



## Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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ABN 48 036 173 161

## HOPE E-news Bulletin 2026 #04 --- April 2026

### Editorial



*I'm Allan Fong, a recently retired pharmacist and a new member of the HOPE volunteer researcher team.*

*I've always had a keen interest in environmental protection and sustainable living. My journey began around 1990 after watching a series called "Earth Quest" on Channel 9 Sydney, an educational program promoted as a family guide to protecting the environment. Thirsty for more information on the concerning dilemma of the state of our planet, I built a small collection of books (aimed at a popular audience) over the years on saving the planet, environmentally friendly home hints and organic and sustainable living. Over the decades I tried to minimise my carbon footprint through recycling, avoiding unnecessary purchases particularly those which are more damaging to the environment, favouring public transport or walking, establishing a home vegetable garden as well as writing to governments at all levels about my environmental concerns.*

*My first assignments for HOPE were to draft short overview articles on agencies which aligned with HOPE's aim of "advocating for responsible and sustainable stewardship of the environment." This newsletter features my collection of these articles.*

*Enjoy the read!*

*Kind regards,*

*Guest Newsletter Editor: Allan Fong, HOPE researcher NSW*

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### Benefits of Volunteering

Volunteering is of great benefit to the community; it also benefits you personally in a range of ways:

- Gain work experience and develop new skills – Boost your career prospects. Update your resume with a whole new skill set.
- Make new friendships and connections – Meet like-minded people. Create professional networks.
- Enjoy new social & cultural experiences – be immersed in all kinds of environments, people and causes.
- Be a part of your community – Discover, connect, make an impact and have fun.
- Enjoy better physical and mental health – Studies show volunteering makes us healthier and happier.
- Develop personally and build confidence – Expand yourself. Enjoy a sense of achievement and fulfilment.
- Act on your values – Try something new. Follow your passions and interests.
- Step out of your comfort zone – Challenge yourself in a supportive environment.
- Stand up for what matters – Be inspired and be an inspiration.
- Make a difference – The feel-good factor of supporting Queensland communities.

Enjoy the benefits of being a volunteer today!

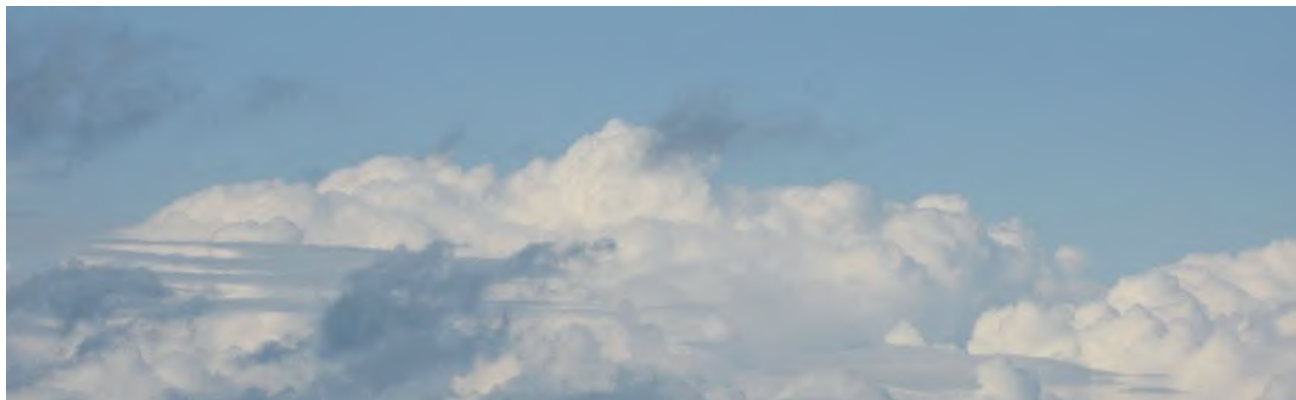
To find out about volunteering opportunities in your area, please visit:

- Volunteering Australia - <http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/>
  - Volunteering Queensland - <https://www.volunteeringqld.org.au/>
  - Householders' Options to Protect the Environment - <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/membership/volunteer-form/>
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## General Interest Items

### The Sustainability Report – The report card no human wanted but every human needs

Written and researched by Allan Fong – HOPE researcher NSW



#### Introduction:

There is unequivocal evidence humans have changed the environment on a planetary scale and are on a collision course with the planet's ecological limits. By continuing on our current trajectory to satisfy short-term needs and wants, we undermine the prosperity of future generations. Sustainable living is about integrating environmental, economic and social decisions, and taking a long-term view of our evolving lifestyle to meet the needs of today without undermining the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The Sustainability Report is an independent, non-partisan information platform dedicated to tracking environmental sustainability and its impact on human health, wealth, and future security. Established in 1998 and transitioned to a blog format in 2013, it provides deep-dive analysis on how humanity can live within the planet's ecological limits.

