

VOICE OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

GLOBAL POLICY ACTION PLAN

Best Policy Solutions for a Sustainable Future



EARTH EMERGENCY: TOOLS FOR ACTION

A Message from the Founder of the World Future Council



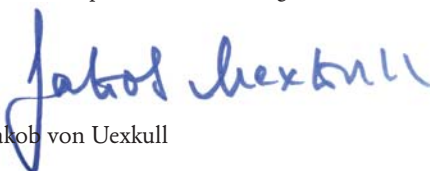
Humanity is at a turning-point in history. *“The era of procrastination, of half-measures, of soothing and baffling expedients, of delays is coming to its close. In its place we are entering a period of consequences.”* (Winston Churchill)

Due to our past failures, our current decisions have longer-term consequences than ever before. We have not chosen this unprecedented responsibility nor can we escape it. Accelerating climate change is not the only challenge but it alone threatens the survival of human civilisation – all we have achieved and still hope to achieve – unless we change now.

In a ruined environment, in a world of climate refugees and resource wars, there will be no development or justice, peace or security, functioning economies, markets or states. We should no longer allow such threats to be discounted by short-sighted economists.

Our current wealth must no longer be produced at the expense of our children and future generations. We know this, but are overwhelmed by individual crises and fail to see the interconnections. We call endless conferences to argue ‘why’ we must act, ‘what’ we want to do and ‘where’ we shall go. Today this is no longer enough. We need to know ‘how’ to get from here to there.

The Global Policy Action Plan (GPACT) provides the policy tools and an instruction manual to build a shared sustainable global future. For many of our interlinked challenges, working policy solutions already exist. GPACT brings them together, identifying the incentives required to create a flourishing human future. It provides us – the most powerful generations ever – a map for a grown-up humanity, guided by values of care, trust and justice for present and future generations.



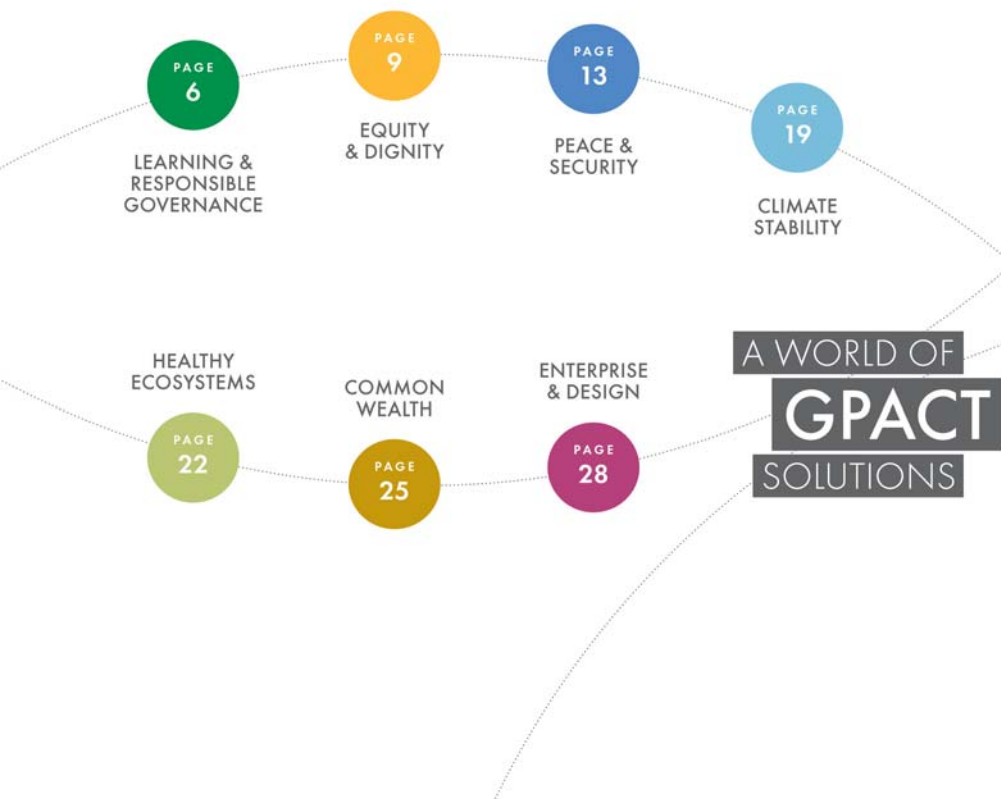
Jakob von Uexküll

THE GLOBAL POLICY ACTION PLAN

We can change course NOW

We can change the immature and irresponsible dogma that has created unsustainable, unjust and unstable societies. To mature into responsible global citizens requires a cultural, economic and moral change of perspective.

These interlinked policy reforms provide the incentives for changing course and ending our earth emergency. They offer forward-thinking practical solutions, which can facilitate a global sustainability revolution.



A SHARED GLOBAL FUTURE

The Global Policy Action Plan provides a best policy guide for policymakers world-wide. Twenty-three interlinked policy reforms will enable us to progressively

build a shared sustainable human future. They provide the foundations for legitimate hope that we can still secure a living planet with a multitude of futures.



