






Sd3's sustainability snippets Jan 5th - Apr 6th digested, cut down and pasted from various sources.

What's in the press?

-  **Green Futures: Time** <http://www.greenfutures.org.uk/>
-  **New Consumer, the UK's only fair trade magazine:** www.newconsumer.org/ Try it!
-  **Wired Magazine: Low-cost laptops for kids in need:** www.wired.com



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Snippet	Source, Go to	Date
Automotive sector and sustainable mobility		
UK: motorway car share lane will be set up on the M1, junctions 7-11. And inappropriate use of public rights of way by mechanically propelled vehicles will be curtailed via legislation	Sustain Magazine v06 i01 & http://www.edie.net/news/news_story.asp?id=9427&channel=1	Jan 5 & 21
Skoda (100% owned by Volkswagen) has produced its first, (non-externally verified) sustainability report	Ethical Corporation Magazine	
Future fuel: 7 alternative fuels Overview of alternative fuels	http://www.wbcd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=DocDet&id=12533	Jan 13
438,000 diesel school buses targeted for Hybrid's Fuel 2 conversion technology	http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/3386.html	Jan 14
Search for viable sources of alternative energy goes on World Energy announced production agreement with part of Dow Chemical Company to enhance World Energy's biodiesel production and distribution capabilities	http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/3423.html	Jan 19
Auto makers wouldn't sell guzzlers in Canada Gas-guzzling luxury cars and big SUVs could be withheld from the Canadian market in coming years if Canada imposes fuel-efficiency standards	http://www.wbcd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=DocDet&id=12888	Jan 21
Caterpillar manufacturer of construction and mining equipment, diesel and natural gas engines and industrial gas turbines, has pledged to reduce its global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 20% by 2010.	http://www.wbcd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=DocDet&id=12897	Jan 21
European environmental group T&E called for binding EU legislation to curb passenger car CO2 emissions, citing new evidence that European firms will not meet their own target under a voluntary agreement with the EU.	ENDS Daily ISSUE 1806	Jan 24
Auto supply chain for fuel cells! Billion-dollar supply chain serves an industry that doesn't yet exist and a desire to create a whole new energy source that will help us survive the coming scarcity and high cost of oil.	Clean Edge News http://www.cleandedge.com/story.php?nid=3318	2004
Hybrid vehicles get much of the attention on fuel economy but bigger fuel savings come from more efficient designs for the most popular vehicles on the road. Eg. continuously variable transmissions (CVTs) generally achieve a 4-8% fuel economy improvement over similar vehicles	http://actionnetwork.org/ct/8dqbAR518aKj/	Feb 9
GM ranked worst polluter among automakers, by The Union of Concerned Scientists, followed by DaimlerChrysler and Ford. Honda comes out on top as the least polluting.	http://actionnetwork.org/ct/8pqbAR518aKE/	Feb 9
Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership launches new scheme which tells drivers and potential car buyers how green cars are.	http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/1/hi/uk/4252359.stm	Feb 10
International TV campaign for public transport and the environment launched on 16 February; UNEP say transport (road and air) is "estimated to be responsible for 30 % of CO2 emissions in Europe"; European Federation for Transport and the Environment recently reported that the voluntary target set by EU car manufacturers to reduce CO2 emissions by 140g/km in 2008 would not be met unless "unprecedented emissions cuts" are made now.	http://www.wbcd.org/plugins/DocSearch/details.asp?type=DocDet&Objectid=13127	Feb 10
Honda ready to hit the gas Engines can run on gas so Honda advocate filling your car with the fat that fries your chips.	The Independent & http://www.wbcd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=DocDet&id=13289	Feb 24
Clearing the roads by sharing a car is a hot concept that could ease gridlock.	http://www.wbcd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=DocDet&id=13249	Feb 24