#### Core Mission:

One of the guiding philosophies of the Sustainability Report is recognising sustainability requires balancing a sound economy and equitable society with a healthy environment to ensure the needs of today don't compromise future generations. A central theme is the concept of the "Environmental Envelope" where humans live off the planet's "income" (renewable resources) rather than depleting its "capital" (finite ecosystems). By looking at the big picture, informed decisions can be made by monitoring global trends, population growth, consumption patterns and technological shifts.

#### Leadership and History:

The Sustainability Report was founded in 1998 by Michael Keating, a veteran environmental journalist and author who has contributed to major global initiatives, including the UN's Earth Summit and GEO-4 reports. Early sponsors included high-profile organisations like Environment Canada, the United Nations Environment Programme, and various academic and corporate foundations. While based in Canada, the report maintains a broad international perspective. It provides objective reporting on the problems facing the planet as well as potential options for positive change and prioritises sustainability as a critical driver of overall human wellbeing. Read more about The Sustainability Report at this link, including all previous reports archived by year and month [The Sustainability Report » About The Sustainability Report](#) . Here's an excerpt from a recent report dated 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026:

#### **Environmental successes, challenges and opportunities**

*We are in a titanic struggle with ourselves over how much to consume and how much to pollute. By over polluting and overusing natural resources we are creating a poorer and more difficult future for ourselves and our children. We know that climate change caused by air pollution, especially from burning coal, oil and natural gas, results in worse droughts, wildfires, storms and floods. There are constant stories about the tiny microplastics and dangerous chemicals in our food, water and bodies. These are just pieces of the story. We have altered about half the Earth's surface. The destruction of soils and forests is causing desertification of more land and this is reducing the amount of farmland to feed a growing population. Overuse of water to irrigate crops is causing an increasing number of local and regional water crises. Deforestation, along with overhunting, overfishing and pollution is causing the greatest extinction of life in millions of years. For the first time in human history, young people face the prospect of a planet made less hospitable by their parents...*

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## Sustainable Salons – For a perfectly coiffured future

Written by Allan Fong, HOPE researcher NSW



Sustainable Salons is a comprehensive recycling and sustainability service designed specifically for the hair, beauty, barber and pet grooming industries. Participating businesses can divert up to 95% of waste from landfill, support their local community and get more loyal, environmentally conscious customers by joining the program.

### Uses for recycled hair:

Hair, being organic has a multitude of uses and is sustainable because it keeps on growing! Examples of hair recycling:

- Hair booms are an organic alternative to synthetic booms and are very effective at soaking up oil spills.
- The Queensland University of Technology is currently researching how human hair can help create more environmentally sustainable OLED displays.
- Hair can be used to improve soil health and encourage plant growth.
- Production of “hairy bricks,” a sustainable building material which enhances insulation.
- Ponytails are sent directly to wigmakers and charitable organisations such as the Australia Alopecia Areata Foundation (AAAF).

### What else can be recycled from participating businesses?

- Metals like aluminium from salon foils, colour tubes and spray cans can be recycled.
- Paper from magazines, newspapers and cardboard packaging.
- Plastics from soft packaging, hard packaging (e.g. shampoo bottles), colour brushes, bags, lids.
- Razors, threading needles, other sharps.
- Tools like hair dryers, clippers, curling wands and straighteners can be recycled responsibly and diverted from landfill.

### How do you find a sustainable salon?

The Sustainable Salons webpage (link below) provides a location search feature which can be filtered by business type. The program has a one-time set-up fee and ongoing weekly membership. Consider asking your local salon to become a participating business by directing them to the website.

Link [Sustainable Salons Salon Recycling Service Benefits - Sustainable Salons](#)

### Other social benefits:

Proceeds from the sale of recycled materials are donated to charitable organisations like OzHarvest and KiwiHarvest to provide meals for those in need. The program also creates meaningful employment for people with disabilities within their recycling depots.

