

`CSEAR E-Newsletter' – March 2012

FROM THE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTING RESEARCH

Welcome to the latest CSEAR *E-Newsletter* which is sent out to all members regularly throughout the year, providing you with up to-date SEA news and contact information. If you would like to use these pages for publicising any conferences or events that you think would be of interest to other CSEAR members just let us know by emailing us.

CSEAR News

***SEAJ* EDITORIAL BOARD: Main changes**

The new Editors of *SEAJ* are Jeffrey Unerman (continuing) and John Ferguson (by election). The length of time an Editor would be appointed for was agreed at 4 years.

A range of recommendations and suggestions will be put to the CSEAR Council during the next few months or at its next meeting.

The principal elements are:

- *SEAJ* will be controlled by a single Editorial Board whose members will normally serve for 3 years;
- Election to the Editorial Board is open to all CSEAR members;
- Incoming journal editors will also invite other members to the Editorial Board;
- The International Editorial Advisory Board would become the Editorial Review Board;
- Rob Gray will be standing down as convenor of the *SEAJ* Editorial Board;
- The Editorial Board will be asking the CSEAR Council to elect the outgoing editor as the new convenor of the *SEAJ* Editorial Board;
- *SEAJ* remains ultimately responsible to the CSEAR Council but is expected to operate increasingly independent of it;
- Sue Gray will be standing down as editorial assistant in 2012.

CSEAR COUNCIL: Its future Governance

Main areas of current discussion

CSEAR's governance has been, as you well know, under debate for some time. Further meetings of the CSEAR Council in 2012 will be endeavouring to establish a straight forward governance structure that is democratic and simple.

The principal matters on which the Council will be making decisions include:

- The basic size of the Council;
- How the Council is elected from the membership;
- The crucial role of the International Associates and how they are elected;
- Separation of the Convenor of the Council and the Director of CSEAR;
- The role of standing committees – if any;
- Specialist roles that may be needed in areas such as organising the UK conference; coordinating international conferences and managing and reporting on finances; and
- How (if at all) to manage/encourage active practitioner engagement.

CSEAR News (continued)

- If you were not able to attend the **CSEAR 2011 Australasian Conference**, this website gives you the next best thing including best paper awards, photo gallery, videos and audio. Many thanks to all the team at **UTAS**.

www.utas.edu.au/csear/scenes-from-csear

- The **24th International CSEAR Congress** will be held at **St Andrews University** from **3rd – 5th of September 2012**. Due to lack of University residential accommodation, the conference will be run on a Day Delegate basis. A variety of accommodation has been pre-booked in St Andrews and links to hotels will be shown on the website. A conference dinner will also be held.

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/~csearweb

- The **4th Italian CSEAR Conference on Social and Environmental Accounting Research** is being organised by the **University of Trento** and held on **20th – 21st September, 2012**. Plenary speakers are **Jan Bebbington**, **Carlos Larrinaga** and **Jeffrey Unerman**.

<http://events.unitn.it/en/csear2012>
See attached Call for Papers

- The **15th EMAN/CSEAR 2012 Northern Europe/Scandinavia Conference** will be held on **24th – 26th September 2012** in **Helsinki, Finland**, considering ***Sustainable Economy***.

www.eman2012.fi/index.php
See attached Call for Abstracts

- The **5th GECAMB conference on Environmental Management and Accounting – the Portuguese CSEAR conference** will be held on **25th–26th October, 2012** in **Coimbra, Portugal**. Plenary speakers announced so far include **Pablo Archel** and **Jeffrey Unerman**.

Forthcoming website:
www4.fe.uc.pt/gecamb2012/
Call for Papers attached

- The **1st CSEAR conference in China** is being organised by colleagues at **Jinan University**, with assistance from **Peking University**, and the **Accounting Society of China**. The conference will be held on **26th – 28th October, 2012** and further information is available on the website.

<http://seachina.jnu.edu.cn>
See attached Conference Announcement

- The **11th CSEAR Australasian Conference** will be held at the **University of Wollongong, Australia** from the **2nd - 4th December 2012**. Further details will be available in 2012.

