
Environment, Climate and Resource Challenges Dynamic Briefing

Generated 27 January 2022 for Exploring Leaders @ Digoshen



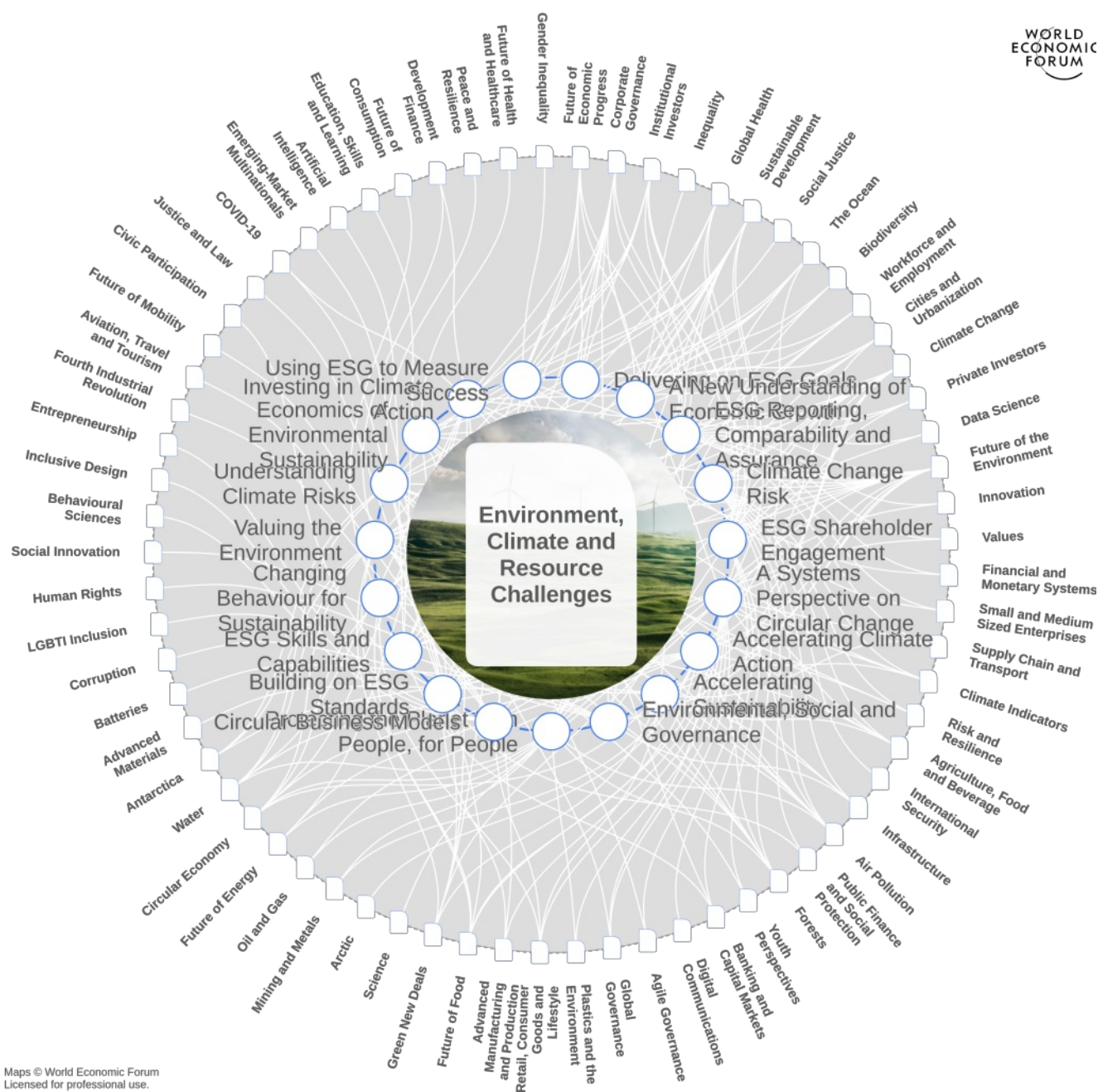
Environment, Climate and Resource Challenges

Last review on Sun 02 January 2022

About

This dynamic briefing draws on the collective intelligence of the Forum network to explore the key trends, interconnections and interdependencies between industry, regional and global issues. In the briefing, you will find a visual representation of this topic (Transformation Map – interactive version available online via intelligence.weforum.org), an overview and the key trends affecting it, along with summaries and links to the latest research and analysis on each of the trends. Briefings for countries also include the relevant data from the Forum's benchmarking indices. The content is continuously updated with the latest thinking of leaders and experts from across the Forum network, and with insights from Forum meetings, projects communities and activities.

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Executive summary

Environment, Climate and Resource Challenges Intelligence Map - insights and perspectives curated by Digoshen via World Economic Forum Strategic insights and contextual intelligence.

1. Delivering on ESG Goals

Companies are reorienting business strategies and operating models to deliver on their goals.

2. A New Understanding of Economic Growth

Prioritizing people and ecological systems can create more sustainable economies.

3. ESG Reporting, Comparability and Assurance

Environmental, Social and Governance reporting occurs too infrequently to keep up with evolving expectations.

4. Climate Change Risk

Several types of insurance and reinsurance have been affected.

5. ESG Shareholder Engagement

Environmental, Social and Governance-based engagement can help drive climate action and address public health issues.

6. A Systems Perspective on Circular Change

Eliminating wasteful practices and ensuring sustainable consumption requires systemic change.