OUR UNIQUE CHALLENGE

Today we are the guardians of all future generations of life on Earth. The consequences of our decisions and actions will have greater and longer-term consequences than ever before. There are many signs that the damage to our Earth is now approaching irreversible tipping-points, overwhelming the resilience of our natural environment. The Global Policy Action Plan provides a coherent policy guide to overcome this unprecedented emergency.



Identify Solutions

The World Future Council works to highlight, adapt and spread the best and most effective laws and policies from around the world, which can overcome and reverse the challenges we face.

Engage

With the right policy incentives, we can redirect human innovation and enterprise to promote human development, a healthy planet, peace and security.

Enable

The best policies are those that help create the positive tipping-points essential to secure our shared future. The World Future Council works to assist policy-makers worldwide in implementing such policies.



WHAT IS HOLDING US BACK?

Why has a concerted political response been missing in the face of an obvious transnational urgency? A lack of political legitimacy, growing corporatocracy, bipartisanship and an absence of overall political will have all combined to cause an incomprehensible lack of progress.

Despite a vast increase in overall awareness of the impending dangers of climate change and with the consequences of the economic crisis still being felt among political representatives and politically-represented alike, many of our institutions

are stagnating in a fatigue which can only be countered by radical steps.

Who can make use of the policy solutions highlighted by GPACT? The answer is everyone. Primarily aimed at time pressed policy-makers, GPACT provides the complementary instruction manual to facilitate the implementation of the culminating UN processes, notably in Financing for Development, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Change Conference. Once the debates have ceased, the targets will need to be met.

COHERENT SOLUTIONS TO INTERLINKED CHALLENGES

By identifying coherent policy solutions to interlinked challenges, the Global Policy Action Plan offers policy-makers a common basis for successful action. These solutions are available on our specialist website.

FuturePolicy.org is a new online database of exemplary future-just policy solutions and essential tools to enable decision-makers to build sustainable, peaceful and just societies and protect the rights of future generations to a healthy and intact world. Designed for forward-thinking policy-makers, it simplifies the discovery and sharing of policy solutions, navigating through a holistic and interconnected approach.

Good policy solutions already exist for most of our essential challenges.

FuturePolicy.org presents such policies and provides helpful tools, such as background information, sample legal texts, checklists, case studies and further links.

Complementing **FuturePolicy.org**, the Global Policy Action Plan aims to become a reference tool for every politician, policy-maker, policy shaper and policy activist around the world interested in creating a shared and sustainable global future. It goes beyond the climate change challenge alone, recognising the importance of interconnections to sustainable policy solutions.

The breakthrough policies described here, and with further detail online, represent a combination of tried and tested policy solutions that have been successful in one or more countries, and the most urgent policy innovations as identified by World Future Council research.

These interlinked policy reforms will enable us to progressively grow a political culture of transformation, preserve a habitable planet and build a true global society for present and future generations.

FuturePolicy.org

LEARNING AND RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE

Our elected officials must be informed to understand and decide upon the complex challenges we face in our imminent and long-term futures. We too, through a continuous learning process, must be equipped to question their choices. Educating ourselves on sustainable development will allow us to meet both these challenges and launch our pathway to an improved future.

Higher environmental literacy will lead to an improved general understanding of how our decisions today can influence our world tomorrow. Such choices must be made with authenticity. They must reflect the real value of our shared natural and social capital.

To insure against the risk of political paralysis, or a failing state collapsing under the weight of growing climate chaos and other interlinked crises, the Global Policy

Kehkashan Basu –
World Future Council
Youth Ambassador

"The rights of future generations need to be preserved by today's inhabitants. Future generations cannot survive on history, they need the same pristine resources that we enjoy today. We simply cannot let economic greed deprive them."



UNEP Governing Council Closing Ceremony,
on behalf of Children and Youth, 2013

Action Plan aims for more than just good governance, it aspires to responsible governance by inspiring and environmentally-educated leaders.



BEST POLICIES

Broaden Educational Curricula



Primary and secondary schools to broaden curricula to include environmental literacy, human rights and financial education, as well as peace and mediation skills. In higher education, an understanding of how to invest in the care of people and nature, to be mandatory for economics and business graduates.

Maryland's Environmental Literacy Standards, 2011

In 2011, Maryland became the first US State to pass an 'Environmental Literacy Standards and Environmental Education' by-law which requires all high-school students to take an environmental literacy test in eight thematic areas in order to graduate.



By educating children about the world they live in, they can learn how to preserve healthy ecosystems, ensure climate stability and implement fairer financial policies.

These are the fundamental first steps towards a conscientious system of governance on our pathway to a sustainable future.

Rebuild Trust in Public Office Leadership



Candidates for public office to be given public funding and equal media access, once they can demonstrate public support in order to restore the relationship between representative and represented and reduce corporate vested interests.

Act No 23/2013 on the Icelandic National Broadcasting Service

In Iceland, all valid candidates in parliamentary and presidential elections, as well as referendum groups, are given equal opportunity to present their policies on television. The National Broadcasting Service is obliged to provide the allotted time by law in order to fulfil its democratic remit.



A balance in favour of citizens, rather than money, must be restored by reducing the incentives for corruption as well as the

undue influence of private funding in our governance system.

Adopt Alternative Indicators



Valuing and accounting for natural and social capital to be given at least equal weight to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in government decision-making with the use of alternative indicators.