New, cellulosic ethanol - different to grain ethanol - cuts tailpipe emissions, compared to gasoline, and if you factor in the CO2 that's sopped up by biomass crops grown for fuel, the bottom-line decrease can be 90% or more.	http://www.wbcd.org/plugins/DocSearch/details.asp?type=DocDet&Objectid=13248	Feb 25
ChevronTexaco launches first hydrogen fuelling station as part of "Governor Schwarzenegger's Hydrogen Highway Network". Also, Ford Motor Co. and ChevronTexaco Hydrogen Co. are to construct a hydrogen energy station to fuel shuttles at the Orlando International Airport.	http://www.wbcd.org/plugins/DocSearch/details.asp?type=DocDet&Objectid=13269	Feb 25
Avis and Honda launched Europe's first hybrid car rental scheme in Portugal, with Portuguese NGO Quercus. Customers receive leaflets on hybrid engines and "greener" driving habits. See press release.	Ends daily 1808	Feb 25
Walk, Bus, Train, Walk... Try Transport Direct for your UK travel plans (doesn't include cycling).	http://www.transportdirect.info/TransportDirect/en/	Feb 28
GM and Ford have been forced to cut production in the face of falling car sales. Meanwhile, Asian carmakers fared well. GM and Ford blamed high fuel prices for low sales of big trucks and gas-guzzling sports utility vehicles (SUVs) - the vehicles that provide the biggest profits.	http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/4310255.stm	Mar 2
Alternative fuel futures at Geneva's 75th International Motor Show Every automaker showed off its latest hybrids, fuel-cell or electric models in Geneva, along with the latest diesel options. Eg, the Honda FCX, Toyota Prius, VW Golf Bifuel, GM's Sequel, and...er...the Lexus RX400h 3.3l luxury SUV.	http://www.wbcd.org/plugins/DocSearch/details.asp?type=DocDet&Objectid=13412	Mar 3
Toyota Motor Corp plans to transport autoparts on its own freight train beginning in fall 2006 to lower carbon dioxide emissions	www.wbcd.org	Mar 3
Respiratory physiotherapists have warned that PM10 from diesel engines is present at dangerous levels in the UK.	http://www.edie.net/news/news_story.asp?id=9600&channel=2	Mar 4
The president of Toyota said that the main reason for launching its Aygo small car was to meet carbon reduction targets - not to boost profits. The CEO of DaimlerChrysler said, "[Loss-making] Smart is a low consumption vehicle which adds to our fleet emissions (efficiency), which is very important". Manufacturers are finding it hard to meet voluntary targets agreed with the EC. Negotiations are due to start about the next step in reducing emissions. Brussels is keen to see a 120g per km level adopted as a target for 2012.	http://www.wbcd.org/plugins/DocSearch/details.asp?type=DocDet&Objectid=13608	Mar 17
GM profits warning: US sales fall, shares fall 14%, amid tough competition.	http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/1/hi/business/4354543.stm	Mar 18
Non-Disclosing Automakers Companies selling autos in the European Union are not disclosing carbon dioxide (CO2) reduction commitments or strategies to comply with a seven-year-old European Union agreement. Companies analyzed are BMW, DaimlerChrysler, Ford, Volkswagen, Hyundai, and others.	http://www.wbcd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=DocDet&id=13674	Mar 18
Calpers pressure GM/Ford to increase to adopt stricter emissions standards. This arose after auto industry leaders backed out of a meeting with Calpers whose board is vowing to make environmentalism a top investment priority.	Ethical Corporation	Feb 17
Several automakers, among them Toyota, Ford Motor and BMW, are financing an advertising campaign aimed at politicians that asserts that automobiles are "virtually emission-free."	http://www.wbcd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=DocDet&id=13782 & http://www.ucsusa.org/general/special_features/page.cfm?pagelD=1667	Mar 24
General Motors & DaimlerChrysler signed a multi-million dollar deals with the US govt to build a fleet of 40 hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles to further develop the technology.	http://www.wbcd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=DocDet&id=14055	Mar 31
Argonne National Laboratory found that ethanol generates 35% more energy than it takes to produce, reinforcing the fact that production of the corn-based fuel yields a net energy gain.	http://www.wbcd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=DocDet&id=13957	Apr 1
Financial services sector		
Ruthless stealth costs? Lloyds TSB is pushing its financially unstable customers to take loans and simultaneously apply for high insurance covers, it's alleged.	Ethical Corporation	Jan 4
AccountAbility and WEF published 'Mainstreaming Responsible Investment': the result of dialogue with hundreds of leading players from the investment community across Europe and North America which explored how to overcome the impediments to mainstreaming the incorporation of social and environmental factors into investment decisions.	www.accountability.org.uk	Jan 13
143 prominent institutional investors have demanded more information on the greenhouse gas emissions of 500 of the world's largest quoted corporations, under the banner of the Carbon Disclosure Project	WBCSD http://www.wbcd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=DocDet&id=13044	Feb 3
Mainstreaming Responsible Investment - A new report by AccountAbility and the WEF gives comprehensive insight into failure of financial community to meet the needs of the real owners of capital through its unwillingness and inability to consider material social and environmental factors in investment decisions.	http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/3403.html	Feb 7