7. Accelerating Climate Action

Urgent action is required now to head off the impending climate catastrophe.

8. Accelerating Sustainability

Sustainable production is becoming a competitive advantage.

9. Environmental, Social and Governance

Institutional investors are increasingly seeking out options like green bonds and impact investments.

10. Protecting the Planet from People, for People

The values that have underpinned commercial activity require an update.

11. Circular Business Models

Opportunities abound to reimagine consumption with products designed for sharing, durability, and reuse.

12. Building on ESG Standards

COVID-19 presents a chance to nudge extractive industries and the countries relying on them in a sustainable direction.

13. ESG Skills and Capabilities

The employees required to assess new layers of corporate performance need a blend of competencies and skills.

14. Changing Behaviour for Sustainability

The behavioural sciences can help people and companies behave in more environmentally-sustainable ways.

15. Valuing the Environment

Increasing sustainability and combatting climate change require shared values.

16. Understanding Climate Risks

Extreme weather, rising sea levels, and food and water scarcity are becoming a reality.

17. Economics of Environmental Sustainability

Climate change and rising temperatures promise to severely hinder production and health.

18. Investing in Climate Action

Strategic investments can stimulate economies and build climate resilience.

19. Using ESG to Measure Success

Environmental, Social and Governance performance is not captured in quarterly earnings reports.

Delivering on ESG Goals

Companies are reorienting business strategies and operating models to deliver on their goals

A clear consensus is emerging: for a company to enjoy sustainable value creation and long-term success, it must clearly understand who its key stakeholders are, engage with them, and bring their voice into decision-making. According to the Forum's Future of Corporation 2021 white paper, recent years have seen a clear shift towards greater stakeholder activism. Certainly, the pandemic has changed the rhetoric from "returns" to "value creation," and investors and shareholders are demanding more transparency and meaningful engagement with boards on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues.

The white paper also emphasizes that for a corporation to maintain its licence to operate, it must gain and retain the trust of its material stakeholders: those who can reasonably be expected to be significantly affected by its activities, products and services; and those whose actions can reasonably be expected to affect the ability of the corporation to implement its strategies and achieve its objectives.

KEY INSIGHTS FROM THE DISCUSSIONS

When asked to rank their company on its ESG journey, 38% of participants said it is in "advanced deployment" (10+ metrics), while 25% said it is at a "moderate" deployment level (5-10 metrics), and 25% described it as being in "initial" deployment (1-5). Only one participant saw his/her organization at an early stage with no deployment. 45% described their company's adoption of ESG metrics as strategically driven, while 26% deemed it culturally driven, 24% saw it as functionally driven, and only 5% as "ad hoc."

When it comes to implementing and delivering on ESG goals, companies should not wait to be perfect – but instead get started now and evolve. It is also important not to get distracted by competition over ratings. What is key is to focus on the purpose of the effort, and to communicate that effectively.

Smart incentive plans can be instrumental in the acceleration of ESG integration processes. Individual employee targets can be personalized through variable compensation.

Companies must engage with peers and join coalitions, as many contemporaries are working through the same challenges.

As companies embrace ESG-related goals, the most important issues for strategy are: diversity and inclusion, employee mental and physical health, an internal ESG narrative to get everyone on board (and explain the influence their organization can exert

on these issues). Companies also need to ensure that they are credible - and deliver on their commitments.

Related insight areas: [Corporate Governance](#), [Institutional Investors](#), [Economic Progress](#)



[World Economic Forum](#)

Here's how to choose the right fund manager for the future

18 January 2022

One of the most important decisions for investors when constructing a portfolio is to choose a fund manager. Investors tend to look at a fund manager's track record in quantitative terms – but the numbers don't tell the whole story. The most sophisticated limited partnerships look at qualitative evidence to find a manager capable of executing a proposed strategy. In constructing a future-ready investment portfolio in private markets, one of the most important decisions an investor can make is choosing a fund manager. A key element of manager selection is understanding his or her past track record.



[Harvard Business School Working Knowledge](#)

To Change Your Company's Culture, Don't Start by Trying to Change the Culture

14 December 2021

Culture change is probably on your leadership agenda. You may want (or feel forced) to create a post-pandemic culture, or become more collaborative, innovative, or aggressive. Most companies fail in this because they try to change culture directly—through speeches, training programs, or direct intervention in meetings. Twitter is a perfect example. Concerned that Twitter's "nice culture" held back innovation, Dantley Davis, the new vice-president of design, asked employees in a meeting to critique each other.



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Beyond Business: Humanizing ESG

13 December 2021

Smart firms are listening, learning, and changing longstanding practices that have caused decades of harm to people, according to participants in a recent "Beyond Business" panel discussion, hosted by Wharton Dean Erika James.



[Project Syndicate](#)

A Better Deal for the World's Workers

10 December 2021

Ultimately, boosting labor earnings and the dignity of work requires both strengthening workers' bargaining power and increasing the supply of good jobs for those who most need them. That would give all workers a better deal and a fair share of future prosperity.



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How Corporate Governance Is Changing

23 November 2021

A recent "Beyond Business" panel discussion, hosted by Wharton Dean Erika James, focused on how boards can redefine corporate governance to maximize a company's social impact while balancing the needs of all stakeholders.