For further details email:
lee_moerman@uow.edu.au

- The **2nd CSEAR France** is scheduled to be held in **2013** in **Montpellier**. More information later.

Email csear@st-andrews.ac.uk to express interest

- The **3rd CSEAR conference** to be held in **Brazil** will be held in **Pará State** located in Amazon Forest, in **July 2013**.

Email csear@st-andrews.ac.uk to express interest

- The **9th Spanish CSEAR conference** is being organised by **Antoni Llull** and colleagues at the **University of the Balearic Islands (Palma de Mallorca)**. It will be held in **2013**.

Email csear@st-andrews.ac.uk to express interest

- **CSEAR's Facebook** page is where members are connecting and sharing information. Recent postings have included comments/links to the **Prince's Accounting for Sustainability Project (A4S)** annual forum; information about ***Accounting Education's*** Vol 20(6) 2011 issue which looks at the ***ABS Journal Quality Rankings*** (many thanks Colin) and information on **Craig Rosebraugh's** new documentary (thanks Markus). Send in your news and comments and keep in touch.

CSEAR News (continued)

- The **SEA education, teaching and learning** website developed by **Ian Thomson** and **Lorna Stevenson**, is a great resource for new teachers in social accounting.
- **CSEAR's blog - Accountability, Transparency, Sustainability** – is run by **Colin Dey** with everyone welcome to join and contribute comments. Set up your access rights now.
- **Social and Environmental Accountability Journal's** next special issue is on **Carbon Accounting: The Contribution of Social and Environmental Accounting to the Debate**, with guest editor **Carlos Larrinaga**, Universidad de Burgos. Closing date for papers is **28th February 2013**.

<http://sites.google.com/site/cseareducation/>

<http://csearweb.blogspot.com/>
Email: colin.dey@stir.ac.uk

See attached Call for Papers
Email: carlos.larrinaga@ubu.es

Call for Papers

- **Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal** is planning a special issue on **Social accountability and stakeholder engagement for sustainability: Shaping organisational change in higher education?** with guest editors **Christian Herzig**, **Jasmin Godemann**, **Jeremy Moon** and **Jan Bebbington**. The final submission date is **31st July 2012**.
- **Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal** is planning a special issue on **Accounting, accountants, and accountability regimes in pluralistic societies: taking multiple perspectives seriously** with guest editors **Judy Brown**, **Jesse Dillard** and **Trevor Hopper**. The final submission date is **31st Dec. 2012**.
- **Accounting, Organizations and Society** is planning a special issue on **Accounting, Non-Governmental Organizations and Civil Society** with guest editors **Matthew Hall**, **David Lewis** and **Brendan O'Dwyer**. The special issue is linked to a workshop to be held **December 2012**.
- A special issue of **Financial Reporting** on **Social and Environmental Accounting and Accountability** is being guest edited by **Charles Cho**, **Ericka Costa** and **Giovanna Michelin**. The final submission date is **24th August 2012**.
- The **International Journal of Social Ecology and Sustainable Development (IJSESD)** is planning a special issue on **Sustainability Reporting** with guest editors **Tim A. Majchrzak** and **Imke Wasner**. The final submission date is **30th April 2012**.
- The **International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education** is planning a special issue entitled '**Advancing Sustainability and Higher Business Education (Smiles, Trials and Tribulations)**' with guest editors **Ki-Hoon Lee** and **Nick Barter**. Submission of papers by **31st August 2012**.

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/authors/writing/calls.htm?id=3673>

Email:
Trevor.Hopper@vuw.ac.nz

www.elsevier.com/locate/jacc
[NGO_PDF.pdf](#)

See Call for Papers attached

www.igi-global.com/Files/AuthorEditor/guidelinessubmission.pdf

Email the Editors at:
ki-hoon.lee@griffith.edu.au
n.barter@griffith.edu.au
Call for Papers attached.

Other Conferences

- The **48th British Accounting and Finance Association Annual Conference and Doctoral Colloquium** will be held from **16th – 19th April 2012** in **Brighton, UK**.