Bhutan's Gross National Happiness, 2008

As part of its constitution, Bhutan strives to promote those conditions that enable the pursuit of Gross National Happiness. It is based on four pillars: good governance, sustainable socio-economic development, cultural preservation and environmental conservation.



BRAINPOoL (Bringing Alternative Indicators into Policy)

The WFC is a partner of the BRAINPOoL project which aims to enhance the uptake of alternative indicators and give the public, the business world and political decision-makers an informed basis for implementing this change. See: www.brainpoolproject.eu



For half a century governments have allowed a single indicator, GDP, to assume total dominance as the key measure of a nation's progress. A broader range of indicators will help to implement a wider set of policy objectives in the pursuit of a more equitable and dignified future.

Whether these alternative social and environmental indicators take the form of a subjective well-being indicator or are composite indices, they can bring the issues of equality, sustainability and genuine well-being to the centre of policy-making.

Dr. Riane Eisler – World Future Councillor

"New economic indicators are essential to a sustainable future for both present and future generations. Old indicators such as GDP include work that harms or takes life, giving absolutely no value to the most important human work, the work of caring for people starting in early childhood, in our families."





EQUITY AND DIGNITY

Our current economic activity and productivity is endangering the natural world on which we depend. By reducing biodiversity and climate stability, we are not only endangering our quality of life but our very existence.

We need Future Justice to change our relationships – with ourselves, with each other and with our planet – to ensure a sustainable, fairer and more inclusive future. We have a responsibility to consider the consequences of our daily actions upon future generations. Securing their protection and representation can overcome the ruling short-termism and help us re-connect with the Earth.

A world of equity and dignity can only be realised by tackling the connected challenges of safeguarding human rights

Future Justice aims to reverse unsustainable trends and promote policy solutions that create fair conditions and a better quality of life

for current and future generations. Find out more from our online resources and blog at www.futurejustice.org.



and security, ecological integrity, social equity and peaceful relations. Together, we can create a world that is equitable, sustainable and peaceful by ensuring that our solutions address the root causes of the current crises.

BEST POLICIES

Guarantee Basic Rights and Responsibilities



States to develop social contracts that safeguard and promote our rights and responsibilities as citizens, in respect of the internationally recognised core body of human rights, including civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights and beyond, as trustees of future generations.

Gold Award: Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence (the 'Duluth Model'), Minnesota 1981

Recognised by the Future Policy Gold Award in 2014, Minnesota's 'Duluth Model' for a 'Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence' implements laws and policies that protect survivors from further acts of violence and hold offenders accountable for their criminal behaviour.



UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006

The UN CRPD marks a major shift in the understanding of disability: persons with disabilities are no longer "objects" of charity but "subjects" with rights. To protect the rights of persons with disabilities, the WFC is a partner of the Zero Project (www.zeroproject.org) that identifies and promotes policies that advance the implementation of the UN CRPD.



Ensure Every Child Born is Wanted



Selective female infanticide, sex-selective abortion, child marriage and the denial of access to maternal healthcare, family planning services and contraception must be ended to create conditions for stable and sustainable populations.

Finland's Maternity Package, 1949

All expectant mothers in Finland receive a new baby 'starter kit' in a box containing clothes, toys and even contraception. The policy has encouraged mothers to seek pre-natal guidance, taught aspects of good parenting and rapidly reduced levels of infant mortality following its introduction.



Establish Guardians for Future Generations



Ombudspersons, or Guardians for Future Generations, to be established at all governance levels, to ensure that the interests of future generations are taken into account when political decisions affecting them are made.

Ombudsperson for Fundamental Rights Act, Hungary 2007

The Act clearly mandated an environmental focus for a “green Ombudsman,” directly enabling the interests of future generations to be defended at the same level as the rights of people today. Such an institution places future generations at the heart of advocacy and investigative procedures.



What is an Ombudsperson? An Ombudsperson acts much like an auditor, an independent, external post that keeps an eye on policy developments, intervening and

exposing the long-term implications of today’s decisions, with the advantage of direct citizen and judicial access.

End Impunity for Crimes against Future Generations



Actions which cause widespread, long-term and irreversible damage to the natural or human environment, or those which could gravely or irreparably imperil the health, means of survival or safety of a given human population, to be outlawed.

Philippine Supreme Court case, Minors Oposa v. Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (“DENR”), 1993

This case was decided under the principle of intergenerational equity in the context of public forest land. The Court permitted a class action by Filipino children on their own behalf, as well as that of future generations, and ruled in their favour citing the need for a healthy environment.



Courts at both the national and international level can be used to protect future generations. In 2014 for example, the Marshall Islands took the nine nuclear-

armed states to the International Court of Justice for failing in their legal obligation to disarm their nuclear arsenals.

“ the **WORLD**
is **OVER-ARMED**
and **PEACE**
is **UNDERFUNDED.**”

BAN KI-MOON,
United Nations Secretary-General

Daily Military Expenditure

\$ 4,841,095,890

ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

**\$135
BILLION**

Overseas
Development
Assistance ²

ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

**\$25
BILLION**

Overseas
Development
Assistance ³

For Least Developed Countries

ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

**\$2.7
BILLION**

UN Regular
Budget ⁴

For Peace, Security,
Development, Human Rights
and Humanitarian Affairs

ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

**\$11
MILLION**

UN Budget for
Disarmament ⁵

ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

**\$1767
BILLION**

Military
Expenditures
Worldwide ¹

(1) Source: SIPRI, 2014
(2) Source: OECD, 2014
(3) Source: OECD, 2014
(4) Source: UN, 2014
(5) Source: UN, 2014

PEACE AND SECURITY

Every year, more than **1.7 trillion US\$** is spent worldwide for military purposes. How can this be justified when over one billion people lack food security? Many more do not even have the most basic access to clean water, education or health care.