[Harvard Kennedy School – Journalist's Resource](#)

Researchers use decades of Wall Street Journal articles to predict stock market returns

19 November 2021

Facebook Twitter LinkedIn Reddit Email Financial news articles can be a good short-term indicator of why the U.S. stock market is doing well or poorly, finds a new working paper, "Business News and Business Cycles," from the National Bureau of Economic Research. Based on a full-text analysis of 763,887 Wall Street Journal articles published from 1984 to 2017, the authors find that news coverage of particular topics, like signs of a looming recession, predicts 25% of average fluctuations in stock market returns. The data represent "among the most extensive text corpora of business news studied in the economics literature to date," the authors write, adding that their approach is "motivated by the view that news text is a mirror of the state of the economy." Stock markets operate like any other market.



[London School of Economics and Political Science](#)

What Next for IDA?

16 November 2021

Professor in Practice in LSE Department of International Development Mark Lowcock and Research Assistant with the Center for Global Development Bernat Adrogué look at the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) in advance of IDA20 which will aim to support countries to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and to transition to green energy.

A New Understanding of Economic Growth

Prioritizing people and ecological systems can create more sustainable economies

Traditional economic systems and growth expectations generate unhealthy tension by being extractive by design. On one hand, such linear, extractive approaches have generated unprecedented economic gains and prosperity - by 2015, a record low 10% of the global population was living in extreme poverty, according to the World Bank. And, these approaches have generally spurred the provision of natural resources and workers in ways designed to achieve optimal profitability and productivity. On the other hand, any extractive economy will eventually be faced with potentially dire threats to biological and cultural diversity, an inevitable increase in the intensification of resource exploitation, and an ever-present threat of resource scarcity. There is also no guarantee that the short-term gains afforded by this model will be equally shared and accessed. Its trajectory usually involves simply regenerating itself by shifting focus to a new type of resources to be extracted and exploited - which by definition is not sustainable. This pattern often results in periods of relative short-term abundance, followed by periods of progressive scarcity prior to the identification of new resources to tap.

It is important to understand exactly how a circular economy approach can break the vicious cycle inherent in linear and extractive economies - and forge a new way forward. According to the United Nations, the conception and application of a circular economy has the potential to positively impact the progress made on several of its Sustainable Development Goals, which provide a framework for putting the global economy on a healthier, more sustainable path by 2030. The potential for a circular economy to limit the extraction of resources and instead regenerate the material necessary for further production can bolster Sustainable Development Goal 12, ensuring sustainable consumption and production, not to mention SDG 6 (ensuring the availability of water and sanitation for everyone), SDG 8 (promoting sustainable economic growth and decent work), SDG 11 (making cities more inclusive and sustainable), SDG 13 (taking urgent action to combat climate change), SDG 14 (sustainably use the ocean and seas), and SDG 15 (halting and reversing land degradation biodiversity loss). Ultimately, the circular model also has positive implications for SDG 10 - reducing inequality.

Related insight areas: [Social Justice](#), [Climate Change](#), [Economic Progress](#), [Sustainable Development](#), [Cities and Urbanization](#), [Biodiversity](#), [Workforce and Employment](#), [Global Health](#), [Inequality](#), [The Ocean](#)



World Economic Forum Renewing a Global Social Contract | Davos Agenda 2022

18 January 2022

While governments have rolled out some of the largest social spending programmes ever seen, the pandemic's aftermath, technological change and the green transition risk further eroding skills, jobs and social cohesion. What new policies and business actions are needed to create social mobility, good jobs and an equitable society for all? .



World Economic Forum Net zero means trusting partners you haven't met and technology that doesn't yet exist

18 January 2022

For many companies, the biggest net-zero challenge is the emissions generated by partners along the value chain. The trust firms have built with their partners will be key to tackling this issue. New partners with new ideas and approaches will also be needed – which will require a shift in mindset for many organisations. COP26 saw world leaders seeking new ways of saving lives, livelihoods and habitats from the climate emergency we all face. We can debate the success or otherwise of the agreements reached, but what is clear is that governments need business to play a central role in driving down emissions.



Asian Development Bank (ADB) Climatic Episode 3.1: Cooling & Smart Buildings Talk Show

13 January 2022

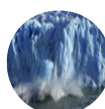
Climatic, ADB Ventures' video series about the Asian entrepreneurs tackling the most important questions of our time, has returned with a new series about cooling and smart buildings. Over the next three decades, rapid urbanization and greater weather extremes will lead to a skyrocketing demand for cooling. Can this increased energy need be met in a sustainable way? In this new episode, Climatic host Linh Thai explores this question and more with Asia's premiere energy-efficiency experts and entrepreneurs: - Priyantha Wijayatunga, Chief of Energy Sector Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB) - Dr.



The Conversation Technology has made buildings less climate-friendly: but we can look back in time for solutions

11 January 2022

It's been claimed that technology is the answer to the climate crisis. By eventually separating economic growth from its effects on the environment through improving energy efficiency, the argument runs, better technology promises to prevent catastrophic global warming. Among the many things that this argument fails to consider is the reality that new technology has often encouraged extravagant forms of consumption: from private cars and planes to kitchens full of appliances and air conditioning in countries with mild climates. Technology has also caused what's called the "rebound effect": where improving energy efficiency leads to cheaper energy and therefore higher rates of energy consumption.



INSEAD Knowledge ESG Strategy in Action

10 January 2022

As ESG has become a critical part of company strategy, many leaders have begun to consider how to design roadmaps and actionable plans. Yet, most struggle to make meaningful commitments and act. Looking at the water conservation efforts of Cargill and the World Resources Institute (WRI), we provide a framework to help companies move past the idealisation stage and into action on key ESG issues such as carbon and water. At 2019's World Water Week in Stockholm, Truke feverishly took notes during a session based on a company guide that outlined a step-by-step approach on target setting for water. She felt she had finally found the playbook for Cargill's water strategy.