<http://bafa.ac.uk/>

Other Conferences (continued)

- The **Ecocultures 2012: Transitions to Sustainability conference** will be held at the **University of Essex, 17th -18th April 2012**. A **Call for Papers** has been issued.
Paper submissions email:
steffen@essex.ac.uk or
zpbhar@essex.ac.uk
- For your diary: the **Social Audit Network Conference 2012** will be held in London on **20th April 2012**.
www.socialauditnetwork.org.uk/
- The **2012 International Conference for Critical Accounting (ICCA)** will be held at **Baruch College Conference Center, New York, USA** on **26th-27th April 2012**.
<http://aux.zicklin.baruch.cuny.edu/tinker/2012ICCA>
- **TBLI Conference ASIA and EUROPE 2012** dates have been announced with **May 24th – 25th, 2012** in **Hong Kong** and **November 8th – 9th, 2012** in **Zurich, Switzerland**.
www.tbliconference.com
- **EURAM 2012** will be held from **6th-8th June 2012** at **Rotterdam School of Management**, including a stream on **Accounting, Auditing and Control for Sustainability**. This is organised by **Bocconi School of Management (Italy), Nottingham University Business School (UK) and ESG-UQAM (Canada)**.
<http://euram2012.nl>
- The **11th Annual EABIS Colloquium** will be held from **2nd – 4th July** at **IMD, Lausanne, Switzerland** on the theme of **'Sustainability, Strategic Innovation and Entrepreneurship'**.
Email: colloquium@eabis.org
- The **3rd EMES PhD Summer School: Social Entrepreneurship, Social Economy and Solidarity Economy** will be held from **4th - 8th July 2012** in **Trento, Italy**. This summer school is for researchers working in social entrepreneurship and social enterprise, social economy and solidarity economy.
<http://euricse.eu/en/node/1895>
- The **10th Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Accounting (IPA) conference** will be held at **Cardiff Business School, Cardiff University, UK** on **11th-13th July 2012**. The **Emerging Scholars Colloquium** will be held on the **9th-10th July**.
<http://tinyurl.com/co39pj4>
- The **13th World Congress of Accounting Historians**, hosted by **Newcastle University Business School**, will be held in **Newcastle** from **17th-19th July 2012**. **Professor Tom Tyson** will be conducting a course in accounting history research for PhD students from **15th – 16th July 2012**. **See website for details**.
www.ncl.ac.uk/nubs/about/events/worldcongress
Abstracts should be emailed to WCAH@ncl.ac.uk **by 15th January 2012**
- The **is2012 conference – Innovation for Sustainability** is being held from **27th – 28th September 2012** at **Lusiada University, Porto, Portugal**. See call for papers for further details.
www.ulusiada.pt/is2012
See attached flyer
- A **Greening Education Event** will be held from **10th - 12th October 2012** in **Karlsruhe, Germany**. This is being organised by the **Etech Education for Sustainability Initiative**.
www.etechgermany.com/IGEE2012.pdf
- The **GIN2012 conference** will be held in **Linköping, Sweden** from **21st – 24th October, 2012**, with the theme of **"Support your future today! Turning environmental challenges into business opportunities"**. **GIN2012** will also mark the start of the third decade of this network.
www.gin2012.se/