There is no doubt: to achieve human and environmental security, we urgently need to re-direct military spending. In 2013, the Future Policy Award highlighted exemplary policies in the field of sustainable disarmament which can help us achieve these objectives.

The continuing existence of weapons of mass destruction poses a threat to life on Earth as we know it. Conventional weapons consistently undermine peace processes and fuel armed violence. Explosive remnants of war are still capable of destroying lives and the environment long

UN Secretary-
General
Ban Ki-moon



"By recognizing proven policies for sustainable disarmament, the 2013 Future Policy Award provides a road map which can inspire policymakers around the world. I trust that the Award will help fuel global efforts to abolish all weapons of mass destruction and achieve a world without nuclear weapons."

after a conflict has ceased. Achieving sustainable disarmament on all these fronts and building a culture of peace is essential to the tackling the interlinked challenges we describe in the Global Policy Action Plan.



BEST POLICIES

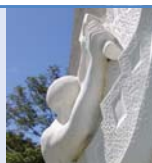
Re-direct Military Spending



Military expenditure must be re-directed to advancing environment, food and water security through treaties and agreements which promote a culture of peace.

Costa Rica's Abolition of the Army, Art. 12 of the Constitution, 1949

Resources that would have otherwise been spent on the military have been invested in education, healthcare and environmental conservation. Costa Rica now has some of the highest living standards in the region.



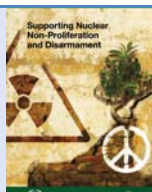
Achieve Universal Nuclear Disarmament



Nuclear weapons to be outlawed in national and regional legislation. The nuclear weapons possessing States to fulfil their obligation to ban and eliminate all nuclear weapons.

Handbook for Parliamentarians supporting nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament

This handbook, produced by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in cooperation with the World Future Council, is full of best policies and available for download on FuturePolicy.org. Send it to your Parliamentarian today in English, French, Spanish, Russian or Arabic!



Foster a Culture of Peace



The production and trafficking of small arms and light weapons heightens tensions, undermines peace processes and fuels armed violence. Policies that tackle the threats of weapons create a culture of peace, assist sustainable development and highlight human security.

Argentina's National Programme for the Voluntary Surrender of Firearms, 2006

Recognising a link between disarmament, health and the economy, this is a successful voluntary and anonymous firearm and ammunition buyback which also promotes a culture of non-violence and peaceful conflict resolution as a primary objective.





VOICE
OF FUTURE
GENERATIONS

A WORLD OF IMPACT – A VIEW OF OUR WORK



WFC Founding Events
 Offices
 GPECT History
 Future Policy Award
 Parliamentary Hearings
 Conferences
 Workshops
 Events



The World Future Council consists of up to 50 eminent global change-makers from governments, parliaments, civil society, academia, the arts and business. We work to pass on a healthy planet and just societies to our children and grandchildren

with a focus on identifying and spreading effective, future-just policy solutions. The World Future Council was launched in 2007 and operates as an independent foundation under German law and finances its activities from donations.

COUNCILLORS AND HONORARY COUNCILLORS



Dr. Hafsat Abiola-Costello



Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish



Patrus Ananias



Monique Barbut



Dr. Maude Barlow



Dopal Chandra Barua



Prof. Ana Maria Cetto



Shuaib Chalklen



Tony Colman



Prof. Dr. Marie-Claire Condorier Segger



Thais Corral



Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif



Nicholas Dunlop



Prof. Dr. Tewelde Berhan Gebre Egabsher



Dr. Riane Eisler



Dr. Scilla Elworthy



Dr. Maria Fernanda Espinosa



Anda Filip



Dr. Sándor Fülöp



Prof. Rafia Ghubash



Prof. Herbert Girardet



Dr. Olivier Giscard D'Estaing



Luc-Marie Constant Gnacadja



DBE Dr. Jane Goodall



Daryl Hannah



Dr. Ashok Khosla



Prof. Dr. Rolf Kreibich



Dr. David Krieger



Prof. Dr. Dr. Alexander Likhotal



Sir James R. Mancham



Dr. Rama Mani



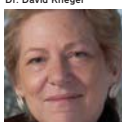
Julia Marton-Lefevre



Wanjira Mathai



Prof. Dr. Manfred Max-Neef



Jan McAlpine



Dr. Gertrude Ibangwe Mongella



Dr. Frances Moore Lappé



Dr. Auma Obama



Anna Oposa



Dr. Katiana Orlic



Dr. Michael Otto



Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah



Sirpa Petkäinen, MdEP



Dr. Vithal Rajan



Prof. Dr. Vandana Shiva



Sulak Sivaraksa



Pavan Sukhdev



Prof. Motoyuki Suzuki



Pauline Tangiora



Alyn Ware



Judge C. G. Weeramantry



Prof. Dr. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker



Francisco Whitaker Ferreira



Dr. Anders Wijkman



Barbara Woschek



CLIMATE STABILITY

Using already-available technologies, solar power could provide almost four times the world's current energy use. Yet 80% of our energy still comes from massively subsidised fossil fuels that increase CO₂ emissions, trigger climate chaos, disrupt nature, and further concentrate wealth at the expense of the global poor and future generations.