Social Europe Higher public debt = lower growth?

04 January 2022

The pandemic-induced crisis has seen fiscal policy relaxed. Ill-evidenced orthodoxy must not be allowed to reinstate austerity. Life after the pandemic too?—queuing for a foodbank in Italy's financial capital, Milan (Delbo Andrea, shutterstock.com) Few economic studies have had as big an impact on the lives of millions as 'Growth in a time of debt', published in 2010 by Carmen Reinhart and Kenneth Rogoff. The two professors' paper came to the conclusion, drawing on historical data series on government debt and economic growth, that a ratio of public debt to gross domestic product greater than 90 per cent was associated with significantly reduced growth rates.

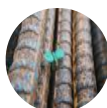
ESG Reporting, Comparability and Assurance

Environmental, Social and Governance reporting occurs too infrequently to keep up with evolving expectations

Corporate sustainability reporting has become common practice for large firms, and is the most widely used source of information about ESG performance. A KPMG survey in 2020 found that among 5,200 top-earning firms in 100 different countries, 80% were doing sustainability reporting - which rises to 96% for the world's 250 largest firms. However, generating sustainability reports can be labour-intensive and costly. The internal data collection necessary often requires dedicated staff and consultants, making it prohibitive for smaller firms. Even firms that do report on ESG factors only do so on an annual basis, even as quarterly reporting of financial results remains the norm. This lower frequency ESG reporting may be insufficient to keep up with rapidly increasing social and regulatory expectations on matters like greenhouse gas emissions. Another issue stems from the varying definitions of and expectations for ESG and sustainability. A firm may decide an issue is not worth disclosing, though investors and other stakeholders might disagree. As a result, if the only source of ESG data is corporate reporting, markets may not be able to react to some critical issues and stakeholders may seek out greater innovation in related data collection.

Another challenge is related to inconsistencies in data pulled from corporate reports, due to the different ways firms measure and reflect ESG factors. For example, firms might count greenhouse gas emissions only from their direct operations, or more comprehensively from their supply chains; those that are more rigorous and inclusive in their measurement might appear to be doing worse than those reporting in a more cursory way. For this reason, standards have been essential for the development of ESG reporting - such as the GHG Protocol, CDP, GRI, SASB, and IFRS. There is also the issue of reliability and trustworthiness, given the incentive firms have to indulge in greenwashing that makes their operations appear less risky and more virtuous. One key related development has been an increase in the auditing and assurance of corporate sustainability reporting. The KPMG survey found that 2020 was the first year in which a majority of large firms had invested in the independent assurance of sustainability reports (51% of the 5,200 top firms in 100 in countries, and 71% of the world's 250 largest). As regulatory requirements for ESG reporting increase, these figures are also likely to increase.

Related insight areas: [Data Science](#), [Private Investors](#), [Corporate Governance](#), [Financial and Monetary Systems](#), [Institutional Investors](#), [Innovation](#), [Economic Progress](#), [Small and Medium Sized Enterprises](#), [Values](#), [Future of the Environment](#), [Supply Chain and Transport](#)

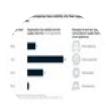


LSE Business Review

For organisations that tackle grand societal challenges, hope can be a double-edged sword

25 January 2022

Non-profit organisations, medical institutions, think tanks, and companies' corporate social responsibility teams many times attempt to tackle big challenges such as climate change, social inequity, and finding the cure for illnesses. In these situations, emotions are likely to mount when setbacks are encountered. Katina Sawyer and Judith Clair write that propagating hopeful thoughts and behaviours may ... Continued.



World Economic Forum

5 ways the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the supply chain

14 January 2022

The worldwide supply chain continues to be affected by challenges relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, including delays and disruption. Many chief executives now identify supply chain turmoil as the greatest threat to their companies' growth and their countries' economies. Organizations need to reimagine and manage their supply chain differently to ensure business continuity and growth for the future. Two years into the pandemic, the global supply chain continues to sputter and break down. Each day comes news of choked ports, out-of-place shipping containers, record freight rates, and other problems that cause disruption and defy easy answer.



MIT Sloan Management Review

Prepare for the Bullwhip's Sting

13 January 2022

Nearly two years into the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, signs are pointing to the growing risk of a global economic recession. High consumer demand, product shortages, and transportation disruptions in the second half of 2021 triggered inflation and changes to manufacturers' order patterns, setting up the bullwhip effect — a supply chain phenomenon that can have far-reaching consequences. The ups and downs of money flows, labor patterns, inventory management, and product demand are setting the stage for what happens next — and business leaders, particularly in supply chain roles, should prepare now for the greater challenges that may lie ahead. Roots of an Upcoming Crisis In early 2020, COVID-19 slapped down large swaths of the global economy.



The Conversation

World economy in 2022: the big factors to watch closely

04 January 2022

Will 2022 be the year where the world economy recovers from the pandemic? That's the big question on everyone's lips as the festive break comes to an end. One complicating factor is that most of the latest major forecasts were published in the weeks before the omicron variant swept the world. At that time, the mood was that recovery was indeed around the corner, with the IMF projecting 4.9% growth in 2022 and the OECD projecting 4.5%. These numbers are lower than the circa 5% to 6% global growth expected to have been achieved in 2021, but that represents the inevitable rebound from reopening after the pandemic lows of 2020.