Accounting and Reporting

- The **International Corporate Sustainability Reporting** website was established 15 years ago in 1997, and is dedicated to Corporate Sustainability/CSR and environmental reporting. It provides news items in Dutch and English, a resource library (guidelines, tools, articles etc.), an award gallery and more.
www.enviroreporting.com/
- An item from **Enviroreporting.com** recently referred to research conducted by **Ralf Barkemeyer and colleagues at Leeds University and Euromed Management School**. Their study analysed 4,000 CSR reports, rankings and surveys, published by companies worldwide over the past 10 years and “*found unsubstantiated claims, gaps in data and inaccurate figures*”. In one case, the Italian energy company **ENEL** (2009) report claimed that its carbon emissions amounted to 122,089 million tons – the equivalent of four times the emissions of planet earth.
www.see.leeds.ac.uk/people/r.barkemeyer
- **FEE** has published a **Factsheet on Integrated Reporting** - which is available from their website. **The Fédération des Experts-comptables Européens** is an international non-profit organisation based in Brussels that represents 45 institutes of professional accountants and auditors from 33 European countries, including all of the 27 EU Member States.
www.fee.be/fileupload/upload/Integrated%20Reporting%20update%20January%2020123112012501334.pdf
- The **Carbon Disclosure Project**, after winning the \$1.5 million **Zayed Future Energy Prize**, announced that it will expand its work to establish accounting standards for environmental disclosure. The CDP, now in the second year of its water disclosure initiative, reported that “*57% of organisations report board-level oversight of water policies, strategies or plans in comparison to 94% for climate change*”.
www.cdproject.net/en-US/WhatWeDo/CDPNewsArticlePages/cdp-wins-zayed-future-energy-prize.aspx
Source: *Sustainability Matters*
- **Ernst & Young** and **GreenBiz.com** have a forthcoming report on trends in corporate sustainability reporting. Early results have suggested that one in six respondents say that their CFO was ‘very involved’ with sustainability while 52% said the CFO was ‘somewhat’ involved. At the recent **GreenBiz Forum**, **Ernst & Young** offered a preview of the six trends they are highlighting:
 1. A rise in sustainability reporting;
 2. An increase in the CFO's sustainability role;
 3. The emergence of employees as a key sustainability stakeholder force;
 4. Strong reporting on greenhouse gas emissions and mounting reporting on water use -- despite regulatory uncertainty;
 5. Growing concern about access to raw materials (including so-called conflict minerals) as a business supply chain issue;
 6. Special attention to outside rankings and ratings on the part of corporate executives.
www.greenbiz.com/blog/2012/01/18/sustainability-counts-cfos
Source: *GreenBuzz*, 19th January 2012 Sustainability
<http://ley.com>
- In **November 2011**, the **UK's Treasury** published the UK's first audited **Whole of Government Accounts (WGA)**. The figures are financial records for the entire UK public sector, from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 ‘based on commercial accounting principles’. The UK's **Public Accounts Committee's** report on these accounts including the oral evidence taken by the Committee is available on the web. Australia, New Zealand and Canada also produce WGA Accounts.
www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmpubacc/1696/1696.pdf

Accounting and Reporting (continued)

- The **United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)** held in June this year, marks the 20th anniversary of the first U.N. Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The **Guardian newspaper** has published a leaked draft agenda suggesting that countries will be asked to sign up for ten sustainable development goals; negotiate a new agreement to protect oceans; approve an annual state of the planet report; set up a major world agency for the environment; and appoint a global '**ombudsperson/high commissioner**', for future generations.
www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/jan/10/leaked-document-rio-goals
- The UK's **Department of Energy and Climate Change** has published final estimates of the UK's 2010 greenhouse gas emissions. UK emissions for the main six greenhouse gases covered by the **Kyoto Protocol** were estimated to be 3.1% higher than the 2009 figure.
www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate_stats/gg_emissions/uk_emissions/2010_final/2010_final.aspx
- **Corporate Watch**, based in the UK, is a workers' co-operative running a research and campaigning organisation, seeing itself as part of a larger anti-corporate movement. They have recently published a **Guide to Banking & Finance** – a 'nuts and bolts' guide from a critical perspective. This is part of their **Banking on Crisis** series, which includes news/research blog + workshops.
www.corporatewatch.org.uk/
www.bankingoncrisis.org
- The **New Economics Foundation (NEF)**, a UK based NGO/think tank, has published a report '**A Bit Rich: Calculating the real value to society of different professions**'.
www.neweconomics.org/
- **Ethical Investor** has reported on the work of **Green Research**, a New York based research firm that has launched a global study of the sustainability and CSR consulting industry. An on-line survey distributed in conjunction with media partners looks at business practices, focuses areas and attitudes. Results available in April and survey can be taken in 4 languages.
www.ethicalinvestor.com.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4444&Itemid=373
- **BM&FBOVESPA**, the Brazilian Stock Exchange has recommend that its listed companies either state that they publish a regular sustainability report and say where it can be accessed, or explain why they do not do so in future. The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** provides guidance to all listed companies in India. From November 2011, SEBI required all top 100 companies in terms of market capitalisation to submit Business Responsibility Reports, as a part of their Annual Reports. This will be extended to other companies in phases.
<http://bmfbovespa.comunicar-se.com.br/en/Show.aspx?idMateriaia=+6A2h7akiAPvdQwseIqn/g==>
www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/
- **The New York Times** amongst others has been reporting on the **Foxconn Technology Group**, a Chinese company, who employees poorly paid Chinese workers to make iPhones and Dell computers, amongst others. The **New York Times** has also gone on to report that **Apple** has now hired the **Fair Labor Association**, an outside watchdog group to audit working conditions in its overseas factories, a step that could trigger changes throughout the electronics industry. Meanwhile in the **13th Annual Harris Poll Reputation Quotient** study, **Apple** was named the **Most Reputable Brand** coming top of the poll. This was due in part to its "**strong investments in its brand through its products and services**".
Source: New York Times
www.nytimes.com/2012/01/26/business/ieconomy-apples-ipad-and-the-human-costs-for-workers-in-china.html?scp=2&sq=Apples%20suppliers&st=cse

