

Just Transition Summit 2019 report to Vestry

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New Zealand's first Just Transition Summit was held in New Plymouth on May 9th and 10th 2019. The summit was initiated by the Hon Dr Megan Woods, (Min. of Energy and Resources, Research, Science and Innovation) as "a chance to have your say in defining what a just transition to a low emissions future looks like in New Zealand, and what steps we need to take towards a new kind of economy with good, high paying jobs". Megan Woods was joined by Jacinda Ardern (PM), Grant Robinson (Min of Finance, and of Sport & Recreation), James Shaw (Min of Climate Change), and Damien O'Connor (Min. of Agriculture) reflecting the many sectors of the economy that will be impacted by the Climate Crisis. The day before the summit, Ardern and Shaw had announced the long awaited Zero Carbon Bill, and in the initial session Ardern announced a \$27M investment in a Taranaki based National New Energy Centre to support the innovation necessary to transition Taranaki's economy from a fossil-fuel energy provider to a leading player in NZ's renewable energy portfolio. This was a key outcome of the development of Taranaki's 2050 Roadmap.

Other speakers included the Cook Islands PM and Samoa's Dep PM, Taranaki Iwi's CEO, Te Atiawa's Chairwoman, Tūwharetoa Maori Trust's CEO and Ngai Tahu's Kaiwhakahaere (Chairwoman) and a wide variety of business and thought leaders from NZ and overseas.

The summit was well attended with around 500 attendees, most of whom were political, business or NGO representatives or academics. We didn't meet any other parish representatives, but everyone we introduced ourselves to was enthusiastic that we were there representing our parish, with James Shaw responding that he was so glad because he thought parishes had a very significant role to play.

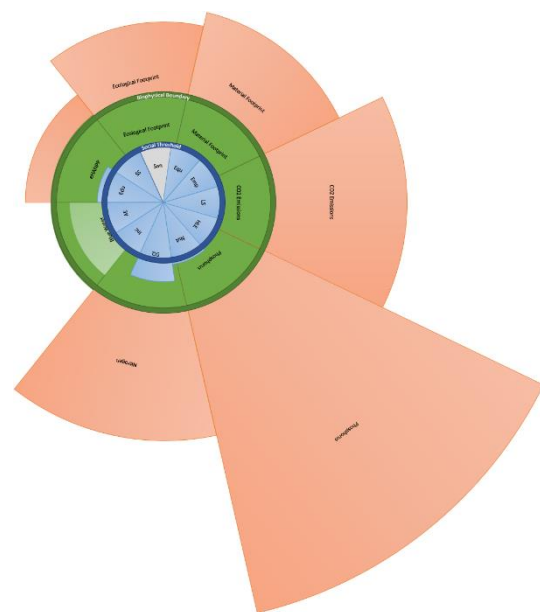
Just Transition is a concept that has been maturing globally over the last three decades that captures the idea that even in times of massive corporate change or systemic regional change it is possible to take a people first approach to achieve a just solution for all the people involved that ensures everyone's lives have continuity and that their wellbeing is maintained through the transition. We heard examples where the Just Transition principles have been applied in the North Rhine-Westphalia region of Germany during their 1990s transition from coal to UNESCO World Heritage Site, and more recently in South Australia's transition to renewable energy.

Take home messages for All Saint's

- **Risk and Trust.** The last few decades have seen enormous change, but that is change driven by technological advances elsewhere that we have passively accepted and followed. Now we are facing a decadal period of significant intentional change to avert the Climate Crisis. The threat of business as usual is so great that as businesses, communities and individuals we must change. Change is normally considered risky. Now we are entering a period when we must be prepared to take risks and we must be prepared to trust each other in taking intentional risks together. Trusting each other to take risks together is something the parish is already starting to do – in planting new ministries, in building on the edge, in fostering our youth, in supporting a soup kitchen, and so on. Now we may need to broaden this out into other parts of parish life and to recognise more intentionally that we are patterning balance of Trust and Risk.
- **Manawatu 2050 Roadmap.** The Taranaki 2050 Roadmap was developed over the last two years and launched earlier this year. It was led by the Mayors of Taranaki, local iwi, business and community leaders, but the content was generated by a great deal of grass-roots collective decision making. As mentioned above, one of the outcomes is the Govt's investment in a National New Energy Centre to help drive Taranaki's transition. We think it would be appropriate for All Saint's to approach

Manawatu Mayors and community leaders to undertake a similar process for the Manawatu, to identify where our community wants to transition to. The success of the Taranaki 2050 Roadmap process was due to the support and drive of councils and of key iwi and business leaders, the parish is well placed to bring both iwi and business leaders and to the table.

- **Doughnut-Economics** has been developed by Kate Raworth (Cambridge University). At its simplest the inner edge of the doughnut (dark blue ring) represents measures of human wellbeing – typically represented by the UN Sustainability Development Goals, the outer edge (dark green ring) represents measures of the planetary limits to provide raw resources and absorb waste – between these two, the doughnut (in green) represents a sustainable safe zone for humanity. The figure is for New Zealand, and on a global scale we do well for the human wellbeing measures, but we have drastically overshot all but one of the planetary limits, with phosphorous from super-phosphate being the largest overshoot. All Saints Parish is already addressing some of these concepts in the way it operates. Its membership of Fair Trade is acknowledgement that it is OK to pay a bit more so that the people of who produce Fair Trade products can live well; its initiatives to support a soup kitchen and youth group for instance are just a few examples of investing in people’s wellbeing; its operation of solar panels and support for the Green Task Force are examples of its care for planetary wellbeing. We recommend that All Saint’s consider intentionally and progressively folding doughnut-economics into its accounting and management practices. We think for instance that we could initially focus on a few measures that are particularly relevant to us, and that we have some influence over, and then develop ways of being more deliberate in our choices. As we get more comfortable with the approach, we could progressively look at widening the measures that we track. We could then share this experience with other parishes across the Diocese and with other organisations we engage with.
- **Green Investing** was discussed in one of the sessions and while it was very encouraging to see signs that these ideas are beginning to mature in NZ, as yet it isn’t particularly mainstream, but well worth while keeping an eye on, and being aware of for instance for our Trusts.
- **‘cora’**. One last extremely novel idea is an autonomous electric flying taxi named ‘cora’. Just possibly we may in future be able to capitalise on the central city location to offer our carpark as a node in a network of flying taxi routes!



We thank vestry for their financial contribution towards registration costs, that enabled us to attend the Just Transition Summit 2019. Summit details are available at their website: <<https://www.justtransitionsummit.nz/>>.