ProPublica

Your Free-Range Organic Chicken May Have Been Processed at a Large Industrial Poultry Plant

28 December 2021

Americans who want to buy the safest chicken and turkey have had little to go on beyond brand names and labels. Those don't tell the whole story, as we learned from the readers who've used our chicken checker app . Nearly 900 people submitted details about poultry packages they found in grocery stores across the country, including the P-numbers, which are typically printed on the packaging or price tag and identify where the meat was processed.



VoxEU

Inflation narratives

23 December 2021

Inflation has recently surged in both the US and the EU. This column uses responses from surveys of a representative sample of the US population as well as academic economists and US firm managers to show that households and managers are more likely than experts to think that the current surge in inflation will be persistent. Since the narratives individuals use to explain movements in inflation appear central to whether inflation expectations remain anchored, communication strategies by policymakers could put emphasis on specific narratives that highlight that inflationary pressures are unlikely to persist.

Climate Change Risk

Several types of insurance and reinsurance have been affected

Climate change poses an urgent and complex set of emerging risks to insurance companies. As a systemic and irreversible process, climate change introduces sensitive paradigm shifts to insurers' risk-return profiles - significantly affecting both the asset and liability sides of their balance sheets. The nature of related risks is no secret, neither from insurance professionals nor the general public. According to the 12th Annual Survey jointly administered by the Society of Actuaries, the Canadian Institute of Actuaries, and the Casualty Actuarial Society, climate change-related risk was ranked as the top emerging risk among the 23 presented to a diverse group of insurance sector participants. Climate change risk affects both the property & casualty and life insurance sectors in several important ways. These in turn pose a threat to the reinsurance industry, through coverage of exposures that are in excess of insurers' capacities. For example, climate change causes increased risk of physical damage, and changes in the frequency and severity of catastrophes underwritten by the insurance industry. This has been amply evidenced by the increased intensity of climate-related events in the past decade, notably the four major hurricanes in the Southern California region in 2018, and out-of-control forest fires in Australia and the western US in 2019 and 2020.

Climate change also increases heat-induced mortality and incident rates of illness in ways that directly impact life insurers. According to the World Health Organization, more than 70,000 excess deaths were recorded during Europe's extreme heat wave in 2003. In addition, climate change increases pandemic risk via water-borne and temperature-sensitive diseases, as well as through the potential release of frozen viruses unknown to modern science - according to a report published in 2020 by The Weather Channel. Finally, climate change leads to investment risk when it comes to the transition to a low-carbon economy. Insurers' strategic asset allocations must be prudently designed to ensure a sustainable return, in order to meet liabilities that generally have a long duration (this has been a relatively understudied field that is worth more attention from researchers). Taken together, all of these climate change-related impacts merit greater amounts of risk-related research in the industry. Integrated assessment models, which can aggressively leverage cross-disciplinary tools from climate science, finance, and actuarial science, are expected to be increasingly used for robust quantitative analyses of risk, and effective qualitative studies on the subject will also be valuable.

Related insight areas: [Infrastructure](#), [Agriculture](#), [Food and Beverage](#), [Future of the Environment](#), [Public Finance and Social Protection](#), [Air Pollution](#), [International Security](#), [Global Health](#), [Risk and Resilience](#), [Climate Change](#), [Forests](#), [Climate Indicators](#)



Harvard Business School Working Knowledge 7 Trends to Watch in 2022

19 January 2022

As 2022 gets underway we asked our faculty to highlight some trends worth watching in the coming year. Ariel Stern: A new future for digital health care While 2020 and 2021 were years of rapid innovation and deployment of new health care technologies and delivery modalities, 2022 will be a big year for learning about what works in digital health. Recently, we have witnessed developments that would have been difficult to imagine just a few years ago. In Germany, the past 15 months have seen the rollout of “prescription apps” and the introduction of a system of nationwide health insurance coverage for digital health applications, the first of its kind worldwide.



Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania - Knowledge@Wharton

Will 2022 Be a Banner Year for Real Estate?

18 January 2022

Home prices and construction are set for a banner year in 2022, riding on the back of historically low interest rates and strong demand for work-from-home space, according to Susan M. Wachter, Wharton professor of real estate and finance. That could change, however, if prospective home buyers resist higher interest rates and rising home prices beyond a point, she said. The outlook is less rosy for the commercial space markets, with the prevailing low occupancy rates for office and retail space. Especially hurt in pandemic times will be big cities like New York City and San Francisco that depend substantially on their downtown retail economies, she predicted. Wachter shared her insights on the outlook for 2022 in a recent interview on Wharton Business Daily on SiriusXM.



Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania - Knowledge@Wharton

What's Ahead for the U.S. Economy in 2022

11 January 2022

The Federal Reserve must get “more aggressive” in 2022 by increasing interest rates and tapering down asset purchases in order to tame inflation, according to Wharton finance professor Jeremy Siegel. “The Fed is way behind the curve ... and should have started raising interest rates by now,” he said on the Wharton Business Daily show on SiriusXM as he forecast market and economic trends for 2022. (Listen to the full podcast above.) Siegel predicted the Dow and the S&P 500 will continue to climb in the year ahead, albeit at a slower pace than in 2021. The stock markets will face some headwinds when the Fed raises rates, but “stocks are real assets, and you want to hold real assets when there is inflation,” he said.



World Economic Forum

How to make organizations cyber resilient in the digital frontier

05 January 2022

Cyber crimes are set to cost governments and organizations \$10 trillion by 2025. As new cyber threats emerge, boards of directors must develop cyber risk plans to ensure their organizations have greater cyber resilience. Cyber risk strategies should align to financial analysis using clear and understandable language. In their 2020 Board of Directors Survey, Gartner, Inc. found that directors see cybersecurity as the second-greatest threat to their businesses, right after regulatory compliance risks. Cyber crime already cost the world at least \$6 trillion in 2021 and could lead to over \$10 trillion worth of annual damages by 2025.