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***“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.” – [Robert Swan](#)***

## Queensland Item

### Spurtopia – Sustainable living at its finest

Written by Allan Fong – HOPE researcher NSW



Spurtopia is an Australian lifestyle project founded by Roman and Jana Spur which focuses on empowering individuals and families to live more sustainably through practical, inexpensive and common-sense solutions. Through their motto “Be inspired to create your own Utopia” they demonstrate how sustainability doesn’t have to be expensive or complex, and a simple, happy and healthy life can be achieved by anyone. As you explore their website (link below) you’ll read about the Spur’s inspiring journey of converting a rental unit and later a homestead into a “sustainable paradise.”

#### Content and core themes:

- **Gardening and food production:** In addition to well established organic gardening practices such as worm farms, composting and permaculture principles, the Spurs share other innovative ideas such as self-watering garden beds and vegetable pyramids, and growing nutrient dense food in small spaces
- **Household hacks and DIY inventions:** Read about rainwater harvesting, greywater systems and gravity fed irrigation. Apply the “5R’s mantra” (Refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle and repair) to achieve a near zero waste lifestyle. There are also recipes for chemical free household items such as toothpaste, laundry detergent and cleaners.
- **Education:** Roman, a sustainable design engineer, provides professional consultations for home and garden designs to improve energy efficiency and food productivity. They host farm tours and school excursions at their Fernvale, QLD homestead to showcase their systems in action.
- **Self-sufficiency:** Advice on keeping backyard chickens and honeybees (including “Be BEE Friendly” initiatives). Find recipes on making sourdough bread, sauerkraut, kombucha, kefir, and preserving seasonal gluts.

Here’s the link to the Spurtopia website [Practical Ideas For Sustainable Living | Spurtopia.com.au](http://www.spurtopia.com.au)



Annual Pledge/Donation - <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/annual-pledgedonation/>

We invite members and supporters to consider making an annual financial contribution to help cover our operating costs of approximately \$20,500 p.a.

Currently, our income is derived from project grants, fund-raising, corporate sponsorship and donations, but falls well short of our requirements.

Your financial support, by way of an annual pledge or donation, will considerably help us to achieve better financial viability.

## National Items

### CSIRO – Advancing Australia through Science and Innovation

Written by Allan Fong – HOPE researcher NSW



Wi-Fi technology...polymer banknotes..." Avagoodweegend" Aeroguard...what do they all have in common? Answer: they were all developed by The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia's national science agency and one of the world's largest and most diverse scientific research organisations dedicated to solving the nation's greatest challenges through innovative science and technology.

#### Mission statement:

The CSIRO acts as a bridge between scientific discovery and practical application, aiming to solve the greatest challenges facing the country. Their mission focuses on several key strategic goals:

- **Innovative Industries:** Helping Australian businesses become more competitive and productive.
- **A Healthy Nation:** Improving the health and wellbeing of Australians through medical and nutritional research.
- **A Sustainable Planet:** Protecting Australia's environment and natural resources while supporting the transition to a low-emissions future.
- **Security and Resilience:** Strengthening Australia's national security and its ability to respond to disasters or biosecurity threats

#### Key Areas of Impact:

CSIRO operates through several **Research Business Units**, including:

- **Agriculture & Food:** Improving plant/animal health and sustainable farming.
- **Health & Biosecurity:** Developing vaccines (e.g., Hendra) and protecting against biological threats.
- **Data61:** The agency's digital and data science arm, focusing on AI, cybersecurity, and robotics.
- **Environment:** Researching climate change, oceans, and land management.
- **Energy & Mineral Resources:** Driving the transition to net-zero and sustainable mining.
- **Space & Astronomy:** Managing world-class radio telescopes and satellite technology.

#### National Infrastructure:

CSIRO manages several of Australia's critical research facilities on behalf of the government, such as:

- **The Marine National Facility:** Including the research vessel *Investigator*.
- **The Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP).**
- **The Australia Telescope National Facility (ATNF):** Including the Parkes Observatory ("The Dish").
- **Biological Collections:** Extensive archives of Australian insects, wildlife, and plants.

