COVID and the SDGs: Two Possible Futures
Working from Home
Social Distancing & Human Resilience
The Corona Mood Barometer
Emotions and Associated Topics in May 2020

Source: International English-Language News Media Coverage
May 1-31, 2020 • 178,100 online articles
www.weblyzard.com/corona-mood-barometer
Increasing Trust & Acceptance of Research
The coronavirus pandemic has shown us a new world – one where the status quo no longer exists.

Millions of people are experiencing untold misery and suffering as the virus overwhelms our bodies and economies.

Rich and poor, the pandemic has forced us to reconsider almost every aspect of how we live.
How can we build back and sustain a just and sustainable planet?

Pre-COVID Assessment
Success depends on how well we deal with COVID-19.
LEARNING FROM PAST LESSONS

1920s
Spanish Flu
- harsh penalties
- reparation payments
- loss of territory
- forced demilitarisation

1940s
- reconstruction of the global economy
- massive foreign aid programs
- more democratic, resilient and stable way
- creation of the Bretton Woods institutions
- ensuring peace, stabilizing trade, full employment and promotion of economic growth globally.
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

1950-90s
- massive and growing inequality
- frayed social safety nets
- oligarchic control of governments
- rapidly worsening climate
- accelerating loss of natural capital and ecosystem services
- general loss of system resilience
- Millennium Goals (MDGs)

1990 - 2010s
- Anthropocene
- Increasing social and economic development
- COVID-19 planetary emergency
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

2020s?
- COVID-19
DEALING WITH COVID-19 LEADERSHIP EFFECTS

Countries with female leaders perform better across a broad range of social progress, equality and wellbeing indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female leader</th>
<th>Male leader</th>
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<td>Social Progress Index</td>
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<td>Basic Human Needs</td>
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<td>Opportunity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gini coefficient</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender Inequality Index</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.13</td>
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<td>Generosity (rank)</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Happiness (rank)</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>34</td>
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CASCADING THE POSITIVES

Minimizing the damage caused by the pandemic

Recovering quickly from the damages and building on the economic responses to COVID

Holding on and building further on the positive changes introduced to healthcare, social protection and governance systems during the pandemic

Sustaining the gains in planetary-related SDGs that have occurred during the pandemic

Sustaining local economies and partnerships
## DESIGNING PROSPEROUS FUTURES

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<th>Build Back Better</th>
<th>Current Economic Model</th>
<th>Sustainable Wellbeing Economy Model</th>
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<td>Primary policy goal</td>
<td>Focus on growth GDP More is better</td>
<td>Focus on human wellbeing development More is not always better</td>
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<td>Role of environment</td>
<td>Markets assumed to overcome any resource limits</td>
<td>Natural capital and ecosystem services are not infinite</td>
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<td>Distribution &amp; poverty</td>
<td>Trickle-down policies: rising tide lifts all boats</td>
<td>Primary concern: a rapid tide lifts yachts and swamps small boats</td>
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<tr>
<td>Role of Universities</td>
<td>Hierarchical and primarily single generational</td>
<td>Multilevel and intergenerational</td>
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<tr>
<td>Role of Government</td>
<td>Interventions minimised</td>
<td>Central role, new functions as facilitator and broker in new common-asset institutions</td>
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<td>Principles of governance</td>
<td>Laissez-faire market capitalism</td>
<td>Lisbon principles of sustainable governance</td>
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</table>
• COLLABORATE in pursuit of innovative policy approaches to create wellbeing economies – sharing what works and what does not, to inform policymaking for change.
• PROGRESS toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in line with Goal 17, fostering partnership and cooperation to identify approaches to delivering wellbeing.
• ADDRESS the pressing economic, social, and environmental challenges of our time.

Wellbeing Economy Governments

The Wellbeing Economy Governments partnership (WEGo) is a collaboration of national and regional governments promoting sharing of expertise and transferrable policy practices. The aims are to deepen their understanding and advance their shared ambition of building wellbeing economies. WEGo, which currently comprises Scotland, New Zealand, Iceland, and Wales, is founded on the recognition that ‘development’ in the 21st century entails delivering human and ecological wellbeing.

Nicola Sturgeon Scotland's First Minister
RETHINKING HOW WE USE OUR PLANET’S RESOURCES
The BECCS Approach

- Coastal Wetland Protection
- Forest Protection
- Sustainable Intensification for Smallholders
- Indigenous Peoples’ Forest Tenure
- Conservation Agriculture
- Peatland Protection and Rewetting

- Farm Irrigation Efficiency
- Regenerative Annual Cropping
- Nutrient Management
- Grassland Protection
- Improved Rice Production
- System of Rice Intensification

Biodiversity and Ecosystems services with Carbon Capture and Storage

We are going beyond the original definition of BECCS to use the full potential of land and coastal areas to trap carbon through enhancement of the underlying ecosystems.
Land use is critical for our future

We must prioritise land regeneration to effect change

BexBox is an app that helps land stewards use their land cultivation processes to maximise its value for biodiversity, social and economic benefits, resilience, and carbon capture.

Our mission is to halve global emissions by 2030 using Biodiversity and Ecosystem services for Carbon Capture and Sequestration to transform agriculture, reduce emissions and draw carbon down from the atmosphere.

Photos of Yarrabee by David Freudenberger. Reproduced from Call of the Reed Worbler by Charles Massy. Chelsea Green (VT: 2018)
Decarbonising our Energy
Off-Grid Solutions
Ancient Energy Sources
Traditional BioEnergy Sources
Reaching the Last Mile – Effective Energy for the Poorest
Energy Poverty in the UK
Off Grid
Women Energy Entrepreneurs
Mobile phones – Key metric of development

• Today there are 4.78 billion mobile phones users (61.5% of people; 3.5 billion are smart phones (45% of people)

How Many Mobile Connections Are There Worldwide?

- 7.77 Billion World Population
- 9.82 Billion Mobile Connections
- 5.28 Billion Unique Mobile Subscribers

• By 2023 mobile users will increase to 7.33 billion; by 2025 72% of all internet users will solely use smartphones to access the web Statista

Source: Statista; WARC
Opening New Medicinal Sources

medicines to treat cancer, arthritis, human bacterial infections, Alzheimer’s disease, heart disease, viruses, and other diseases and possibly COVID nutritional supplements, cosmetics and natural pesticides

reconstructive surgery and a substrate for new bone
Social Capital & Connectedness

Connectedness affects multiple aspects of human life and endeavour, from cognitive development and longevity....

to social cohesion, security and perceptions of risk and equity
Role of Universities in New Global Learning Communities

Regenerative Agriculture Air Quality Battery Technologies One Health and Pesticides