycle, ACCA's first-in-a-series guide suggests a flow of process, technology and people-related activities to prepare for and manage sustainability reporting.

"Professional accountants should lead the way and collaborate with technologists, human resource, talent developers, risk management, senior management and other experts to engage with the eight stages of the cycle, which outline:

- Who is accountable and responsible
- The processes for identifying material sustainability-related information for reporting purposes
- Determining, collecting and reporting the data
- Considerations for verification which can lead to continual improvement of reporting, and
- The role of people and technology as vital enablers.

"The guide aims to help all organisations irrespective of size, industry or sector. With a focus on preparing for sustainability reporting in accordance with the IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards (or the 'ISSB Standards'), the guide applies their 'building-blocks' approach which makes it equally relevant to organisations applying other sustainability reporting frameworks or standards.

"Designed to be relevant across different components and levels of the organisation, top-level executives and those charged with governance may find our interactive high-level overview particularly helpful. For those who need more detail, we have included examples and sample worksheets to facilitate understanding and implementation. Human resource and IT professionals may also find the People and Technology sections useful for resource planning and management.

More: www.accaglobal.com/gb/en/professional-insights/global-profession/sustainability-reporting.html Summary 6 pages 1.06Mb, Guide 106 pages 16.7Mb of November 2023

Source: Maurice Cheong, ACCA, 28th March 2024.


Editor: The guide is comprehensive and detailed. 

Rod Oram Memorial Service

The service to celebrate and give thanks for the life of Rod has been recorded. A copy of the order of service is also provided.

Approximately 800-900 people were at the service on 5th April at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Auckland.

More: www.watchteddy.com/rod-oram 1hr 47min

Source: SBN, 3rd April 2024. 

Business Decision Template

"At present there is no standard template to include essential information such as a business's relationship with nature and people in decision-making processes. Without this, decisions are in danger of being sub-optimal and there is increased risk for the business, opportunities can be missed, and there is a greater chance of negative impacts on nature, people, and society. Furthermore, with more mandatory reporting requirements forthcoming, is it becoming more necessary to have a holistic view of a business's impacts and dependencies to make informed decisions.

"The Coalition, with support from Pollination, has developed a business decision template for boards or decision-making committees to ensure information on all capitals is included in decision-making processes.

"By ensuring decisions are informed based on trusted, credible, useful, relevant, and actionable information, more holistic decisions which create value for nature, people and society alongside businesses and the economy can be made.

"The template provides a structured and recognisable format to include impacts and dependencies on nature, people, society. By integrating this information in a consistent and logical way the template ensures:


- Information is provided in an easily accessible format.
- A process for transparent decision-making is established.
- All significant decision-useful information is included.
- Decision makers are provided with the relevant information to highlight and understand trade-offs between all the capitals.

"All feedback will be incorporated into the final templates to be launched in July 2024.

Registration date for engagement: 13th April 2024

More: https://capitalscoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Business-Decision-Templates_FINAL2024.pdf 23 pages with several illustrative case studies

Source: Capitals Coalition, 28th March 2024.

Editor: Even if you do not provide feedback, reading the draft could be very useful. 

Ours is the Most Wasteful Civilisation in History. Here's How to Stop It


"What if the looming calamities of climate change, plastic pollution, the energy crisis and our whole environmental doom-scroll are symptoms of just one malady and it's something we actually can fix?

"That's right, the planet is fighting a single archvillain: Waste.

"Americans live in the most wasteful civilisation in history. This goes way beyond what we roll to the kerb each week. It's rooted in what we eat and drink and how we cook. It's the main thing you pay for in your utility bills and at the gas pump. Waste is so deeply embedded in our [Los Angeles] economy, products and daily lives it's hard to see clearly, or to see at all.

More: www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2024-03-15/trash-garbage-plastic-landfill-climate-change

Source: reasons to be cheerful, 28th March 2024.

Editor: It likely applies to other places including outside the US. 

Climate Scientist Dr Jim Salinger Named New Zealander of the Year

"Climate scientist Dr Jim Salinger has been named as the Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year Te Pou Whakarae o Aotearoa.

"He is recognised as one of the first scientists to address global warming and has dedicated almost 50 years to advancing climate science.

"He is an influential communicator on climate change and has addressed audiences nationwide.

"Dr Salinger is a renowned communicator on climate change and his studies investigate climate extremes including drought and documenting the shrinking ice volume in the New Zealand Southern Alps.