#### Other notable inventions and discoveries credited to the CSIRO:

- **Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy (AAS)** – a means for measuring the concentration of chemical elements in a sample. AAS revolutionised medical diagnosis, environment monitoring and mining by allowing scientists to detect tiny traces of metals
- **Relenza (an anti-flu drug)** – unlike vaccines that prevent infection, Relenza works by jamming the mechanism the virus uses to spread from cell to cell within the body
- **Permanent Crease Wool** - If you've ever worn trousers with a permanent crease or a "wash and wear" wool suit, you can thank the **SiroSet** process. It uses a chemical treatment to permanently set the shape of wool fibres so they don't lose their look after cleaning
- **The Parkes Radio Telescope:** While not an "invention" in the traditional sense, it was a feat of engineering that played a crucial role in receiving the televised signals of the 1969 Moon landing.

To find out more, click here for their official website [Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Australian Government - CSIRO](https://www.csiro.au)

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## Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR)

Written by Allan Fong, HOPE researcher NSW



Established back in 1983, the Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR) is the country's peak industry body for resource recovery, recycling and remanufacturing. As a growth industry consisting of hundreds of participating businesses including some of Australia's largest companies, it supports over 94 000 jobs and contributes nearly \$19 billion dollars to the Australian economy.

### Key initiatives:

**Membership** of ACOR is open to all Australian companies and businesses with a keen interest in recycling. Benefits of membership include taking part on ACOR's regular industry briefings and sharing knowledge on topical issues, networking opportunities with other organisations across the recycling value chain, and opportunities to provide input into developing industry standards and accreditation schemes.

**Policy advocacy:** ACOR actively engages with government and stakeholders to develop policies to support recycling programs. An example of this is their partnership with Good Environment Choice Australia (GECA) to develop and establish the Australian Recycling Facilities Standard (ARFS), a new national scheme for recycling facilities.

**Product Stewardship** is where manufacturers take responsibility for their products throughout their lifecycle. ACOR advocates for product stewardship to help improve recycling uptake and reduce waste.

### Priorities to support a thriving recycling sector:

Through their 3-year strategic plan, ACOR describe their vision for achieving a circular economy where resource recovery, remanufacturing and recycling are pivotal to generating economic and social benefits, while improving the health of our environment. Some of their key objectives include supporting a thriving competitive recycling market through clear policy settings, through to education and engagement to ensure Australians know how to recycle correctly (e.g. safe disposal of batteries).

### Membership Showcase

ACOR's website includes links to short videos on some successful Australian recycling stories. Here are a couple of examples:

- **Close the Loop** - where toner from used printer cartridges is mixed with soft plastics to produce "TonerPlas," a polymer used to improve the performance of asphalt. [Close The Loop](#)
- **PACT Reuse** – producing noise walls using up to 75% post-consumer plastics [PACT Reuse](#)

For more information visit their official website at this link: [About ACOR - Australian Council of Recycling](#)

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## Quotes on Minimalism, Waste, and Consumption

*"The most environmentally friendly product is the one you didn't buy."* – [Joshua Becker](#)

*"Fast fashion is like fast food. After the sugar rush, it just leaves a bad taste in your mouth."* – Livia Firth

*"Consume less; share better."* – [Hervé Kempf](#)

*"If it can't be reduced, reused, repaired... then it should be restricted, redesigned, or removed from production."* – [Pete Seeger](#)

*"Nature provides a free lunch, but only if we control our appetites."* – [William Ruckelshaus](#)

*"Call it eco-fashion if you like, I think it's just common sense."* – Livia Firth

## Plastics Industry Pipe Association of Australia (PIPA)

Written by Allan Fong, HOPE researcher NSW



The Plastics Industry Pipe Associations of Australia (PIPA) is the nation's peak industry body representing manufacturers and suppliers of plastic pipes and associated fittings. As a non-profit association, their mission is to support and advance the appropriate use of plastic pipes and fittings in Australia, using an approach based on research, education, technical expertise and advocacy.

### Technical resources and guidelines

PIPA have a library of technical documents on their website known as POP Guidelines which provide up-to-date guidance for best practice across the plastic pipe industry. These documents were developed by technical experts and complement Australian standards and can be used to support compliance and performance.

### Sustainability

While “plastics” and “sustainability” are words you don't often hear in the same sentence, engineered plastic pipes have become the preferred choice for new and replacement pipes all over the world. Here are some reasons why plastic pipes are better for the environment and for human health:

- Free from phthalates and heavy metals.
- They offer superior chemical resistance, won't rust or corrode thereby protecting drinking water from contaminants.
- They don't break down into microplastics and won't end up polluting our oceans and waterways.

Also, through working with a variety of partners PIPA have established a Plastic Pipes recycling program further diverting end of life pipes from landfill and contributing to a circular economy.