With the right policy incentives we can rapidly spread abundant renewable energies. We can abandon centralised energy monopolies in favour of decentralised energy production, bringing power to the people.

Growing cities have a special responsibility to cut greenhouse gas emissions. By burning most of the world's fossil fuels, not only are they the primary agents of climate change but also the primary victims and uniquely vulnerable to disasters like flooding and heat waves. They are also its primary victims and are



In a recent study, "The Monetary Cost of the Non-Use of Renewable Energies", the World Future Council calculated that, by under-using potential renewable energies, we are wasting between 3.2 and 3.4 trillion US Dollars per year!

uniquely vulnerable to disasters like flooding and heat waves.

As the majority of the world's population now lives in cities, sustainable development must focus on future urban development. Future cities must become regenerative cities, a concept first outlined in the World Future Council's 2010 report "Towards Regenerative Cities" (available at FuturePolicy.org).

BEST POLICIES

Accelerate the Transition to 100% Renewable Energies



By setting the 100% RE target, governments can catalyse change by providing an official mandate for action which streamlines national efforts and ensures a stable policy framework to give investors and stakeholders the long-term security of commitment.

Denmark's "Our Future Energy" Plan, 2011

Denmark has officially set the 100% renewable energy target to be achieved by 2050 and they are well on track to achieve this goal. Already in 2014 Denmark had 39.1% of its electricity coming exclusively from wind power!



Feed-in Tariffs

Feed-in Tariffs (FiTs) oblige energy companies to buy renewable energy from producers, and set the price that these companies pay per unit of electricity. By

guaranteeing access to the grid and setting a fair price, FiTs ensure that renewable energy is a sound long-term investment and that our renewable energy potential is not wasted.

Germany's Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG), 2000

According to this law, producers of renewable energy are entitled to payments for electricity exported to the grid. The German 'Energie-wende [Energy Transition] Minister has committed to target shares of at least 40% by 2025 and 55% by 2035.



Fossil Fuel and Nuclear Subsidies

These subsidies must be redirected towards supporting the research and implementation of the transition to

renewable energies, including technology such as solar lanterns, solar home systems and renewable cooking solutions.

Indonesia's Presidential Decree No. 9/2002

Domestic fuel prices have floated according to market price from 2015 after the phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies. To mitigate the effects of energy price increases, the government made cash transfers to poor households, increased spending on social programmes, and introduced tax exemptions for some industries/agriculture.



Inspire Regenerative Urban Development



A regenerative vision of cities to be reflected in policy-making and ensure that future generations inherit a robust, intact world in which cities pursue sustainable urban development.

Zero Waste

Like in nature, waste should be regarded as a by-product that can always be used as a valuable input to other processes. A zero waste policy aims to achieve this by

prioritising options such as waste prevention, re-use and recycling while phasing out incineration and landfill.

San Francisco's Zero Waste Program, 2002

In setting explicit targets, San Francisco aimed for 75 % landfill diversion by 2010 and zero waste by 2020. The city adopted a comprehensive waste management strategy directed at a range of stakeholders such as retail, packaging, private consumers, public events, and government procurement.



Healthy Water Cycle

All the water used by the city must be returned to natural water courses without harming local resources. This not only requires binding policies that ensure all

wastewater is properly treated but also all nutrients intercepted during the treatment are returned to the soil.

Calgary's Wastewater Management

Calgary, with over one million residents, treats all of its wastewater, safely returning it to the Bow River. Sewage is treated to produce methane, which powers the treatment plant, and a natural fertilizer (containing nitrogen, phosphorous and other essential micro-nutrients) for local farmers.



Street Tree Planting

Trees enhance local air quality, act as a natural carbon sink, improve aesthetics, biodiversity and liveability, and mitigate

storm water runoff. In addition they provide natural cooling and decrease the urban heat island effect.

New York City Council's Street Trees Text Amendment, 2008

This amendment not only requires trees to be planted as part of all new developments, major enlargements and conversions, in any zoning district, but also allows property owners to request a street tree be planted for free in front of their residence.





HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS

In today's world, we are consuming the very foundations of our existence – the forests, the oceans, freshwater systems and the soil, at a rate much faster than our planet can replenish them. Our Earth is losing species at an unprecedented rate as a consequence of habitat destruction, pollution and climate change.

Our oceans and coasts, the planet's blue heart, are under severe threat from overfishing, pollution, climate change and ocean acidification. Forests that are essential to protect watersheds and help maintain topsoil are being decimated. They regulate the climate and store carbon while also acting as a source of food and fuel.

The sustainable use of natural resources and effective management of ecosystems, including oceans and forests, is therefore critical to our shared future, to the reduction of poverty and to the promotion of human development. Every year the

World Future Council chooses one topic on which policy progress is particularly urgent. The Future Policy Award is the first award that celebrates policies rather than people on an international level. With the policies promoted by this award, we can help speed up policy incentives towards just, sustainable and peaceful societies.