Review of the Equator Principles 18 Months On	Not progressing as well as hoped after more than a year	http://globalf.vwh.net/content/?article_id=679	Feb 7
Micro-Finance Institutions will report using the GRI Guidelines		www.GlobalReporting.org	Mar 1
Spain's second largest bank, BBVA, has published its 2004 CSR report.		http://www.bbva.com/TLBB/tlbb.jsp/ing/respscor/index.jsp	Mar 7
ABN-AMRO commits to increase training on sustainability issues for staff, engage more with investors (especially SRI funds) and make greater use of sustainability criteria when choosing suppliers.		http://www.abnamro.com/sustainability	Mar 30
ICT/Electronics sector			
WEEE worries	Leading electronics firms (HP, Honeywell and Electrolux) want EU-level discussions about their rising concerns over how collection and recycling is going to work in practice.	ENDS Daily ISSUE 1804	Jan 24
WEEE solutions	New tool that measures environmental impacts of products during life cycle could revolutionise compliance with the WEEE directive. Environmental life cycle information management (Elima) uses sensors in products to monitor their activity during consumer use that can be read during servicing or at the end of the product's life.	http://www.elima.org/ & ENDS Daily	Feb 28
New Toshiba policy extends respect for human rights, labour and the environment to suppliers around the world.		http://i-newswire.com/pr6857.html	Feb 28
Epson	By making energy use visible to all employees, Epson has reduced consumption by over 20%	Edie	Mar 15
Local authorities/Local development			
UK Government pledged to lead by example	New sustainable development strategy 'Securing the Future' commits central Government and local Government to stimulating a market for 'green' goods, particularly in the construction industry.	http://www.edie.net/news/news_story.asp?id=9634&channel=1	Mar 11
Visit www.cleanersaferegreener.gov.uk	Community groups, charities and government organisations are working hard to make our communities cleaner, safer and greener.	info4local.gov.uk	Mar 15
Sustainability management in business, CSR			
andBEYOND	Communications report shows that 50% more CEOs reported on social responsibilities in '04 than in '99 (up 28% on '03): "...the most significant [increase] we've seen in our annual surveys of 100 of the S&P 500"	www.wbcsd.org / Greenbiz.com	Jan 5
GM health care concerns	The rising cost of health care is a key worry for GM's chairman and CEO, more so than even GM's slipping market share and the progress of its competition.	http://www.wbcsd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=DocDet&id=12554	Jan 13
Indian judge orders Dow to explain shielding of subsidiary in Bhopal Criminal Case	Why should Union Carbide not face pending charges in the case relating to the 1984 gas explosion which killed thousands of Bhopal residents.	http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/3389.html	Jan 19
Review of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy available		www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/eusds/pdf/eusds.pdf	Jan 20
Will they ever learn?	Monsanto levied \$1.5 Million fines for genetic engineering bribe. Securities and Exchange Commission and the Department of Justice fines may lend credence to shareowner resolution asking Monsanto to report on GE risks.	http://www.socialfunds.com/news/article.cgi/article1616.html	Jan 25
'Father' of supply-side economics denounced CSR, calling it detrimental to stockholders' interests and harmful to corporate profitability. Other academics have lined up to denounce his comments.		Ethical Corporation http://www.ethicalcorp.com	Jan 25
Top 100 'sustainable' corporations named	The Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations list was launched at the World Economic Forum. Toyota, Alcoa and BP were singled out for excellence.	Ethical Corporation http://www.ethicalcorp.com	Feb 1
Following a wave of global corporate scandals, new corporate governance practices are evolving around the world. The recent changes in governance show that a new framework for corporate governance is emerging internationally.		http://www.fingaz.co.zw/fingaz/2004/December/December31/7440.shtml	Feb 7
How public disclosure of sustainability fundamentals can drive performance, and how close we are to such disclosure. Reporting is often derided as being devoid of any relationship to performance. The Economist calls it "corporate storytelling". Is it right?		Ethical Corporation	Feb 17
Tale of Two Reports	In comparing non-financial to financial reporting the a study by SAM and PwC shows how adding non-financial data to a financial report increases buy recommendations.	http://www.socialfunds.com/news/article.cgi/article1647.html	Mar 1
Big Four firms' integrity	A survey of the big four accountancy firms finds that their reputations are vulnerable since the collapse of Arthur Andersen	http://www.wbcsd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=DocDet&id=13401	Mar 2
"How much is that contract in the window?"	Titan Corporation, a military and intelligence contractor, is to pay a record \$28.5 million to settle criminal	http://www.ethicalcorp.com/content.asp?ContentID=3536	Mar 9

