Everybody’s business: After Gustavson

Gustavson alumnus Andrew Hall and his business partner Jeremy Bryant have been tapped for Corporate Knights’ national Top 30U30 Sustainability Leaders list! “We’ve learned that the way business has been conducted over the past century or so is completely unsustainable and needs to change,” wrote the co-founders of MealShare. “We want to help lead the generation that pivots humanity in the right direction to make it sustainable for future generations. We want our careers and lives to have meant something.” See the story on Corporate Knights’ website now, and in the Globe and Mail on April 1.

When is flatlining good news? When it’s CO2 levels

The International Energy Agency suggests that regulations to rein in pollution are starting to have an impact. Worldwide emissions of carbon dioxide in 2014 were the same as in 2013, even though the world economy grew (by 3.3%, according to the International Monetary Fund). The only times CO2 emissions have actually fallen were in the early 1980s and 2008, both periods of economic contraction, so this is the first time for many years that the world economy has grown and emissions have not risen too.

In the European Union, GDP went up by 1.4% last year but CO2 emissions from energy use fell by 6%. Over the past five years GDP among all rich countries has risen by 7% but CO2 emissions from energy have fallen by 4%, offsetting a rise in developing countries. The whole story is in CO2 and the climate: Flatlining in The Economist, March 21, 2015.

Zero waste in real life

In this CNN video, Anamarie Shreeves shows how she eliminates all trash – except those pesky fruit stickers. “Zero waste doesn’t stop me from doing anything I want to do,” she says.

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MasterCard pins down the cash economy

To limit theft and corruption, MasterCard is helping governments switch subsidy payments to electronic currency. MasterCard’s tech platform connects customers to merchants, and has the potential to connect governments, citizens, financial institutions and merchants to each other, allowing agencies to digitize social subsidy programs, conserving limited government resources, and dramatically reducing distribution cost and abuse that is rife in informal cash economies. This article in MIT’s Sloan Review on March 24, 2015 describes the idea behind the new initiative and the first results in South Africa.

Central and Eastern European case studies

Development of social capital is very different in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) compared to Western countries. To help mainstream management education and executive education in CEE countries, the Academy of Business in Society recently partnered with universities in Poland, Hungary and Ukraine to develop a CSR assessment tool. They then applied the tool to the top social performers amongst international or global firms. The six resulting cases examine best CSR practices from a CEE perspective. ABIS members can access the cases for no charge; non-members can buy them via this site.

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Want to get rid of that old but still working DVD player or toaster? The obsolete computer or PlayStation? Re-use/recycle event Mar 30 & 31.