Blockchain: what is it and what is it good for?

Digital Currencies and Blockchain in the Social Sector: How decentralized technologies are transforming philanthropy and NGO work in the Stanford Social Innovation Review defines the concept and the practice of blockchain. Then it considers current and possible uses such as philanthropy and international aid (for donors and recipient organizations and individuals), remittances ($440b a year), identity and land rights (20% of people have no legal identity), governance and democracy (voting and fair elections), environmental protection (diamonds and coral reefs). The article wraps up with a look at some of the challenges.

Case study

Alibaba.com: between Economic Success and Corporate Responsibility

The growth of corporate responsibility has triggered complaints about the listing and transparency of the Alibaba platform. On the supply side, suppliers missed a tool for signaling their working and quality standards to their customers. On the demand side, companies wanted those signals. This case is free from oikos international.

Resilient communities: some actions

The Vancouver Island Green Business Certification program offers so much more than certification. Their checklists are available to all of us to help us reduce our negative impact and improve our positive impacts. And their Resources page has links to other sources of info and help.

The Vancouver Island Surfrider Foundation has launched #strawssuck to hit the Delete button on plastic straws. Here’s the info from the Pacific Rim chapter about the huge success in Tofino.

Indigenous International Climate Summit

Red Tide: International Indigenous Climate Action Summit, May 1-6, 2018, has been organized by Toitoi Manawa Trust (in New Zealand) and Pacific Peoples Partnership (based in Victoria) to improve understanding of climate change, network with other international and national experts, listen to communities that have been affected by climate change, and to meet with other climate activists. There are some travel bursaries for Indigenous people – the deadline to apply is Jan 29.

Gender-balanced budgeting

Sweden is teaching Canada a thing or two about budgeting for equality, and our Finance Minister is eager to learn. "It isn't a bean-counting exercise," said Canadian economist Armine Yalnizyan in this article from CBC. "It's a benefit-counting exercise, and that's a radical way of looking at what governments can do by spending money on our behalf." The Swedes have also made this very cool video called Sustainable gender equality with specific examples of gender mainstreaming in practice.

Money to make a difference

UVic’s Campus Sustainability Fund is looking for ideas that advance sustainability on campus. If you've got an idea, apply to the Sustainability Fund and make it happen. uvic.ca/sustainability/fund for more details. Application deadline is February 15th!