Project Syndicate

The Right Recipe for Reforming Pensions

29 December 2021

Even though governments do not provide all pension income in most national systems, they have good reasons to be involved in reform efforts. And one of the best things governments could do is to ensure that workers have the information and financial education they need to make the best decisions about their retirement.



Brookings

Debt tsunami of the pandemic

17 December 2021

M. Ayhan Kose, Peter Nagle, Franziska Ohnsorge, and Naotaka Sugawara explain how record debt levels and significant changes in the structure of debt markets have amplified the difficulty of resolving debt accumulation in emerging markets.



Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)

ECMI Statistical Package – Key findings

10 December 2021

This report provides an overview of the key findings of the ECMI Statistical Package 2021, a comprehensive collection of the most relevant data on various segments of European and global capital markets. It enables users to trace trends so as to highlight the ongoing transformation of capital markets, including the structural changes brought about by competitive forces, innovation and regulation. It represents an important step towards overcoming the existing data fragmentation on the evolution of European capital markets by offering a ‘one-stop-shop’ for market participants, regulators, academics and students.

ESG Shareholder Engagement

Environmental, Social and Governance-based engagement can help drive climate action and address public health issues

In addition to shaping their portfolios through ESG integration, investors may choose to actively drive related improvements at companies through greater shareholder engagement. Evidence suggests this is a far more effective way of shaping corporate behaviour than simply buying and selling stock. The ways in which investors can approach this depends on asset class, however. Private equity investors, for example, are likely to have relatively large ownership stakes and therefore more direct access to management teams (large PE funds like KKR and TPG regularly engage with senior and middle managers, as well as front line workers, to identify ESG issues and encourage development of related strategies, measurement, disclosures, and operational practices). For buyers of public equities, the style of engagement depends on their scale and objectives. Large asset managers with long-term investment styles are likely to have greater and more prolonged access to management teams, similar to what is afforded to private equity backers. Meanwhile activist hedge funds tend to take large stakes in firms for short periods of time, through leveraged capital and borrowing - and then use that time to mount aggressive campaigns.

Examples of ESG-centred shareholder engagement include Aviva Investors' push for Apple to address youth smartphone addiction, and Engine No. 1's campaign to drive stronger climate action at Exxon Mobil by replacing board members. Smaller, socially-responsible asset management firms like Boston Trust Walden, and values-based asset owners like religious pension funds, often engage firms by initiating shareholder proxy votes that call for stronger ESG strategies. Individual retail investors can join campaigns mounted by larger activists, though most delegate their voting power to index fund managers like BlackRock or Vanguard (which tend to follow shareholder voting guidance from firms like ISS and Glass Lewis). ESG shareholder action tends to focus on three objectives: disclosure, target setting, and governance. Disclosure, the most common, relates to the frequency of, quality of, and auditor assurances behind ESG information. Target setting can occur once ESG data is made available, and can be used to improve things like greenhouse gas emissions. In terms of governance, investors may simply ask for more rigour from a firm - both for its own sake, and as an enabler of the greater good through instruments like aligning executive compensation with sustainability goals.

Related insight areas: [Institutional Investors](#), [Digital Communications](#), [Climate Change](#), [Youth Perspectives](#), [Global Health](#), [Banking and Capital Markets](#), [Corporate Governance](#), [Sustainable Development](#), [Private Investors](#)



Harvard Business School Working Knowledge How Footwear Startup Allbirds is Decarbonizing Fashion

25 January 2022

In 2021, the footwear startup Allbirds was extending its product range into apparel and expanding beyond its online store to open more retail stores around the world. It was also freely sharing its know-how and material innovations with its competitors to try to scale its efforts to decarbonize fashion, by substituting natural materials for conventional petroleum-based materials and leather. But the company also had to find ways to remain differentiated, based on design and comfort. Professor Mike Toffel and Allbirds co-founder and CEO Joey Zwillinger discuss the growing environmental impact of the fashion industry and how the company managed the tension between advancing its environmental mission and staying ahead of competitors in the case, Allbirds: Decarbonizing Fashion.



World Economic Forum Stakeholder Capitalism - EP.5 | Stakeholder Capitalism at Work | World Economic Forum

13 January 2022

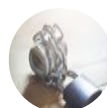
In this concluding episode we ask how can the idea of 'stakeholder capitalism' work in the real world. Joining hosts Peter Vanham and Natalie Pearce are: Emily Bayley, project lead of the World Economic Forum's ESG Initiative Jonas Prising, CEO of Manpower Group Geraldine Matchett, CFO and co-CEO of Royal DSM .



GreenBiz We read this 130-page report on climate regulation so you don't have to

12 January 2022

In October, the Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC) — an oversight body for federal financial regulators — chimed in on the climate conversation by way of a dense, 133-page report. The FSOC Report on Climate-Related Financial Risks examines how U.S. regulators are already addressing climate-related financial risks, discusses ongoing challenges in assessing those risks, and offers more than 30 recommendations for regulators to improve the resilience of the U.S. financial system to climate change. While the highly anticipated report has been critiqued as a missed opportunity that didn't go far enough , the effort, led by U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen, laid down a marker on an issue of critical importance.



