

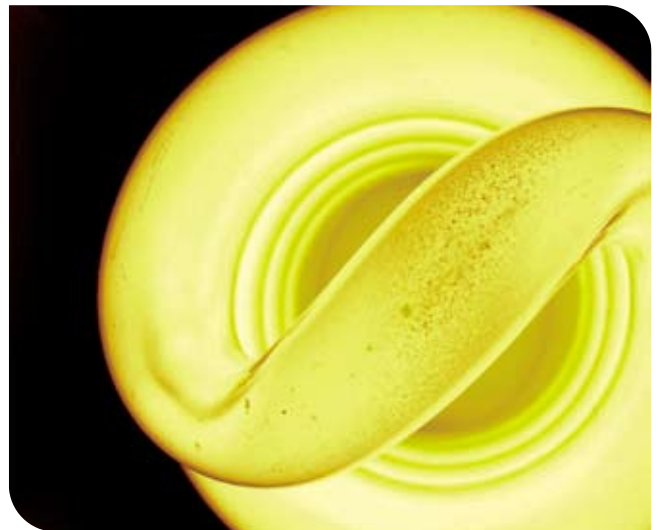
june08

NEWS & VIEWS

breaking news...

Net Balance Foundation and AccountAbility launch interim results of consumer research.

The findings of the 'What Assures Australian Consumers on Climate Change' Research by Net Balance Foundation with AccountAbility, LRQA and Globescan were launched at the Ethical Investor 'Green Marketing' forums in Sydney and Melbourne in May 2008. The results showed consumers want more action from government and business to tackle climate change and boost consumer confidence. They also showed highest levels of consumer trust in environmental groups but low trust in environmental labels. The draft report is out for review with a selected panel of experts with the final report to business and government due to be launched on the 12th August 2008, 8.30am-10.30am at the 100 Mile Cafe in Melbourne. To find out more about the research, the report launch details or with any queries please contact **Rebecca**.



NET BALANCE CALL OUT Net Balance's Melbourne team will be moving to a new city office in October - November. In line with our environmental values, we are seeking to fit out our new office with 'second life' office furniture, which would otherwise be sent to landfill. Please contact **Yesh** if your organisation has redundant office furniture and you are willing to give the furniture a new lease of life.

about us

Net Balance Management Group is a leading provider of advisory and assurance services in Corporate Social Responsibility and sustainability of organisations operating in Australasia. Net Balance Management Group shares its resources with the Net Balance Foundation, a not-for-profit think tank specifically set up to work with small to medium enterprises, research groups, academia and not-for-profit groups in the pursuit of sustainable business.

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NetBalance
MANAGEMENT GROUP

news headlines continued...

Launch of Innovative Climate Change Project.

On 26 June 2008, the Western Port Greenhouse Alliance (WPGA) launched the innovative climate change impacts and adaptations project. Net Balance has partnered with the WPGA to deliver this project over the last year. The project was jointly funded by the Australian and Victorian Governments and worked with local government, the CSIRO, and other consultants to develop climate projections, conduct risk assessments and identify adaptation options for decision makers in Western Port. The project, one of the first in Australia, has been extremely successful and the methodology will be used as a model for future adaptation projects. More information, including climate projections and reports, can be found using the prompts by clicking [here](#) or by emailing [Michelle](#).



Net Balance publishes its first sustainability report. The report, which has been assured by SD3, a UK based consultancy, covers Net Balance's sustainability performance in calendar year 2007 – its first year of operation. Preparation for the 2008 report is now underway. To download the report, please click [here](#) and if you have any questions or feedback on the report, please email [Amanda](#) or [Michelle](#).

Net Balance partners with ACCA Australia/ NZ for another series of research projects.

Following on from the successful trilogy of research into ASX 50 disclosures on stakeholder engagement, climate change and human capital management, Net Balance and ACCA Australia and NZ have decided on three more topics to analyse. The first topic will be bribery and corruption disclosures, the second topic will be materiality issues and the third topic will be corporate governance. The first report is due to be published at the end of August. For more information, email Ross by clicking [here](#).

key sustainability news and publications in Q2 2008

- **Business in the Community publishes latest CR Index results.** Companies are invited to participate in the survey if they are in the FTSE 100 or 250, are DJSI sector leaders or have a significant presence in the UK. The resulting publication, called "Companies that Count" ranks 2008 companies according to their score in the self assessment questionnaire they have to submit. Platinum companies (those that score >95%) included Accenture, Cooperative Financial Services, Rio Tinto, Tesco and Xstrata, which is a new entrant to the index. For more information on the survey and its results, click [here](#).