Future Policy Awards: 2009 to 2012

2009 – Food Security
2010 – Biodiversity
2011 – Forests
2012 – Oceans and Coasts

Our annual brochures, with further policy examples, are available online.



**FUTURE POLICY
AWARD**

BEST POLICIES

Secure the Right to Food and Water



Policies that ensure access to safe food and water to be adopted, based on the Future Policy Award 2009 winning best policies:

Gold Award:

Belo Horizonte, Brazil, Food Security Programme

This policy ensures access to food through affordable pricing of produce and supports local production. It led to a 60 % decrease in child mortality compared to 10 years ago, with a reduction of 75 % in child malnutrition after just five years! Effectively hunger has been eliminated for just 2 % of the city budget.



Highly Commended:

- Cuba's Law-Decree No. 142 establishing the Basic Units of Cooperative Production on state lands, 1994, ensures **access to land** necessary to grow enough food and encourages participation in urban agriculture.
- Tuscany's Regional Law No. 64 on the protection and valorisation of the heritage of local breeds and varieties of agricultural, livestock and forestry interest, 2004, ensures **access to seeds**, supports farmers and protects seed variety.

Protect Biodiversity and Reverse Soil Erosion



Policies that ensure the protection of biodiversity and reverse soil erosion to be adopted, based on the Future Policy Award 2010 winning best policies:

Gold Award: Costa Rica 1998 Biodiversity Law

Costa Rica's Biodiversity Law embraces the three objectives of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity: 1) conservation of biodiversity, 2) sustainable use of resources, and 3) the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources, and effectively applies them at the national and local levels.



Protect and Replenish our Forests



Policies that ensure the reversal of deforestation and forest degradation to be adopted, based on the Future Policy Award 2011 winning best policies:

Gold Award: Rwanda National Forest Policy, initiated in 2004

The National Forest Policy has the ambition of making forestry one of the bedrocks of the Rwandan economy and of the national ecological balance. Its guiding principles are to reduce negative ecological impacts of manmade forests, develop agroforestry, nurture fragile ecological zones, involve all stakeholders in decision-making and protect endangered plant species.



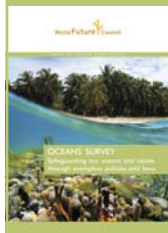
Restore the Health of our Oceans



Policies that restore the health of our oceans to be adopted, based on the Future Policy Award 2012 winning best policies:

Gold Award: Palau Protected Areas Network, 2003 and Shark Haven Act, 2009

Palau has excelled in creating a network of marine and terrestrial protected areas incorporating local communities' resource needs and traditional management systems. Declaring its entire exclusive economic zone a sanctuary for sharks, Palau has taken a global lead in counter-acting the dramatic decline in shark populations.



The **World Future Council Oceans Survey**, available online at FuturePolicy.org, presents existing, sustainable solutions in the areas of:

- Integrated Policies for Oceans and Coasts
- Marine Protected Areas
- Sustainable Fisheries Management
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- Species and Biodiversity Conservation

COMMON WEALTH

Our ruling economic system is unsustainable, unfair and no longer improves our quality of life. The recent financial crisis forced governments to spend trillions to avoid global collapse. Unemployment has reached unacceptable levels in many countries. Young people have been left without hope. Millions are on the move to find decent work.

Environmental costs externalised at the expense of future generations must now be accounted for. Many of our “assets” and much of our “wealth” will disappear once these costs are internalised. But if they are not, economic “growth” becomes uneconomic growth, increasingly spent on damage repair and prevention. Our value creation today is dwarfed by our creation of future debt.



A reformed financial system that facilitates real wealth creation must become the new core of our economy. With the right policy initiatives, we can achieve an equitable distribution of income and wealth, as well as reverse climate change and the destruction of natural resources.

To tackle the interlinked financial, food, social and ecosystems crises, a fundamental re-think is needed. Reassessing the rules of finance, the World Future Council has identified best policy solutions to guide our global transition towards sustainable and equitable development.

Our economy and financial markets can provide opportunities for individual development, social security and well-being for all, including future generations, whilst promoting behaviour that is environmentally and socially responsible. It simply depends on operating within the correct policy framework.



BEST POLICIES

Fund New Eco-Production by Central Banks



Debt-free money creation by central banks to be developed to fund environmentally sustainable development, job creation and infrastructure investment. Adapted, interest-free IMF Special Drawing Rights can provide further funding for a rapid shift to renewable energies in less industrialised countries.

Money as our Servant, Not our Ruler

New money against performance is not inflationary. With controls to ensure that new money is used for green investments and the amount is capped, governments can issue such money and spend it directly into the economy. This can create new employment and tackle environmental challenges.



“Breaking the Funding Deadlock – Financing climate protection”

Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) are an international type of monetary reserve currency which acts as a supplement to reserves of IMF member states. A WFC study shows how to use SDRs to provide immediate funding for a rapid shift to renewable energies in less industrialised countries.



Implement a Green Tax Shift and Budgeting



Taxes on labour must be gradually reduced and replaced by the taxation of CO₂ emissions, non-renewable resources and financial speculation. Government budgets must prioritise a social-environmental transformation of our societies and economies.