### Membership

PIPA represents manufacturers and suppliers of plastic pipes and fittings, plastic resin suppliers, plastic fabricators, pipeline installers, rubber seal ring manufactures along with training and certification bodies.

### United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a global framework uniting people from different nations to address some of the world's most pressing challenges and create positive outcomes for both humans and the planet. By providing access to clean water, creating resilient communities and supporting sustainable infrastructure plastic pipes play a key role in helping to achieve SDGs.

### Want to know more?

Here's a link to a short video which describes the PIPA story: [PIPA - Our Story](#)

To find out more, visit their website at this link: [Plastics Industry Pipe Association of Australia – PIPA](#)



## Recycling Victoria – Overseeing waste and resource recovery

Written by Allan Fong – HOPE researcher NSW



Recycling Victoria is a business unit within the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action whose overarching aim is to improve the reliability and transparency of the state's waste and recycling sector.

### What are their goals?

- Prevent waste from being generated.
- Maximise resource recovery.
- Reduce hazardous components in waste.
- Ensure services are cost effective, safe and reliable.
- Build resilience so that the waste and recycling sector can withstand market disruptions.
- Support delivery of a circular economy for Victoria.

### How will they achieve their goals?

- Provide strategic oversight and integrated leadership of Victoria's waste and recycling systems.
- Collect data and report on waste and resource recovery to plan for a better and more reliable system.
- Establish advisory committees and regional representation to inform relevant government departments.

### Strategic priorities:

- Consult and engage with local councils, industry, regional communities and Traditional owners.
- Developing a framework outlining how they will support local councils, as well as an overall strategic plan.
- Establishing a centralised data and information hub.
- Planning and administering future waste and recycling schemes and standards.

### Case study: Waste to Energy Scheme

Victoria is expected to run out of landfill capacity by the mid-2030s. Recycling Victoria regulates market-related aspects of thermal waste to energy processed under Victoria's "Waste to Energy Scheme", ensuring only licenced facilities process approved amounts and types of residual wastes. Under this scheme energy is recovered from waste which cannot be recycled, to produce heat, liquid fuels and electricity. It should be noted other approvals are required to operate a waste to energy facility which are not managed by Recycling Victoria (e.g. Environment Protection Authority [EPA], local government, Energy Safe Victoria).

Want to find out more? Visit their website at this link: [About Recycling Victoria | vic.gov.au](https://www.vic.gov.au/about-recycling-victoria)



## The Australian Micro Recyclers Association (AMRA) – Supporting local small-scale recycling.

Written by Allan Fong, HOPE researcher NSW



Although the Australian recycling industry contributes \$19 billion to the nation's economy, small scale operators struggle to access suitable funding, lack visibility and recognition resulting in missed collaboration opportunities. The fragmented regulatory environment in Australia further deters investment and makes compliance challenging for micro recyclers. The Australian Micro Recyclers Association (AMRA) was founded in 2022 to provide small-scale recyclers with the tools, connections, and advocacy to thrive in the recycling sector.

### Core mission:

AMRA aims to empower micro recyclers, increase local manufacturing and reduce reliance on virgin plastics. This is achieved through knowledge-sharing, advocacy, improving collaboration with

stakeholders and raising community awareness about the benefits of a circular economy. In particular, AMRA exist to **disrupt centralised recycling** so that recycling of materials (textiles, glass as well as plastic) takes place everywhere across Australia and not just the major cities.

### Membership:

Membership is open to small scale recyclers typically with an annual turnover of under \$5 million, although a second tier of membership is available to larger corporations. By partnering with financial institutions and government programmes, AMRA facilitates tailored funding opportunities for members. They also work with the industry to promote fair regulations and support for small scale recyclers, ensuring members' voices are heard in policy discussions.

### Mentorship:

Individual mentorship is also available for an additional fee. These sessions provide a unique opportunity to tap into the wealth of knowledge and experience held by AMRA board members, and are useful for businesses seeking guidance, navigating industry challenges or wishing to expand their network.

Here's a link to a short 90 second video by Bradley Scott, co-founder of AMRA outlining the association's mission [AMRA Introduction - YouTube](#)

Find out more about AMRA at their website [AMRA Australian Micro Recyclers Association](#)





## EnviroCom Australia – Providing environmental services to the Australian Government and Private Sector

*Written by Allan Fong, HOPE researcher NSW*

EnviroCom is a national consultancy organisation providing environmental management, education and research services to both government and private industry. Established in 1998, they currently employ over 30 professional and administration staff with diverse backgrounds in areas such as teaching, environmental education, behavioural change, environmental science, research and data analysis, environmental assessment, communication and community engagement and administration.