- **Australian companies confused about carbon reporting requirements.** A study carried out by PwC indicated that 67% of business leaders were concerned about regulatory obligations regarding greenhouse emissions and another survey done by Carbon Planet Ltd found 76% of chief financial officers had only a fair or poor understanding of carbon emissions reporting. Around 700 companies are required from 1 July 2008 to report under the NGER Act and face prosecution if they fail to do so. To read the article, click [here](#).

- **KPMG climate change risk survey published.** The report, called "Climate Changes your Business" is based on a review of 50 existing studies, which address the business risks and economic impacts of climate change at a sector level. The published reports have been analysed and a 'risk score' for each sector has been assessed. To download the report, click [here](#).

- **Climate Institute publishes report on Australians' perceptions of climate change.** The publication, which uses data from over 1000 interviews carried out with Australian nationals that were representative of the overall population distribution, found that 9 out of 10 Australians are concerned about climate change and 8 out of 10 Australians believe that further action needs to be taken over and above signing Kyoto. To download the report, click [here](#).

- **International carbon offset alliance formed.** The International Carbon Reduction and Offset Alliance, which is made up of eight of the world's leading carbon reduction and offset providers, has been set up primarily to assist businesses and individuals to reduce their carbon emissions by promoting offsetting, raising awareness, establishing best practice and supporting rigorous standards for the voluntary carbon management industry. For more information, visit the Alliance's website by clicking [here](#).

key sustainability news and publications in Q2 2008

- **ACCA Australia/NZ announces winners of the 2007 Sustainability Reporting Awards.**

The results of the 2007 awards were presented at the ceremony in Sydney, where Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd delivered a keynote speech congratulating ACCA Australia/NZ on the 18 years of work on sustainability it has carried out so far. Winners included Transurban, Watercare, VicSuper and ANZ, all of which are Net Balance clients. For more information on the awards and to download the Report of the Judges, please click [here](#).

- **Ethical Corporation publishes new report on how multi-nationals measure their GHG emissions.**

The report covers what protocols or public guidelines global companies use, how they determine their emissions intensity and how they set emissions reduction targets. It also provides information on the most common protocols and guidelines available and on national government policies relating to corporate emissions reporting. For more information, please click [here](#).

- **Parliament to review Kyoto Protocol.**

The protocol was tabled in Parliament and referred to Federal Government treaties committee for review, following Australia's ratification in December 2007. This review will include looking at Australia's obligations and opportunities relating to Kyoto, the position Australia should be taking with regards to future negotiations and the impact of global warming on the national industry, agriculture, transport and the environment. For more information, please click [here](#).

- **Carbon Trust launches new Carbon Reduction Standard.**

The green standard requires an organisation to measure, manage and reduce its carbon footprint and make reductions year-on-year. The aim is for companies to actually reduce their emissions rather than just paying an offsetting company to do so. For more information on the standard, click [here](#).

- **McKinseys publishes carbon productivity report.**

The report, launched in June, explained the results of a study started two years ago to analyse the microeconomic underpinnings of energy demand. The overall conclusion was that a global effort to boost energy productivity is needed to reduce accelerating energy demand growth. This effort would also contribute to cutting greenhouse gas emissions. To view a copy of the report, click [here](#).

dates for the diary

- **Responsible Business Forum monthly breakfast events, Sydney.**

The Responsible Business Forum is the first professional sustainability discussion network in Australia; set up to promote best practice and exchange ideas on responsible business practices. Monthly breakfast events are held in Sydney, where a speaker is invited to present on a particular topic, followed by debate and discussion. For more information on the Forum and breakfast events, please click [here](#).

- **'What Assures Consumers Australia' report launch, 12 August, Melbourne.**

This event will see the launch of the final 'What Assures Consumers' report, the interim results of which were presented in May 2008 (see earlier news story). The launch will be held from 8.30am-10.30am at the 100 Mile Cafe at Melbourne Central. For further information on the final report and launch speakers, please email [Rebecca](#).