GreenBiz HSBC, Walmart add science-based targets to supplier financing program

28 December 2021

HSBC, Walmart and CDP are teaming up to unlock more financing for Walmart suppliers. The suppliers must set validated science-based targets for emissions reductions and meet certain performance thresholds in ongoing ESG disclosures to reporting organization CDP. The supplier financing program is part of Walmart's Project Gigaton , the company's initiative to avoid 1 billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions from being released into the atmosphere by 2030. Decarbonizing this level of industry is vital for larger businesses to reach net zero and to significantly draw down carbon emissions — like many retailers, most of Walmart's emissions come from Scope 3 relationships, many of which are with smaller suppliers. By teaming up, Walmart and HSBC both stand to make headway on their net-zero goals through client and supplier engagement.



Science Daily Study finds electric vehicles provide lower carbon emissions through additional channels

22 December 2021

A recent study from the Yale School of the Environment published in Nature Communications found that the total indirect emissions from electric vehicles pale in comparison to the indirect emissions from fossil fuel-powered vehicles. This is in addition to the direct emissions from combusting fossil fuels -- either at the tailpipe for conventional vehicles or at the power plant smokestack for electricity generation -- showing electric vehicles have a clear advantage emissions-wise over conventional vehicles. "The surprising element was how much lower the emissions of electric vehicles were," says postdoctoral associate Stephanie Weber.



INSEAD Knowledge Leading Climate Strategy From the Board

14 December 2021

With the Glasgow Climate Pact, nearly 200 countries agreed to strengthen their targets for cutting greenhouse gas emissions. As a result, companies around the world must act — and their boards must show leadership. How have directors coped with climate change to date? How is the issue already integrated into corporate governance and management processes? What practical steps can boards take to make real progress on addressing climate change?

A Systems Perspective on Circular Change

Eliminating wasteful practices and ensuring sustainable consumption requires systemic change

In general, most materials are under-utilized and discarded after short periods - and efforts to correct this problem often treat its symptoms rather than root causes. Our individual consumption, as well as that of organizations and entire countries, must be considered in the context of both social needs and planetary boundaries (beyond which we subject the planet to existential risk). There is an urgent need for a fundamental rethink of industrial systems, coupled with changes in behaviour and governance. However, this can only occur through unprecedented collaboration among manufacturers, retailers, and governments. When it comes to materials like textiles, food, and plastics, entire value chains need to be aligned around a shared vision. High-level commitments, smart incentives, and action are required from everyone with a stake in the way materials cycle through an economy. In the textile industry, for example, if fashion brands and retailers can commit to a standard garment collection scheme, the volume of what is recovered could justify the necessary investment in technology and infrastructure. In the case of food, farmers, food brands, retailers, and city governments can similarly collaborate on a broad scale.

Eventually, a shift could get underway to systems where all of the food we eat is designed to be part of a regenerative cycle of edible products and fertilizers. When it comes to plastics, however, there are particularly complex challenges in terms of how we use them to package and consume things. Still, people around the world are responding to these challenges by changing the way they shop, what they choose to eat, and how they live - and substantial sums are being invested in removing plastic from the ocean, rivers, and streets. All of this work will be for nothing, though, if increasing amounts of plastic continue to be landfilled, burned, or otherwise deposited into the environment. Businesses and governments need to work together more closely to design ways to produce, consume, and re-use materials, and a systems approach to developing such a circular economy means tying together the various social and ecological systems that underpin economies - and adopting a more expansive view. The products and services likely to result would be both decentralized and interconnected, and would depend on meaningful collaboration among businesses, governments, and communities.

Related insight areas: [Advanced Manufacturing and Production](#), [Future of Food](#), [Cities and Urbanization](#), [Agriculture](#), [Food and Beverage](#), [Retail](#), [Consumer Goods and Lifestyle](#), [Plastics and the Environment](#), [Science](#), [Institutional Investors](#), [Corporate Governance](#), [Agile Governance](#), [Supply Chain and Transport](#), [Sustainable Development](#), [Global Governance](#), [Air Pollution](#), [Future of the Environment](#), [Green New Deals](#), [Climate Indicators](#)

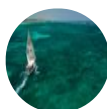


World Economic Forum

Special Address by Kishida Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan | Davos Agenda 2022

18 January 2022

Special Address by Kishida Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan with Klaus Schwab. .



World Economic Forum

How scientific research can enable stricter plastic pollution laws

17 January 2022

Plastic pollution is a global problem that harms marine and terrestrial ecosystems. A circular economy project in Africa is working with scientists to research the effects of plastic on the ocean. Scientists are gathering evidence in the Western Indian Ocean that can support stricter legislation and behavioural changes. Plastic pollution is a global problem at the forefront of many people's minds. We know that plastic pollution can harm marine and terrestrial environments and that on average people could be ingesting five grams of plastic per week .



World Economic Forum

How empowering local communities can help solve global plastic waste

17 January 2022

Post-consumer, non-recyclable plastic waste has no commercial value. Poor, climate-vulnerable communities live in areas blighted by this waste. An innovative plastic credit system is positively impacting communities and the environment. Every single day, we are confronted with an alarming plastic pollution problem . We have seen some success and examples of best practice in recycling plastic waste in countries around the world.

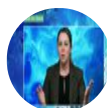


GreenBiz

Timberland wants your boots back

12 January 2022

These boots were made for recycling? That's the message Timberland, widely known for its wheat-colored nubuck boots, is sending to customers this week with the launch of its product take-back program called Timberloop . The company is encouraging customers to return Timberland footwear, clothing and accessories so that it can give them another life. "By 2030, we aim for 100 percent of our products to be designed for circularity," wrote Atlanta McIlwraith, director for community engagement and activation at Timberland, in response to emailed questions. "With the Timberloop program, we've created the infrastructure required to 'close the loop' keep products/materials in circulation for as long as possible."