Accounting and Reporting (continued)

- A recent survey by the **Institute of Business Ethics** conducted by **Ipsos MORI**, asked the UK public which issues business needs to address. The most common reply was 'executive pay', followed by 'discrimination in the treatment of people', 'employees being able to speak up about company wrongdoing,' and 'environmental responsibility.' 'Sweatshop labour', 'openness with information', and 'harassment/bullying' were also raised. There was growing concern about bribery and corruption.

www.ibe.org.uk

- **Benefit Corporations** are a new class of **US Corporation** that
 - creates a material positive impact on society and the environment;
 - redefines fiduciary duty to require consideration of non-financial interests when making decisions; and
 - reports on its overall social and environmental performance using recognized third party standards.

www.benefitcorp.net/
www.bcorporation.net/publicpolicy

California, New York, Hawaii, Virginia, Maryland, Vermont and **New Jersey** are the first six USA states to pass Benefit Corporation legislation, providing more choice in selection of corporate form. Legislation is also pending in **North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Michigan** and **Washington**.

- **ACCA Australia Sustainability Reporting awards** and the **ACCA New Zealand Sustainability Reporting awards** – last year's winners plus the annual report of the judges from the last nine/ten years are available on the **ACCA's** website.

www2.accaglobal.com/australia/general/sustainability_au/

Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions

- The **UK government** published its **Carbon Plan** in December 2011, setting out how the Government plans to meet its long-term carbon targets over the course of the current decade, the 2020s and beyond.

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/tackling/carbon_plan/carbon_plan.aspx

- The **Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee** of the **European Parliament** has indicated that it is likely to support an EU financial transaction tax of 0.1% on equity and bond transactions and 0.01% on derivatives, which is opposed by the UK Government. The Committee will formally vote on the issue in April and the Parliament in June.

www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/ECON/home.html

- **Thanks to Markus Milne for posting some interesting links on CSEAR's facebook page.** At the end of last year he drew attention to a **WWF – New Zealand** report on low carbon plans which put New Zealand to shame. See website for more details.

www.wwf.org.nz/?8042%2FNew-report-on-low-carbon-plans-puts-New-Zealand-to-shame-says-WWF

- **BankTrack** and partners have published **Bankrolling Climate Change: A Look into the Portfolios of the World's Largest Banks** which argues that **Barclays**, the **Royal Bank of Scotland** and **HSBC** are among the top banks that have lent billions of pounds to the coal sector over recent years.

www.banktrack.org/

- The **Environment Bank** is a UK private sector company set up to deliver **biodiversity offsetting** in the UK and Europe. It has launched the first online 'conservation credit' trading platform, with **Mission Markets** to deliver biodiversity offsetting in the UK.