and civil charges that it bribed the president of Benin.

Wal-mart have paid a federal fine of \$135,540 to settle 25 child labour violation allegations involving 85 minors who allegedly were allowed to operate hazardous equipment at Wal-Mart's stores in three US states.

<http://www.ethicalcorp.com/content.asp?ContentID=3559>

Mar 16

Environment & climate change

First Emissions Trade Tradition Financial Services brokered a trade of 5,000 allowances at Euros 8.40 (£5.91) a tonne between Shell and BHP Billiton. Forward trading has been going on for several months.

<http://www.wbcsd.org/plugins/DocSearch/details.asp?type=DocDet&ObjectID=12485>

Jan 7

Researchers challenge carbon absorption effects of managed forests CO2 & trading targets are too generous, say environmentalists amid a row between governments, industry and environmental campaigners in the EU's ambitious new CO2 emissions trading scheme, which came into effect on January 1.

<http://www.wbcsd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=DocDet&id=12459> & <http://www.wbcsd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=DocDet&id=12435>

Jan 7

Decline in sunlight may mean that global warming is a far greater threat to society than previously thought.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/sn/tvradio/programmes/horizon/dimming_program_summary.shtml

Jan 17

The new Airbus A380, if commercially successful, could cause environmental damage, a French expert says.

<http://www.wbcsd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=DocDet&id=12842>

Jan 21

Climate crisis near 'in 10 years'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4202649.stm>

Jan 24

Britain still dirty man of Europe? Yes, according to a new index ranking countries on green issues unveiled at Davos

The Guardian & <http://www.yale.edu/esi/>

Jan 25

Renewable energy industry tax hike fears UK govt introduced new business rates that could more than triple the taxes paid by generators

<http://www.wbcsd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=DocDet&id=12977>

Jan 28

UNESCO conference recommended the creation of a new international scientific body to monitor ecosystems equivalent to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Scientists are doubtful that such a body could bridge a North-South divide.

<http://www.wbcsd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=DocDet&id=13050>

Feb 3

Institute of Directors in the UK says, "There has been an interesting shift at government agencies. They are now saying that even if we stopped all greenhouse gas emissions now, temperature rises would not stop for some time so alleviation is essential."

<http://www.wbcsd.org/plugins/DocSearch/details.asp?type=DocDet&ObjectID=13159>

Feb 11

UK: Oil firms fund campaign to deny climate change. Lobby groups funded by the US oil industry are targeting Britain in a bid to play down the threat of climate change and derail action to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

Guardian (UK) & <http://www.corpwatch.org/article.php?id=11812>

Jan 27

Over..chomp..consumption...chomp Earth Policy Institute, a US-based think-tank, has found that China now eclipses the US in four out of five of the basic food, energy and industrial commodities - grain, meat, oil, coal, and steel.

http://www.edie.net/news/news_story.asp?id=9579&channel=1

Feb 25

"Dramatic" cuts in air pollution achieved by large industry in Britain mean that road transport now presents a key policy challenge.

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/ENDS_DAILY_1821

Feb 11

New UK Govt Sustainable Development strategy launched.

<http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/index.htm>

Mar 7

Photo evidence of climate change The volcanic crater at the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro has not been seen in 11,000 years. The snow and glaciers which have crowned it are melting. By 2020 they may disappear completely. The forests on Kilimanjaro's slopes provide life-giving water to plants and animals in the plains below. Rising temperatures also threaten this essential process.