- **Greentech 08 Australia, 15-17 August, Sydney.**

This conference is an international Trade Show and Conference with a core focus on green building, sustainable design and clean technology. For more information, click [here](#).

- **Australia-New Zealand Climate Change and Business, 18-20 August, Auckland, New Zealand.**

This conference will focus on risks and opportunities posed to business by climate change. Emissions trading, both regulated and voluntary, will be a focus, as will other complementary measures to drive emissions reductions. For more information, click [here](#).

- **National Sustainable Procurement conference, 18-19 September, Brisbane.**

This conference is the fourth in the conference series formerly known as the National Buying Green Conferences. Delegates will learn about how to integrate sustainability into mainstream procurement practices and hear from experts and network with buyers and suppliers. For more information on the event, click [here](#).

- **Carbon Solutions Forum, 22-23 September 2008, Melbourne and 9-10 October 2008 Sydney.**

This conference helps businesses benchmark their carbon reduction efforts against the Australian business community. Delegates will: hear from government and regulators on standards and obligations in carbon reduction, benchmark themselves against best practice in their own industry, explore case studies & innovative strategies employed to cut emissions throughout the supply chain, set targets and milestones to achieve significant emissions reduction. For more information, click [here](#).



new starters

Net Balance recruited four new permanent members of staff in the second quarter of 2008, and had a temporary work experience student.

Yeshwant Medaliar commenced with Net Balance as an Associate in April 2008 after spending three years at Ernst & Young conducting business diagnostics on client processes and financial analysis of statutory accounts. He has developed a sound understanding of operational and financial risk factors and recommending mitigating actions. Since joining Net Balance Yeshwant has worked on various projects including the URS sustainability report verification, Transurban greenhouse gas inventory verification and development of RACV's environmental strategy. Yeshwant is currently undertaking studies to obtain registration as a Chartered Accountant which he is expecting to complete in September 2008.

Caron Denny commenced with Net Balance as Administration Assistant / Marketing Co-ordinator in April 2008. Her role at Net Balance combines administrative tasks and project work managed by our senior associates, partners and directors.

Caron has over 10 years experience of extensive customer service and support in retail, hospitality, leisure and tourism with training and experience through some of the best employers both in the UK and abroad. Caron holds a degree in Music Industry Management from Buckinghamshire Chilterns University with a focus on Event Management and Marketing.



Natalie Falzon started with Net Balance as an Associate in June 2008. She has four years professional experience in the environmental sustainability industry in both the private and public sectors. In particular her work has focused on developing a broad range of sustainability and environmental reporting processes and policies. In previous roles Natalie has reviewed sustainability reports, undertaken greenhouse inventories, managed international cross sector environmental partnerships and developed environmental policy for local government. Previous employers include: Centre for Public Agency Sustainability Reporting, Earthwatch Institute Australia, City of Melbourne and Moonee Valley City Council.

She holds a Bachelor of Science and a Masters of Environment (Governance, Policy and Communication) from the University of Melbourne. Natalie has also held various voluntary positions with Environment Victoria and was a Research Assistant at the Cancer Council of Victoria.

Melinda Leth started with Net Balance as a Senior Associate in June 2008. Melinda has over 10 years experience in environmental sustainability having recently been a leader in developing engagement strategies in Sydney Water's Every Drop Counts Business Program. Prior to this Melinda was a policy researcher with the Department of Primary Industries (Vic) advising government, industry and community on policies to improve the sustainability of agriculture and maintain a social license to operate. She also worked as a researcher for the NSW EPA advising on sustainable practices to reduce the environmental impact of quarrying. This involved developing catchment plans and extensive community consultation.

Melinda holds a Bachelor of Environmental Science (Hons), majoring in natural resource management, and has undertaken Executive Leadership training at the Mt Eliza Centre for Executive Education. She is also co-author of several academic articles on policy instruments for natural resource management.

Kate Bezuidenhout joined Net Balance as a casual project consultant for 3 weeks in June 2008, to get some work experience. Kate is currently doing her Masters in Corporate Environmental and Sustainability Management at Monash University and is an International Student from South Africa. She has a 4-year undergraduate degree and 4 years work experience for a South African consulting engineering firm as a general environmental consultant.