### Case Studies:

#### 1. Education and communication

EnviroCom have extensive experience in tailoring education programs to meet client needs, including the delivery of school and community environmental education programs. For example, they assisted Bathurst Regional Council in developing the education content for its innovative Early Learning Water Education program. This is a comprehensive, free online resource aimed to educate young children (ages 3.5 to 5) on water conservation and usage in their regional setting. Here is a link to the program [Early Learning Water Education Program Bathurst Regional Council](#)

#### 2. Research and Data Analysis

Tailored research and data collection methodologies can be developed for government and private sector clients. One of many such projects where EnviroCom were commissioned include when Moyne Shire Council in Victoria partnered with surrounding councils to improve the diversion of food waste away from landfill, as compositional analysis and observations indicated local food waste continued to be presented to the red-lidded general waste bin instead of the food organics and garden organics (FOGO) bin. The result was the delivery of a multiphase project which involved local research, developing and trialling educational interventions, and a review and assessment phase.

#### 3. Behaviour Change

EnviroCom can develop strategic, evidence-based behavioural change programs to target improved waste and sustainability outcomes for communities. One project in Melbourne focused on waste management in multi-unit residences and sought to reduce illegal dumping, reduce contamination of recycling material and reduce waste sent to landfill. Four different approaches were trialled to educate residents on how to dispose of their rubbish and recycling options. The most effective option was door knocking residents, which was also the most expensive costing \$13 per unit. The second most effective option was found to involve mail-out information to residents. The results of one case study showed contamination of recycled material was reduced from 16.5% to 2.5% while illegal dumping was reduced from 2 cubic metres per week to one third cubic metres per week.

Find out more about EnviroCom Australia at this link: [EnviroCom – Specialised services in Environmental Education, Training and Research over twenty years](#)



## Australian Organics Recycling Association – Promoting a Healthier Future

Written by Allan Fong, HOPE researcher NSW



The Australian Organics Recycling Association (AORA) is the nation's industry association for organics recycling. Their vision is to promote the reuse of organic materials within a circular economy by raising awareness of the benefits of compost and mulches, and facilitating an environment which maximises recycling and reuse.

### Compost fact sheets

Read about the extensive benefits of compost in AORA's compilation of fact sheets [Compost Fact Sheets - AORA](#). In summary, you'll discover:

- The vital role compost plays in improving soil health and enhancing plant growth.
- Optimal conditions for making compost.
- The positive outcomes of applying compost in various community and commercial settings (e.g. sporting fields, council parks, growing vegetable).

### Membership

Various tiers of membership to AORA are available ranging from students and individuals to national level companies associated with the organics recycling industry. Benefits of membership include:

- Being part of an organisation which advises on industry policy and regulatory reform.
- Access to global insights, trends and emerging issues in organics recycling.
- Access to publications and landmark reports, particularly valuable for business planning.
- Access to technical workshops, webinars and other member-only events.

### Vision 2031

AORA have published a strategic roadmap for the industry titled "Vision 2031", which outlines an achievable path to 95% organics recycling by 2031. These are some of the key points of this document:



- Economic benefits – uptick in organic recycling would create 4000 new jobs and add \$612 million to the Australian economy annually.
- Environmental benefits – reduction of 3.2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per year.
- Focus on reducing contamination to ensure high-quality compost.
- Focus on regarding organic waste as a national resource.
- Regulation and policy must be clear and consistent; barriers must be removed to encourage long term investment.
- Forming strong partnerships between the industry and all 3 levels of government.

Read more about AORA at this link [Australian Organics Recycling Association \(AORA\) | Home](#)

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## International Items

### **Creatively United Community – Caring, Sharing and Preparing for a sustainable world**

*Written by Allan Fong – HOPE researcher NSW*



Creatively United Community is a resource hub based in Victoria British Columbia created in the spirit of community collaboration to address climate change and environmental sustainability, where you will find a multitude of positive and creative solutions, videos, events and information to contribute to healthier, happier individuals and communities.

