



Welcome to the MOSS News Views and Events Newsletter for Summer 2009

Industry News

Sustainability Challenge set to improve performance

Over the past few weeks, several hundred organisations from around the country have now experienced The Sustainability Challenge - a revolutionary new engaging and interactive training and strategic planning tool that can help transition organisations from a short term take, make and waste thinking to one of long term sustainability. It can also aid the essential understanding and capability around complex issues such as emissions reduction, sustainable supply chain and social responsibility whilst auditing your culture's attitudes towards sustainability. If you missed out on seeing it live, check out the online demonstration [here](#). or email to arrange a demonstration. The final launch for 2009 takes place in Hobart on Wednesday. Spaces are still available for interested parties.

The Future Makers now available on DVD

With recent attention on global warming, there's been a big focus on the problem, but what about the solutions? THE FUTURE MAKERS tells the story of eminent scientists in Australia who are leading the way on the world stage in renewable energy. This Australian documentary explores the visions of these leaders and follows them as their projects unfold. People creating solutions that won't cost the earth. To order a DVD, send an email to dvd@thefuturemakers.com.au If you'd like a screening followed by a panel discussion for your business, school or community group, contact admin@thefuturemakers.com.au

Green Technology creates jobs

A 2008 CSIRO study indicates that 2.7 million jobs could be created in Australia over the next 15 years if we move to a cleaner, low carbon economy. Up to one million of these could be clean energy jobs using traditional skills in new industries like solar, wind, water and recycling. Germany created 76,000 new jobs in renewable energy (to reach a total of 236,000) in just two years between 2004 and 2006, underpinned by their strong renewable energy laws and complementary Green Skills programs. And although it's known for car giants like BMW, Mercedes and Volkswagen, by 2020 Germany is projected to have more jobs in the field of environmental technologies than in its entire car industry. [Read on...](#)

US Companies leave Chamber of Commerce over climate policy

It started as a murmuring of discontent within the Chamber over its lobbying against US climate legislation. It has rapidly gathered pace. Nike and Johnson & Johnson publicly stated their opposition to the Chamber's stance earlier this year. The energy company PG&E left, closely followed by Excelon. But Apple took the most radical step so far, announcing it was leaving immediately because it did not support the Chamber's position on Climate. [More...](#)

UK Supermarkets take leadership role

The UK's largest supermarket groups have been hailed as 'leaders' in terms of the disclosure of their carbon emissions, according to the first ever survey of disclosure by leading UK brands. The 'big four' -

Tesco, Sainsbury, Morrisons and Asda - together with Marks & Spencer were given the highest ratings by Brand Emissions, the first annual survey of the carbon performance of 600 of the UK's biggest brands. The ratings means that these companies were awarded the status for delivering carbon emissions reductions or being top ranked on emissions intensity in their sector; having emissions targets above the UK government's climate change committee and reporting carbon emissions in compliance with accepted international standards. [Read on...](#)

Business want a positive outcome in Copenhagen

Hope for Copenhagen - a Norton Rose Group report highlights the importance business places on a successful deal at Copenhagen. 79% of business respondents to the survey believe that an unsuccessful outcome at Copenhagen will have a detrimental impact on business, 60% felt climate change should be a more significant priority than the global economic crisis and 92% can see business opportunities in their own organisation as a result of the drive to reduce carbon. The commercial stakes are high for a successful agreement. [More...](#)

Applications are now open for the Graduate Certificate in Social Impact

We are living in an exciting new world which is changing around us. Are you equipped to understand how to operate in it? International research forecasts a high demand for graduates with a socially responsible business focus, as the not-for-profit sector moves to innovative business ideas and as business looks to social impact. The Centre for Social Impact is now meeting this demand to teach socially responsible management to those who will lead in the not-for-profit, government or corporate sectors or as social investors. [Read More...](#)

Need money to help get that big green idea off the ground?