www.environmentbank.com
<http://missionmarkets.com/>

Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions (continued)

- **Friends of the Earth Europe** has published '*Farming Money: How European banks and private finance profit from food speculation and land grabs*'. The report is available from their website – look up your Bank and see what they are really doing.
- **Henderson Global Investors** have closed their in-house sustainability research team and in future will be using **EIRIS** for expertise. Henderson, a major innovator in the SRI field for the last 15 years, has taken the SRI industry by surprise with this announcement. The SRI team has joined environmental fund boutique **WHEB Asset Management**. See **Mike Tyrrell's** article at the **Ethical Corporation** for more information.
- **Aviva Investors** has also announced that it plans to close its sustainable and responsible investment equities desk proposing to:
 - Move out of our Sustainable and Responsible Investment (SRI) funds, and potentially look for a new institutional home for the funds, the clients and the majority of the team;
 - Reduce the stand alone resource allocated to corporate governance engagement; and,
 - Establish a new Global Responsible Investment team that will cover Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues across the mainstream business.

See **Hugh Wheelan's** article in **responsible investor.com**.

- **KPMG International** has published their study '*Expect the Unexpected: Building Business Value in a Changing World*' which identifies '*10 megaforces*' that will significantly affect corporate growth over the next two decades. It explores issues such as climate change, energy and fuel volatility, water availability and cost and resource availability, plus population growth spawning new urban centres. This analysis examines how these global forces may affect business and industry, calculates the environmental costs to business, and calls for business and policy makers to work more closely to mitigate future business risk and act on opportunities. Pdf copy available at the KPMG's website.
- **MSCI** has launched **ESG sovereign ratings** which identify countries' exposure to and management of environmental, social and governance risk factors plus how these factors may affect each economies' long term sustainability. Ratings on 90 countries are available.
- **Fairpensions** has published *Protecting Our Best Interests: Rediscovering Fiduciary Obligation*, arguing that this is part of the solution to short-termism and agency problems in the investment sphere. The report argues that our understanding of fiduciary obligation has lost its way and may not be delivering in beneficiaries' best interests. It challenges misconceptions surrounding investors' fiduciary duties, particularly regarding responsible and ethical investment, and makes a case for an 'enlightened fiduciary' model for investors.

www.foeeurope.org/publications/2012/Farming_money_FoEE_Jan2012.pdf

www.ethicalcorp.com/governance-regulation/rip-henderson-sri-what-now-0

www.responsible-investor.com/home/article/hen_aviva/

www.kpmg.com/Global/en/IssuesAndInsights/ArticlesPublications/Pages/building-business-value.aspx

www.msci.com/products/esg/sovereign_ratings/

www.fairpensions.org.uk/fiduciaryduty

Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions (continued)

- **Ethical Investor** announced that **EIRIS** a UK-based ethical research provider, which is run by a charitable trust on a not-for-profit basis, continues to see steady growth. EIRIS has announced it will be providing environmental, social and governance data for a new UK workplace pension scheme, the **National Employment Savings Trust**; providing an ESG screening service for the **Mexican stock exchange's** new sustainability index; and has been appointed by **Henderson Global Investor** to manage their ethically-screened portfolios after their internal ESG team was disbanded.
- **Environmental Finance** reported that **Ireland's** recent finance bill will extend the "*range of carbon offsets recognised in its tax code to explicitly include those generated by projects that reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD)*". As a result Ireland could become the first country to recognise forest carbon credits in its tax regime – possibly also leading to forest bonds being issued.
- **Ethical Consumer** provides a corporate critic database as well as undertaking research and consultancy and publishing its regular consumer magazine. As part of its **Move Your Money month** it has made its recent banking report available on their website. Their current campaign is on **Tax Havens**.
- **KPMG** and **SAM (Sustainable Asset Management)** have published the **2012 Sustainability Yearbook** which includes companies considered to be 'sustainability leaders' across 58 sectors, setting the industry standard for environmental, social and governance practices. The five UK companies are **AMEC, BAT, Pearson, Sainsbury** and **United Utilities**.