"He is a Companion of the Royal Society of New Zealand, an author and has published extensively in academic journals.

"He was the lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in 2007, which was collectively awarded a Nobel Peace Prize. Among his other awards are the NZ Science and Technology Medal in 1994 for ground-breaking research on Southern Hemisphere climate change and the 2018 World Meteorological Organisation Award and the 2019 Jubilee Medal in recognition of his lifetime achievements in climate and agricultural science.

More: www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/512850/climate-scientist-dr-jim-salinger-named-new-zealander-of-the-year {Interview}, plus <https://nzawards.org.nz/winners/dr-jim-salinger/> and www.stuff.co.nz/climate-change/350227373/climate-scientist-dr-jim-salinger-named-kiwibank-new-zealander-year

Source: SBC Weekly Pānui, 28th March 2024. 

Call on Investors to Divest from Advertising Agencies Working for Polluting Clients

"The financial backers of the world's biggest advertising agency groups should rethink their investment strategies to encourage the likes of WPP, Dentsu and Omnicom to stop working for highly polluting brands, a new report by United Kingdom-based non-profit Planet Tracker recommends.

"Through their ads, agencies generate pollution and waste by driving the consumption of goods and services produced by some of the world's largest corporate greenhouse gas emitters, including fossil fuel clients, the report said.


"The latest study by Planet Tracker has for the first time gone beyond carbon emissions to track advertisers which have a high waste and water footprint, such as Activist pressure on the ad industry to reduce its environmental impact has historically focused on agencies which work for fossil fuels clients.

"The report, titled *From Adversity to Advantage*, called on the largest investors in the big six ad holding groups to pressure their investees to change their stance on how they work for environmentally harmful clients.

"Planet Tracker estimates these firms wield the combined emissions footprint of 530 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent per year from just 39 clients – larger than the carbon footprint of the United Kingdom, which accounts for 1.1% of global emissions.

"The six advertising holding companies account for about 10% of the global advertising market combined.

More: www.eco-business.com/news/non-profit-calls-on-investors-to-divest-from-advertising-agencies-working-for-polluting-clients/ plus <https://planet-tracker.org/from-adversity-to-advantage/> 57pages 14.8Mb

Source: SnippETS, 14th March 2024. 

Net Zero Economy Authority Bill Is A Step Towards A Fair And Well Planned Transition

"The bill to establish Australia's Net Zero Economy Authority was handed to Parliament and welcomed by investors.


"Establishing this independent, statutory Authority strengthens two important commitments to workers and regional communities. Firstly, Australians will benefit from the transformation of our economy through abundant, cheap, renewable energy, and equally, that the transition will be well planned and fair.

"Secondly, the Bill recognises investors need clear and stable long-term policies to allocate capital confidently to Australia's energy transition. The Net Zero Economy Authority Bill is a critical piece of Australia's policy framework, prioritising coordination, the facilitation of transformative investment, and targeted support for affected workers and communities.

"For Australia to succeed, we must share the benefits of the transition to a clean energy economy. The Net Zero Economy Authority will provide the coordination support that's needed to make that a reality.

More: www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WO2403/S00137/australia-net-zero-economy-authority-bill-is-a-step-towards-a-fair-and-well-planned-transition.htm plus www.pmc.gov.au/news/net-zero-economy-authority-bill-introduced

Source: icgc, 27th March 2024.

Editor: "The net zero transformation will be one of the most significant economic shifts since the Industrial Revolution." 

What You Need to Know About Modern Slavery

"What is modern slavery?"

"Modern slavery describes extreme forms of exploiting people for personal or commercial gain.

"This includes human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like practices, such as servitude, forced labour, forced marriage, selling and exploiting children and debt bondage. It often means taking away someone's freedom to choose where and what they do for work. Modern slavery is a serious global issue that breaches human and labour rights.


"Global supply chains are complex. Geopolitics and lack of transparency make it challenging to develop effective strategies to reduce, and ideally eliminate, modern slavery. Organisations may be unaware they are supporting modern slavery through their supply chains.

"How big is the problem?"