British Columbia's Carbon Tax, 2008

With the aim of lowering harmful carbon emissions in favour of a healthy environment and sustainable wealth creation for future generations, the British Columbia Carbon Tax has led to the lowest personal income tax rate across Canada as well as falling per capita fuel consumption each year since its introduction.



Ensure the Financial Sector Serves the Real Economy



New financial instruments to be tested according to the precautionary principle before they are allowed to be sold as legally enforceable contracts.

A Preventive Testing of Financial Innovations

Financial institutions must prove that proposed new financial instruments will benefit the real economy and are the most welfare-enhancing options. Only financial innovations shown to support real wealth creations should become legally enforceable.



In many countries, gambling debts are not legally enforceable. Until 2002, this was the case in e.g. Germany, Austria and Switzerland for “financial gambling” – i.e. pure

bets on future-prices, as opposed to hedging to protect against price fluctuations on real assets (e.g. harvests). Abolishing this law contributed to the financial crisis.

Divest from Unethical Practices



Divestment laws banning investments of public money in corporations involved in unethical practices, which harm present and future generations, to become the basis of a global investment treaty, in order to ensure that our invested savings do not threaten us.

Norway's State Pension Fund Ethical Guidelines, 2004

At the core of the Norwegian model for ‘investment in ethics’ lies the belief that the country’s pension fund should not make investments that carry an unacceptable risk of contributing to unethical acts or omissions, such as violations of fundamental humanitarian and human rights principles, gross corruption or severe environmental damage.



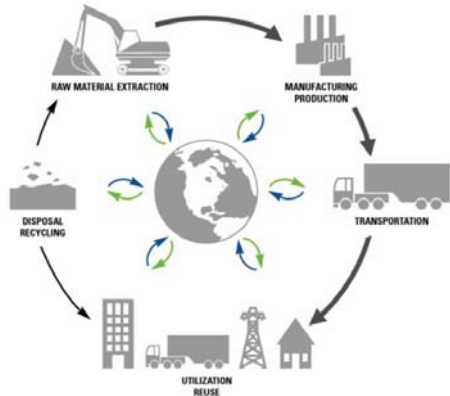
Much current “wealth” consists of debts to future generations. While financial debts can be re-negotiated, environmental debts cannot: melting glaciers do not negotiate! Forcing funds to divest from so-called

“stranded” assets, which cannot be used without threatening our future, will safeguard our economic and ecological well-being.

ENTERPRISE AND DESIGN

Economies, employment and indeed, the future of our planet, depend on enterprise and design: those capable, innovative, inspiring and driven individuals and organisations that can affect change and make things happen. A failure to act sustainably means that the ever-growing consequences of climate change will pose increasing challenges to product design, the sourcing of materials and the nature of their supply chain.

Yet the added value of creativity and innovation to enterprise and design can enhance and foster a 'can-do' attitude for turning ideas into definitive action, before decisions are forced upon us. This can be found in the private sector, in civil society and among policy-makers. Sustainable circular economies require socially and environmentally aware citizens and creative individuals who can turn visions into reality.



Today both design and production must become eco-intelligent and understanding of ecosystem boundaries and opportunities. Sustainable economies and societies require policy incentives which promote value-based decisions at every stage of the process, from design and production to purchase and consumption.



BEST POLICIES

Incentivise Eco-Intelligent Design and Manufacturing



Eco-intelligent design and manufacturing principles to be legally mandated. Externalising production costs to be outlawed as unfair competition and fraud.

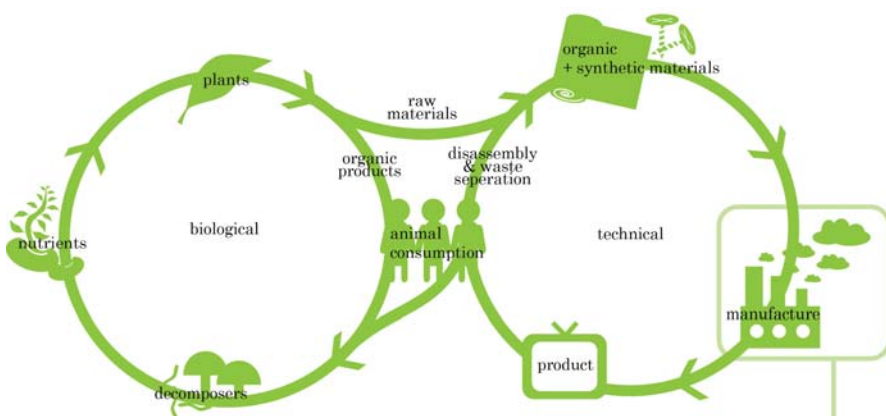
Section 6 of Japan's Energy Conservation Law, 1998

To improve the energy efficiency standards of appliances and the fuel efficiency of vehicles, Japan introduced minimum legal standards for manufacturers. Manufacturers, retailers and consumers cooperate in a national movement to promote energy efficient products.



'Business-as-usual' promotes a linear model of production, 'designing for landfill,' and continues to drain our planet of large quantities of rare earth metals and non-renewable resources at an unsustainable rate. Companies need to fundamentally rethink

the design and manufacturing of their products. By offering incentives, the implementation of ecologically intelligent policy frameworks can promote new industry standards that will be rewarded in the marketplace.