Then the British Council wants to hear from you. The Big Green Idea is a new funding initiative designed to help put eco-visionary ideas into action. Five grants of \$10,00 are up for grabs. [Get in quick](#) as applications close this Friday December 4th.

India looks set to increase CSR spend

The Indian Ministry of Corporate Affairs wants companies to fund CSR. It is working on the broad contours of a code that will require all profit-making companies to set aside an amount proportionate to their turnover or profits for corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives, a government official said. The proposal, if implemented, will see Private Companies stepping up their CSR activity. Currently, profit making PSUs across sectors are required to shell out up to 2% of their net profit towards CSR work. [More...](#)

CDP Launches Water Disclosure Project

The Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) has announced the launch of CDP Water Disclosure, a new programme that will help institutional investors better understand the business risks and opportunities associated with water scarcity and other water-related issues, by increasing the availability of high quality business information on this critical issue. [More...](#)

Barnardos' Star of Wonder Gift Appeal

Looking for a way to support those who have suffered abuse, neglect and poverty, help Barnardos distribute 4000 gifts to those in need this Christmas. [Find out how...](#)

Industry Views

China and US expected to shoulder their responsibilities

China's pledge on greenhouse gases means it would shoulder more than a quarter of the CO2 emissions cuts needed to avoid dangerous global warming, a top economist said Thursday. "China alone would be responsible for more than 25 percent of the reductions the world needs" to limit planetary warming to 2.0 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), said Fatih Birol, chief economist at the International Energy Agency (IEA). "The world needs to decrease the emissions by 3.8 gigatonnes [billion tonnes of carbon dioxide], and China would cut by around one gigatonne. This would put China at the forefront of the fight against climate change,"

In a long-awaited announcement, the world's No. 1 emitter declared on Thursday it would use 40- to 45-percent less carbon per unit of GDP by 2020 compared with 2005 levels -- in essence, a massive energy-efficiency drive. The day before that, President Obama pledged the US would -- relative to a 2005 benchmark -- scale back carbon emissions by 17 percent by 2020, 30 percent by 2025, 42 percent by 2030 and 83 percent by 2050. [More...](#)

Companies could be sued for failing to account for staff green lifestyles

A United Kingdom court has ruled that a man can take his employer to court on the grounds that he was discriminated against because of his views on climate change. Tim Nicholson was made redundant last year as head of sustainability for a property company Grainger Plc, the UK's biggest residential landlord. Mr Nicholson successfully argued that his moral values about the environment should be recognised under the same laws that protect religious beliefs.

In the landmark ruling, Justice Michael Burton said that a belief in man-made climate change is capable, if genuinely held, of being a philosophical belief for the purpose of the religion and belief regulations. The decision could open the door for employees to sue their companies for failing to account for their green lifestyles such as providing recycling facilities or offering low carbon travel. [unrecognized beecos tag: { Link <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/11/04/2732928.htm?section=justin> More...}]

Gap Between CSR Words And Actions Widens

If renewable energy is going to truly rise to the fore and supersede fossil fuels in the world's energy portfolio, corporations will need to be on board in their implementation. According to a recent MIT Sloan Management Review (MIT SMR) and The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) report however, companies are already dragging their feet even though they're aware that things like environmental regulations and a renewable portfolio standard could one day soon effect their business. [Read on...](#)

Gore's Spiritual Argument on Climate Change

Nobel Prize winner Al Gore adapts fact-based message to reach those who believe they have a moral duty to protect the planet in Our Choice: A Plan to Solve the Climate Crisis. Al's Gore's much-anticipated sequel to An Inconvenient Truth released this month, suggests that the facts alone will not persuade Americans to act on global warming. He's appealing to their spiritual side as the way forward. [More...](#)

Leadership by the courts in Achieving Sustainability

Justice Brian J Preston, Chief Judge, Land and Environment Council NSW shares his views at the Resource Management Law Association of NZ Conference on how each branch of government including the judicature has a role to play in achieving sustainable development. [more](#)