#### A summary of their mission:

- Celebrate social innovation
- Promote collaboration between like-minded individuals who care about the environment
- Unite communities by fostering conversations between people and organisations to achieve the common sustainability goals

#### What you'll find on their website: [Solutions For a Healthier & Happier Communities - Creatively United](#)

- A library of videos on sustainability and the environment ranging from entertaining shorts made by individuals to hour long videos by world class speakers.
- Educational resources, such as their free "58 Solutions for Lighter and Healthier Living" guide [Free Solutions Guide Download - 58 Ways to Lighter & Happier Living](#)
- Details of festivals and events (NB. As Creatively united Community is based in Victoria British Columbia, the event listings are generally locations in Canada).
- A wide of articles and other resources on sustainability and the environment.
- Template letters to all levels of government on a variety of topics e.g. Action on Urban Forest and Climate-ready housing and communities [Template Letters to all levels of Government - Action on Urban Forest and Climate-ready housing and Communities - Creatively United Community](#)
- A community blog where people can post an article on matters of importance to them and their community.
- Access their newsletter archive here [Newsletter Archive - Creatively United Community](#) or sign up to receive email updates here [Subscribe To Newsletter - Creatively United Community](#)

In summary, anyone concerned about climate change, sustainability and caring for the environment will find a wealth of useful resources on the Creatively United Community website.

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## Jeffrey Sachs – An influential but sometimes controversial figure in sustainable and economic development

Written by Allan Fong – HOPE researcher NSW



Jeffrey Sachs is best known for his work on sustainable development, poverty reduction, and his role in advising governments during major economic transitions. He became a professor at Harvard at a young age but later moved to Columbia University where he served as the **Director of The Earth Institute** (2002-2016) and currently holds the title of University Professor, the highest academic rank in Columbia. In addition, he is president of the **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network** and has served as special advisor to the UN Secretaries-general from 2001 to 2018.

### Key achievements:

Sachs is a leading expert on the fight against poverty and preventable diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS). He was a key architect of the **Millenium Development Goals** (MDGs), a series of internationally sanctioned objectives to address world poverty and continues to advocate for the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs). However, Sachs was at times controversial as highlighted by his economic advice to countries such as Bolivia, Poland and Russia in the 1980s and 1990s which later became known as “Shock Therapy” – a rapid transition from state-controlled to free-market economies to combat hyperinflation and economic collapse. His recent views on geopolitical matters have been equally polarising, frequently criticising U.S. foreign policy, particularly the war in Ukraine and tensions with China, often arguing that Western narratives are one-sided or provocative.

### Sustainability and climate change:

His recent work focuses on human-induced climate change and the transition to green energy, often criticising the continued use of fossil fuels. In 2012 he said that nuclear power was the only solution to climate change, but later in 2021 he suggested carbon neutrality could be achieved without nuclear power by mid-century if rapid technological development continues.

### Recognition:

Sachs has received numerous honours, including being named twice to *Time* magazine's list of the 100 most influential world leaders. He has received over 30 honorary degrees and prestigious awards like the **Blue Planet Prize** for environmental leadership.

He has authored numerous New York times bestsellers including:

- **The End of Poverty** (2005): Argues that extreme poverty can be eliminated through targeted foreign aid and investment.
- **Commonwealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet** (2008): Focuses on global cooperation to solve environmental and economic crises.
- **The Price of Civilization** (2011): A critique of the American economic system, advocating for higher taxes on the wealthy and greater public investment.

To find out more about Jeffrey Sachs click on the following link [Jeffrey Sachs - Wikipedia](#)

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## **TOP 25 QUOTES BY JEFFREY SACHS (of 60) | A-Z Quotes**

*Here's one to ponder!*

***“The key to ending extreme poverty is to enable the poorest of the poor to get their foot on the ladder of development. The ladder of development hovers overhead, and the poorest of the poor are stuck beneath it. They lack the minimum amount of capital necessary to get a foothold, and therefore need a boost up to the first rung.”***

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# United Nations Environment Programme – Helping to address Humanity’s most pressing Environmental Challenges

Written by Allan Fong, HOPE researcher NSW



Founded in 1972, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is a leading global authority on the environment. It unites the 193 Member States by engaging with civil society, the private sector and UN agencies to address humanity’s most pressing environmental challenges. Many global environmental initiatives over the years have been made possible through UNEP-facilitated international agreements, and today’s highest-level decision-making body on the environment (The United Nations Environment Assembly) is hosted by UNEP.