"While most of us like to believe slavery has long been outlawed, according to the latest Global Estimates of Modern Slavery (2023) from Walk Free, the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration, on any given day in 2021:

- 50 Million people live in modern slavery
- Roughly ¼ are children
- Migrant workers are particularly vulnerable


More: www.thinkstep-anz.com/assets/ts-ZP402764-Modern_Slavery-Need_to_Know_v1.0.pdf

Source: thinkstep-anz, 27th March 2024. 

Plastic-Free Clothing – Handbook

Kowtow have created an open-source guide to plastic-free clothing. This comprehensive handbook outlines every step of their design and production journey, with the intention of helping others start or continue their own plastic-free journey.

More: https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0053/6592/files/Kowtow_Plastic-Free_Handbook.pdf 27pages 11Mb

Source: Go Well Consulting, 9th April 2024. 

Housing Summit 2024


"The homes New Zealand builds are belching out over five times too much pollution for us to hit our vital climate targets. How can we address this major challenge, while also dealing with the ongoing issues of supply, affordability, supply chain surety, and innovation? Bringing together local and international leaders, Housing Summit 2024 is a vital opportunity to highlight some of this year's biggest challenges, solutions, and opportunities.

"This year's programme includes;

- Delivering low carbon housing
- An update on the Government's progress and vision for the future
- Baking Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) into Build-to-rent
- The opportunities and challenges in driving for a low carbon building code
- World leading international and New Zealand case studies, including 10 Homestar (v5) homes, and thriving communities embracing the principles of Te Ao Māori, nature and biodiversity.

When/Where: 22nd May 2024. Auckland

More: <https://nzgbc.org.nz/housing-summit-2024>

Source: NZGBC, 9th April 2024. 

Nepali Engineer's Mission to Recycle All Hospital Waste

"Hospitals mostly dispose of waste by burning it – the tried and trusted solution. But medical waste should be recycled, said Nepali engineer and social entrepreneur Mahesh Nakarmi, who has campaigned for hospitals in the South Asian country to repurpose everything from used syringes to sanitary pads and even amputated limbs since the late 1990s.

"The most difficult thing about recycling hospital waste is not the technical, procedural or financial obstacles of doing so. It is the attitudes to waste among busy doctors and nurses, said Nakarmi said, whose idea for a circular economy for hospitals has taken more than a decade to bed in to Nepal's healthcare system. 'Waste management is not about recycling. It's behaviour change', he said.

"The medical industry generates huge amounts of hazardous waste and contributes to 4% of global carbon emissions – higher than in shipping or aviation. In Nepal, healthcare institutions generate up to 2kg of waste per hospital bed, per day.

More: www.eco-business.com/news/used-syringes-and-sanitary-pads-nepali-engineers-mission-to-recycle-all-hospital-waste/

Source: eco-Business.com, 9th April 2024. 

Nature in Responsible Investments

"Nature provides ecosystem services, which benefit businesses and society. It is estimated US\$ 58 trillion of economic value generation – more than half of the world's total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) – is either moderately or highly dependent on nature. Investors' ability to optimise risk-adjusted returns depend on, and impact, nature.


"What is nature?

"Why is nature important for institutional investors?

"A framework for action on biodiversity loss

"PRI's Nature Programme

More: www.unpri.org/nature-in-responsible-investments/12149.article plus www.unpri.org/nature/developing-a-biodiversity-policy-a-technical-guide-for-asset-owners-and-investment-managers/12217.article

Source: Debbie Kandauw, CA ANZ, Weekly Digest for Climate & Sustainability, 5th April 2024. 


We Must Not Neglect Our Fundamental Infrastructure – Biodiversity

"There is always a worry, in times of cuts, vital long-term work will be stopped to deal with the immediate. The work on biodiversity needs to be recognised as an integral part of a wider system necessary for society to thrive. This brief summary of an academic discussion makes the following major points:

- Nature's value is at the heart of economics.
- Biodiversity is a critical part of our 'infrastructure', sustaining all activity.
- A 'do and learn' approach, led by communities, can be very powerful to build awareness and action. It must be enabled.

"A brief summary of the key points of the Dasgupta report about the economics of biodiversity provides additional context.

More: www.csap.cam.ac.uk/news/article-addressing-biodiversity-loss-and-climate-change-th plus www.csap.cam.ac.uk/news/article-cuspe-lecture-economics-biodiversity-professor-sir/


Source: IPANZ, 9th April 2024. 

World's Biggest Economies Pumping Billions into Fossil Fuels in Poor Nations

"The world's biggest economies have continued to finance the expansion of fossil fuels in poor countries to the tune of billions of dollars, despite their commitments on the climate.

