

Greetings!

**Happy Planet Index  
Genuine Progress Indicator  
"The Economics of Happiness"**



**The Happy Planet Index (HPI) is the leading global measure of "sustainable wellbeing."**

Another index is the Genuine Progress Indicator. For both groups, "rankings serve as a compass pointing in the overall direction in which societies should be traveling— towards higher wellbeing lifestyles with lower ecological footprints."

**The 2021 HPI shows Costa Rica, for a fourth time, ranked number 1**, followed by Vanuatu, Colombia, Switzerland, Ecuador, Panama, Jamaica, Guatemala, Honduras and Uruguay. Costa Rica ranks first place due to its commitment to health, education and environmental protection.

**The US, the richest country in the world, ranks #122** in each category: life expectancy, wellbeing, and environmental sustainability.

[The Happy Planet Index](#)  
[Genuine Progress Indicator/Gross National Happiness](#)



**Stories, insights  
and action for a  
world that works  
for all of us**

~ ~ ~

*Justice is what love  
looks like in public.*

Cornel West

~ ~ ~

**Favorite  
Resources**

[Future Crunch](#)

[Reasons to be](#)

[Cheerful](#)

[The Optimist Daily](#)

[Chop Wood, Carry](#)

[Water](#)

[350.org](#)

[Climate Reality](#)

[Project](#)

[The Small Planet](#)

[Institute](#)

[Local Futures](#)

\*\*\*

[Desert Rose Press](#)

[VirginiaMudd.com](#)

~ ~ ~



## Climate and the global economy

Did you know. . . .

Norwegian cod is transported to China to be deboned and then returned to Norway for local sales?

Australian fish is filleted in Vietnam before being flown back to Australia to be sold?

In the average year, the U.S. imports as much beef and veal as it exports?

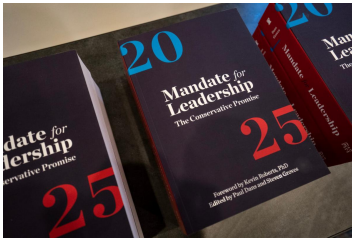
The UK imports and exports near-identical quantities of butter, eggs and bread?

Because of tax breaks, subsidies, "free trade" agreements and cheap labor, corporations have great incentives to continue this wasteful practice while greenhouse emissions rise accordingly. The answer is to support local economies as much as possible and pressure legislators to oppose these financial benefits.

[For more on Redundant Trade see this Fact Sheet by Local Futures.](#)

["The Economics of Happiness"](#) is an enlightening film that will give you a big picture look at another path that will benefit all of us and the planet. (20 minutes)

## Two News Alerts

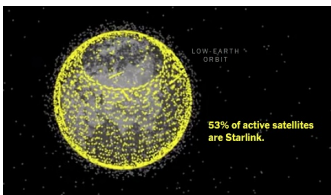


### Climate and a future Republican presidency

In this 1,000 page document entitled *Mandate for Leadership, The Conservative Promise*, the conservative think tank Heritage Foundation presents a "battle plan" for the first 180 days of a future Republican presidency. The plan calls for shredding regulations to curb greenhouse gas pollution

from cars, oil and gas wells and power plants, dismantling almost every clean energy program in the federal government and boosting the production of fossil fuels — the burning of which is the chief cause of planetary warming. **This is Project 2025. This is a dangerous plan.**

**This must not happen.** The best thing we can do for the lives of our children, grandchildren, life on the planet, the planet itself, is to be sure Republicans are not elected to office in 2024. [Read more here.](#)



### Hostage Situation?

Elon Musk's "near total control of satellite internet" is raising alarms. Currently there are 10,300 satellites (80% are active) orbiting the Earth. 53% are Musk's Starlink. He plans to launch about 42,000 more in the coming years. Governments

and companies all over the world use these satellites, which means Musk can potentially dictate his agenda to those users. How did someone get so much power?! And, has anyone asked questions like, "What is and will be the effect of all these satellites on the planet?"

[This article and interactive presentation](#) from the *NY Times* is revealing.

## Good Earth News



### Positive Plastic News

Amazon reduced single-use packaging by 11.6%

between 2021 to 2022, and now the retail giant



### Divesting from fossil fuels

I noted last month that the

clergy of the Church was pressing for

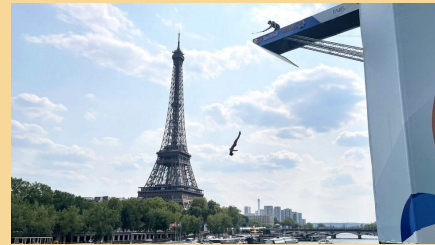
has committed to phasing out its blue and white mailers. To date, Amazon had moved away from plastic packaging in Europe, India, Japan, and Australia, but had yet to make a significant commitment to reduce plastic packaging in America or on a global basis. [Read here.](#)

**New Zealand** will become the first country to ban the thin plastic bags that supermarket customers use to collect their fruit and vegetables. One spokesman said essentially there shouldn't be single use packaging for anything. [Read more.](#)

**Ghana** enacts a law to make the principle of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) mandatory. This will force producers of plastic packaging to collect and recycle waste that is either generated during manufacturing or dumped on the street by consumers. [Read here.](#)

**The Plastic Treaty.** Nation-state delegates took a historic step toward a new global plastics pact in an inspirational display of determination. This undertaking, described as the most significant green deal since the 2015 worldwide climate agreement, signals a turning point in our joint efforts to address the critical issue of plastic pollution. With the banging of a recycled-plastic gavel at the Unesco headquarters in Paris, the delegates set the stage for a transformative treaty that could come into force by 2025. [Here's the article.](#)

the end of investments in oil and gas companies. The Pension Board has now decided to divest from those companies by the end of the year. A spokesman for the Church said, 'The Church will follow not just the science, but our faith—both of which call us to work for climate justice.' [Read here.](#)



### Swimming in the Seine

With a year to go to the Olympics, Paris is in the final phase of a historic clean-up which will soon see swimmers and divers back in the River Seine. Banned for a century because of the filthy water, city swimming is set to be one of the major legacies of the Games thanks to a \$1.6bn regeneration project universally hailed as a success.

Not only are three Olympic and Paralympic events - triathlon, marathon swimming and Para-triathlon - scheduled to take place in the Seine in central Paris, but by 2025 three open-air swimming areas will be accessible from the quayside. [Hooray for Paris!](#)

## Wisdom for Our Time



When enough people come together, then change will come and we can achieve almost anything. So instead of looking for hope — start creating it.

—Greta Thunberg

**Two Good Climate Action Sites:**

["100 Things You can Do . . ."](#) : ["15 Actions To Make a Difference."](#)

### Ninja Warrior Course for Squirrels



### My Column



I look more deeply into how we measure our lives and how we measure wealth. Is it all about money?



I posted this in August 2020, but it remains a highlight for fun viewing. With nothing to do during the COVID lockdown, inventor, filmmaker, narrator, naturalist and humorist, Mark Rober, created an amazing and elaborate obstacle course to keep the squirrels out of his bird feeder and provide bird seed for their very own. This 21 min. film is a kick showing amazing ingenuity of both squirrel and man. Mark shows how he "completely underestimated his adversary." It's especially fun for people like us who are putting up tree hats to keep squirrels out of the bird feeder! [Watch here](#). You'll love it.

*Wishing you an upbeat month of September  
Virginia / Gibi*