## Core Mission

Headquartered in Nairobi Kenya, UNEP have a global workforce of nearly 3000 people across 41 countries and territories. With a goal to improve the quality of people’s lives while safeguarding the environment for future generations, their core mission can be summarised as follows:

- **Inform:** UNEP have a dedicated team of scientists and experts, and shares information and knowledge through scientific assessments and reports, providing a bird’s-eye view of the state of the environment as well as identifying global emerging trends.
- **Enable:** UNEP helps countries to integrate sustainability into development and investment planning, as well as providing support to governments to help build their environmental resilience. The result is stronger environmental institutions, better legislation, enhanced technical capacity, greener investments and improved cross-border collaboration.
- **Inspire:** UNEP inspire positive change around the globe by raising awareness and advocating for action on pressing environmental challenges. They communicate directly with policy makers and people worldwide.

## The Triple Planetary Crisis

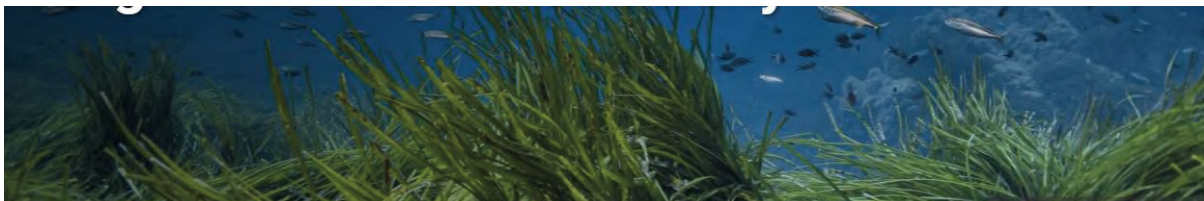
Climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste form the triple whammy of the planetary crisis as they feed into and worsen one another.

- **Climate change:** There is irrefutable evidence we are facing a climate emergency. Greenhouse gas emissions must fall dramatically, or global warming could exceed 2.9 degrees this century. UNEP's approach to addressing the climate crisis involves:
  - Providing research to support evidence-based decision making.
  - Working across sectors to support transitioning to a low-carbon future.
  - Empower communities to adapt to changing climate conditions.
  - Help unlock financing to help countries mitigate and adapt.
- **Nature and Biodiversity loss:** Nature is declining globally, putting food and water security at risk. UNEP fosters transformational change through its **Global Biodiversity Framework** ([Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework | UNEP - UN Environment Programme](#)), an initiative aimed to halt and reverse nature loss, detailing global targets to be achieved by 2030 and beyond to safeguard biodiversity.
- **Pollution and waste:** Chemicals and waste are a part of human life, but their poor management leads to health problems and environmental degradation. UNEP facilitates a collaborative approach that reduces risks from chemicals to both health and the environment through **Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs)** ([Secretariats and Conventions \(MEAs\)](#)) and the **Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC)** ([Global Framework on Chemicals | UNEP - UN Environment Programme](#))

Learn more about UNEP by visiting their website [UNEP - UN Environment Programme](#)

## A Case Story

UNEP regularly publish news articles and stories on their website. Here is a recently published and revealing report on the importance of seagrass in boosting biodiversity. [Five ways often-unheralded seagrasses boost biodiversity](#)



Seagrasses are one of the most widespread marine ecosystems on earth, but sadly these ecosystems are in danger as a football field worth of seagrass disappear every 30 minutes due to ocean acidification, coastal development and rising ocean temperatures. To raise awareness, the United Nations designated 1<sup>st</sup> March as **World Seagrass Day** ([World Seagrass Day | United Nations](#)). Here are five reasons why seagrasses help support a more sustainable future:

1. They provide a haven for marine species, and the survival of turtles, seahorses and many others depend on these meadows. Their leafy canopy also provides shelter for crabs and shrimp.
  2. They help clean water by trapping carbon-rich sediments and absorbing nutrients and pathogens, as well as oxygenating water through photosynthesis. In effect, seagrass support biodiversity by providing habitat and nutrients for countless species
  3. They support fisheries through being a food source for fish, octopi, shrimp, oysters, clams and squid
  4. Seagrass is important for non-marine species too. During autumn migration, geese and ducks graze on seagrass poking out from coastal sediments, and other birds forage for invertebrates in the shallow waters surrounding the plants
  5. They are highly efficient carbon sinks, and store up to 18 percent of the world's oceanic carbon
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