www.ethicalinvestor.com.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4440&Itemid=402
www.nestpensions.org.uk

www.forestcarbonportal.com/news/irelands-tax-bill-support-redd

www.ethicalconsumer.org/home.aspx

www.sam-group.com

Other Issues

- The **UN** has a newly commissioned report '*Higher Education's Commitment to Sustainability: From understanding to action*' focusing on the transformation of higher education towards sustainability and its role of in building sustainable communities. **Daniella Tilbury's** first chapter can be accessed at this website.
- As part of **WWF's** 50th anniversary, they have a new report '*50 Green game-changers*' – which shows innovative ways to reduce the use of raw materials, restore natural resources and upscale renewable energy.
- Research by **PricewaterhouseCoopers** into the impact of rare earth metal shortages over the next 5 years, suggests that seven core manufacturing industries could be seriously affected and that this could disrupt entire supply chains and economies.
- **Stories.coop** is an initiative from **Euricse** and the **International Co-operative Alliance**, to set up a website dedicated to telling stories of cooperation from around the world. It takes the message of the **UN International Year of Cooperatives** to everyone "*Cooperative enterprises build a better world*". Share your story today - in words, video, or Prezi presentation.

<http://insight.glos.ac.uk/sustainability/Education/Documents/GUNI%20HE%20in%20the%20World%204%20HE%27s%20Commitment%20to%20Sus.pdf>

<http://assets.wwf.org.uk/custom/GGC/20111027/>

<http://press.pwc.com/GLOBAL/News-releases/>

<http://stories.coop/>

Other Issues (continued)

- **Craig Rosebraugh's** new documentary, awaiting a release date, looks at the *'influence, deceit and corruption'* of the fossil fuel industry. A trailer of **'Greedy Lying Bastards'** is on **YouTube**.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKqZLZnqb0o
- The UK's **Dept. for Environment Food and Rural Affairs** is developing a new set of indicators to meet the Government's commitments to sustainable development. Results from a brief stakeholders' survey of possible indicators is available.
<http://sd.defra.gov.uk/2012/01/developing-new-indicators-survey-results/>
- The **Fairtrade Foundation** has announced that sales of fairly traded products have continued to grow in the UK, with the retail market increasing by 12% in the last year. The value of **Fairtrade** products sold through shops reached £1.32bn in 2011, compared to £1.17bn in 2010.
www.fairtrade.org.uk/
- If you have been following the **Grand Canyon/Coca-Cola/Bottled water debate** according to **Reuters** it looks as if it is finally settled. The National Park Service has approved a plan to prevent the sale of bottled water in the park, after 10 water stations have been built where you can refill your own water bottle. For those interested in figures - approximately 4.5 million tourists visit the Grand Canyon each year, with disposable bottles estimated at accounting for 20% of the park's waste and 30% of its recyclables.
<http://news.yahoo.com/grand-canyon-ban-bottled-water-sales-175237955.html>
- **China** has established its first national think tank on renewable energy to conduct research and develop programs and policies, as part of the country's effort to deal with climate change and carbon emissions. The center draws on previous cooperation with Denmark.
www.thechinatimes.com/online/2012/02/2441.html
- Recent articles from **Japan for Sustainability** included reports from the **Council for PET Bottle Recycling** which reported that Japan collected PET bottles at the rate of 72.1% in 2010, higher than Europe (48.3%) and the US (29.1%). Plus a report from **Mazda Motor Corp.**, that they have successfully recycled bumpers from scrapped vehicles into raw materials for new vehicle bumpers. Used on the **Biente** minivan.
www.japanfs.org/en/pages/031611.html
www.japanfs.org/en/pages/031458.html
- A new **Smart Cities** ranking created by **Boyd Cohen**, a climate strategist working on low carbon economies, has named **Vienna** as the world's smartest city ahead of **Toronto** (2), **New York** (4) and **London** (5).
www.fastcoexist.com/1679127/the-top-10-smart-cities-on-the-planet

Contact

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