"The G20 group of developed and developing economies, and the multilateral development banks they fund, put \$142bn (£112bn) into fossil fuel developments overseas from 2020 to 2022, according to estimates compiled by the campaigning groups Oil Change International (OCI) and Friends of the Earth US.

More: www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/apr/09/worlds-biggest-economies-pumping-billions-into-fossil-fuels-in-poor-nations

Source: atAdvocacy 10th April 2024. 

The Social Cost of Carbon is Now US\$225 per tonne – What This Means for Asia

"If there is one thing economists can universally agree on, it is the need for energy prices to reflect their true cost to human well-being. But estimating the 'social cost of carbon' in a way which reflects the uneven distribution of damages across wealthier and lower-income nations has proven to be a challenging endeavour.

"Just ask Michael Greenstone, the Milton Friedmanwho is one of the key architects of this concept.

"Under former US president Barack Obama's administration, Greenstone helped to value the monetary cost of climate inaction at US\$21/tonne of CO2 in 2010. According to his latest projections, it now sits at US\$225/tonne.

"But what I want to emphasise here is how unequal those damages are going to be allocated around the world', said Greenstone, when he mentioned this new figure in a presentation he gave at the National University of Singapore (NUS)'s Sustainable And Green Finance Institute summit last month [March 2024].

"Preliminary research by the Climate Impact Lab, which Greenstone co-founded in 2016, shows the distribution of end of century damages in a world headed towards 3°C warming is highly unequal. [Long article.]

More: www.eco-business.com/news/the-social-cost-of-carbon-is-now-us225-per-tonne-what-this-means-for-asia/

Source: eco-Business.com, 9th April 2024. 

Emissions from International Shipping and Aviation – Include in 2050 Target?

"New Zealand's current emissions reduction target includes emissions from domestic shipping and aviation, but excludes emissions from international shipping and aviation.

"Global action to address emissions from international shipping and aviation is through international agreements. However, the UK, EU, USA and others, are proactively including these emissions in their domestic emissions reduction targets and/or emissions trading schemes.

"The Commission is developing advice for the Government on whether New Zealand should do this too.


"We're only required to look at emissions from international aviation and shipping for this 2024 review; there are no future reviews on this topic specifically required by our legislation.

"We are reviewing whether emissions from international aviation and shipping should be included in Aotearoa New Zealand's emissions reduction target – and if so, how.

"It's possible we will receive different evidence which points in different directions. Our advice will include judgements on how to balance the evidence, and the impacts, related to the factors we are legally required to consider.

Consultation: 8th April – 31st May 2024

More: www.climatecommission.govt.nz/our-work/advice-to-government-topic/review-on-whether-emissions-from-international-aviation-and-shipping-should-be-included-in-the-2050-target/ plus www.climatecommission.govt.nz/our-work/advice-to-government-topic/review-on-whether-emissions-from-international-aviation-and-shipping-should-be-included-in-the-2050-target/discussion-document-international-shipping-and-aviation/ 108pages 4.8Mb

Source: Climate Change Commission, 28th March 

Court Verdict on Climate Action Could Ripple Across Europe

"Europe's highest human rights court ruled Tuesday [9th April] that countries must better protect their people from the consequences of climate change, siding with a group of older Swiss women against their government in a landmark ruling which could have implications across the continent.

"The European Court of Human Rights rejected two other, similar cases on procedural grounds – a high-profile one brought by Portuguese young people and another by a French mayor that sought to force governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"But the Swiss case, nonetheless, sets a legal precedent in the Council of Europe's 46 member states against which future lawsuits will be judged.

"This is a turning point', said Corina Heri, an expert in climate change litigation at the University of Zurich. Although activists have had success with lawsuits in domestic proceedings, this was the first time an international court ruled on climate change – and the first decision confirming countries have an obligation to protect people from its effects.

"She said it would open the door to more legal challenges in the countries which are members of the Council of Europe, which includes the 27 EU nations as well as many others from Britain to Turkey.

More: <https://apnews.com/article/europe-eu-climate-court-human-rights-3b540a965aff7e2b49f1451c7a328e77> plus www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-activists-seek-breakthrough-human-rights-court-ruling-against-european-2024-04-09/

Source: atAdvocacy and Sustainable Switch, 10th April. 