- 1 100% Renewable Energy Use
- 2 Water Stewardship clean water output
- 3 Social Responsibility positive impact on community
- 4 Material Reutilization recyclability / compostability
- 5 Material Health impact on human & environmental

5
criteria

Instill Social and Environmental Entrepreneurship in Business



Corporate structures and practices to reflect social and environmental needs and provide long-term benefits to society and the environment.

The Maryland Benefit Corporation Act, 2010

Maryland was the first US state to sign into law a new type of corporation required to create benefits not only for shareholders but also for society as well. Decisions affecting employees, the community and the environment must be taken into account to meet social and environmental standards.



Supported by innovative future-just policies and appropriate market signals, businesses can lead the way to a sustainable future by pursuing a broader legal mandate to reach social and environmental goals.

Corporations are now beginning to be provided with the tools which allow them to connect both private and public interests where profit is not at the expense of society as a whole.

Encourage Value-Based Consumption



Consumers to be provided with information, such as a product's true cost, to make value-based consumption decisions, ensuring that the moral and environmental impact of their choices is transparent.

Northern Ireland's Carrier Bag Levy, 2013

Governments worldwide have taken action to either ban the use of plastic bags, charge consumers for their use or tax stores which supply them. The levy in Northern Ireland raises revenue for environmental projects and reduced plastic bag use by just under 72 % in the first year!



Recognising the ecological and ethical consequences of economic actions, policy-makers must encourage consumers to make

value-based consumption choices which do not threaten our shared future.

FUTURE JUST LAWMAKING

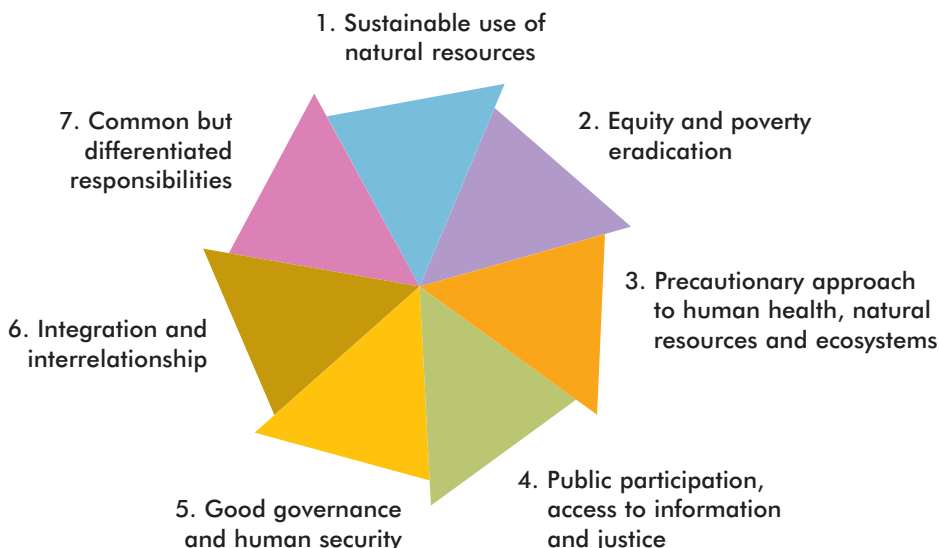
How does the World Future Council evaluate “Best Policies”?

Our “Best Policies” are those that meet the Future Just Lawmaking Principles and significantly support fair conditions for future generations. The International Law Association adopted Seven Principles for Sustainable Development Law as the result of 10 years of academic work. These were then agreed in 2002 by 192 states participating in the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

Professionals dealing with policy-making and evaluation regard these principles as the first blueprint for the emerging field of sustainable development law and policy.

The World Future Council uses these in evaluating policies nominated for the Future Policy Award as well as the consideration of policies to be included in the Global Policy Action Plan.

Future Just Lawmaking implies a 360-degree perspective on policy development. The Principles reflect the interconnected nature of the challenges we face and help to avoid unintended inconsistencies and consequences in our reactions to them. We have created a methodology based on the principles that can inspire and support your work for sustainability.



HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

In this time of world emergency, join us on the pathway to positive change! Inform policy-makers and the public that effective future-just policy incentives already exist – and can be found in this Global Policy Action Plan.

We must learn. We must cooperate.
We must act. Together we can redirect our world towards a shared, sustainable future for both current and future generations and achieve a better tomorrow, today.



You can:

- Support the global spread of and advocacy for the Global Policy Action Plan by donating via our website to:

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 **World Future Council**

 **@Good_Policies**

FuturePolicy.org

FuturePolicy.org presents policy solutions and essential tools for decision makers to promote sustainable living and protect the rights of future generations to inhabit a healthy and intact world.

The Future Justice Commission has the goal of analysing and exposing the long-term effects of our decisions today and connecting current problem-solving to a long-term perspective. Browse our publications, literature collection and guest contributions at futurejustice.org.



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CONTACT US

World Future Council
Hamburg (Head Office)

Lilienstraße 5-9
20095 Hamburg
Germany

info@worldfuturecouncil.org
Phone: +49 (0) 40 3070914-0
Fax: +49 (0) 40 3070914-14

Other WFC Offices

London: info.uk@worldfuturecouncil.org
Geneva: geneva@worldfuturecouncil.org
Beijing: info.china@worldfuturecouncil.org
Basel: info@baselpeaceoffice.org