<http://www.northsoutheastwest.org> for various photos and other info on the exhibition

Mar 15

CO2 emissions from aviation grew by nearly 70% from 1990 to 2002. The European Commission is seeking the views of European citizens on possible EU action to curb this growing trend. Go to <http://europa.eu.int/yourvoice>

www.eep.org

Mar 18

Building Sustainable Solutions, 2004 - 2010 commits to work with all stakeholders in the first stage preparation and planning of regeneration, major building and construction projects

<http://fuelcellworld.org/content/images/articles/Building%20Sustainable%20Solutions%20v8.pdf>

Mar 18

UK Environment Agency's first report on climate change shows how the environment and quality of life in England and Wales will be affected

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/ea_cc_eng_1_1003510.pdf

Mar 21

Carbon dioxide continues its rise and human activities are causing irreversible damage to the natural world. See two research stories using the links to the right.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/1/hi/sci/tech/4395817.stm> & <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/1/hi/sci/tech/4391835.stm>

Mar 31

Reporting/verification

Socially Responsible Mutual Fund firm Calvert published its first Sustainability Report using Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) guidelines

<http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/3390.html>

Jan 14

18 Sustainability reports short-listed for Ceres/ACCA reporting awards: 3M, Baxter International, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Citigroup, Dofasco, Enbridge, Ford Motor Company, The Gap, General Motors, Hewlett-Packard, McDonalds, Placer Dome, Potash, Seventh Generation, Talisman, Transalta, VanCity Savings, YSI, Inc.

www.accaglobal.com/sustainability

Jan 17

The European Federation of Accountants (FEE) calls on the European Commission's Multi-stakeholder Forum to recognise Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) reporting at a level similar to financial reporting.

<http://www.fee.be>
UNEP FI

Feb 2

ACCA Awards: Best sustainability report: Co-operative Bank. Best electronic reporting: Co-operative Bank & BT Group. Best social report: FRC Group (Traidcraft as runner-up). Commendations: Thames Water (environmental report); mm02 (innovative reporting); Anglo American (articulating the challenge of sustainable development for their business). ACCA call for more detail and assurance in reports.	www.socialfunds.com and WBCSD	Mar 1
International Finance Corporation, the private sector arm of the World Bank Group: 2004 Sustainability Report shows social, environmental, and corporate governance initiatives underway that serve to maintain the IFC's role in private-sector development in emerging markets.	http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/enviro.nsf/Content/Publications#2004SustReport	Mar 31
Extractive Industry		
Xstrata & Centennial Coal are challenging laws which hold employers liable for OHS failings in workplace. They appealed decisions which led to criminal convictions against operations which they subsequently acquired.	Ethical Corporation http://www.ethicalcorp.com	Feb 1
16 leading mining and metals companies in the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) agreed to report on their sustainable development performance using the GRI Sustainability Reporting Framework	http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/3478.html	Feb 4
"No Dirty Gold" states Valentine's Day sales (first two weeks of February) of gold jewellery in the U.S. will leave in their wake more than 34 million tons of waste worldwide. "Gold loses its lustre when it is produced at the expense of healthy communities, clean water and human rights," said EARTHWORKS.	EARTHWORKS and Oxfam America http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/3532.html	Feb 16
Anglo American were commended at the ACCA sustainability reporting awards for articulating the challenge of sustainable development for their business.	http://www.socialfunds.com/news/article.cgi/article1646.html	Mar 1
Construction sector bribery estimated 10% of the sector's turnover estimated to be \$3,200 billion a year worldwide.	http://www.ethicalcorp.com/content.asp?ContentID=3567 & Transparency International	Mar 22
Food & Drink		
Alcohol Concern said the UK government's proposals for changes to alcohol licensing laws are commendable but do little to fix the fundamental flaws of licensing regulations.	Ethical Corporation http://www.ethicalcorp.com	Feb 1
Supermarket power abuse An alliance of environmental, development, consumer and farming groups has called on the DTI to urgently act on abuses of power from major supermarkets.	http://www.edie.net/news/news_story.asp?id=9591&channel=1	Feb 25
Sales of so-called fair trade products grew by more than 50% in the UK last year (that's £140m), according to the Fairtrade Foundation.	http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4303147.stm	Feb 28
Diageo's Corporate Citizenship Report 2004 is impressive in part but simultaneously fails to convince on the key issues	www.diageo.com	Mar 2

Explore sustainability with Sd3's knowledge centre at <http://www.sd3.co.uk>