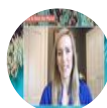


World Economic Forum

What Are the Big Ideas to Restore India's Ecosystems? | Sustainable Development Summit 2021

05 January 2022

By 2030, India plans to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land and decrease the equivalent of up to 3 billion tons of CO2 through additional tree cover. How can local projects and initiatives help to achieve these goals? Speakers: Emanuela Orsini, Bhairavi Jani, Rhea Mazumdar Singhal, Ajay Mittal .



World Economic Forum

Shaping a Just Plastics Economy | Sustainable Development Summit 2021

26 December 2021

From informal sector waste pickers to women working along the entire plastic value chain, traditionally marginalized groups play a vital role in tackling plastic pollution. This session explores the most promising approaches to overcome existing barriers and create a more inclusive and sustainable world through the eradication of plastic pollution. Speakers: Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya, Catherine Cheney, Joshua Amponsem, Sonia Maria Dias, Markus Horcher, Kristin Hughes, Meenakshi Gupta .



ETH Zürich

Compost for Kenya

17 December 2021

Manuel Mathis is doing an internship at a composting plant in Nairobi as part of his Master's degree programme. He is now in charge of a 20-strong team of workers – and, thanks to his improvements, the business is back in profit.

Accelerating Climate Action

Urgent action is required now to head off the impending climate catastrophe

Climate change poses an urgent threat to our existence. 2019 was the second-hottest year on record, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and NASA, and current temperatures are believed to be roughly 1°C above pre-industrial levels due to human activity. Temperatures are now poised to reach 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels - with terrible consequences for millions of people in the form of rising sea levels, agricultural impact and natural disasters - barring decisive action, according to the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. People around the world are already experiencing extreme impacts of climate change, including drought, floods, and wildfires. In Australia, for example, the worst fire season on record began in late 2019 - killing dozens of people, destroying thousands of homes, and burning an area nearly the size of England. One of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which were established in 2015, calls for taking urgent action to combat climate change. A UN report published in 2019 found that while some progress had been made on the goal, "far more ambitious plans and unprecedented changes" are necessary.

2020 marks a crucial inflection point for the Paris Agreement on climate change, which entered into force in 2016 and aims to limit warming this century to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels (though the US, the world's second-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, said it began the process of withdrawing from the deal in 2019) - because participating countries are being asked to submit their next set of climate commitments. It is now more vital than ever that climate efforts being made by states, businesses, cities, and regions are consolidated, in order to ignite sufficient change and halt the climate crisis. World leaders gathered at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit in September 2019 in New York to prepare for the critical year ahead. In the wake of this landmark summit and a surge in climate activism on the part of young people all over the world, the Secretary-General has prioritized a set of action portfolios with the potential to effectively curb greenhouse gas emissions. These action portfolios cover a range of critical areas including energy, industry, nature-based solutions, and urban infrastructure. Building resilience, and increasing financial support, are also high on the agenda.

Related insight areas: [Global Governance](#), [Future of Food](#), [Climate Change](#), [Climate Indicators](#), [Forests](#), [Future of the Environment](#), [Water](#), [Circular Economy](#), [The Ocean](#), [Energy](#), [Oil and Gas](#), [Mining and Metals](#), [Antarctica](#), [Arctic](#)

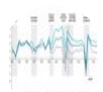


World Economic Forum

Special Address by António Guterres, Secretary-General, United Nations | Davos Agenda 2022

17 January 2022

Special Address by António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations with Børge Brende, President of the World Economic Forum #DavosAgenda. Simultaneous interpretation in English, Arabic, French, Mandarin Chinese, Russian and Spanish. .



World Economic Forum

How to thrive in times of turmoil and disruption

17 January 2022

Business leaders are navigating increasing uncertainty, particularly during COVID-19, while also dealing with urgent, long-term megatrends such as sustainability and climate change. By building robust organizations and leveraging these megatrends, they can help their businesses to thrive in times of turmoil and disruption. For example, carefully considering the unfolding impact of digitalization and decarbonization will strengthen future investment and strategy decisions. Today's business leaders are in a challenging position. On the one hand, they have to deal with issues calling for urgent action, such as sustainability and climate change.



World Economic Forum

Who Are the 'Ecopreneurs' Restoring the Amazon? | Sustainable Development Impact Summit

16 January 2022

With over 10,000 species at risk of becoming extinct, the Amazon's ecosystem requires a nature- and people-positive bioeconomy to mitigate existing threats. What action can governments and businesses take to implement "ecopreneurship" that promotes the changes needed to conserve and restore the Amazon?.



World Economic Forum

A Green Transition Starts with Blue Water | Sustainable Development Summit 2021

12 January 2022

Water risk will erode over \$300 billion in business value, the equivalent of five times the cost of taking action now. This session explores the most promising approaches for industry leaders to accelerate water solutions, address critical vulnerabilities in global supply chains and realize a green transition. Speakers: Heather Clancy, Mary Draves, Usha Rao-Monari, Patrick Decker .



Rocky Mountain Institute

Financing 1.5°C: Five Trends to Watch in Climate-Aligned Finance in 2022

10 January 2022

When RMI launched the Center for Climate-Aligned Finance in 2020, the concept of climate-aligned finance was in its infancy. As we begin 2022, we look ahead to some of the major themes likely to emerge this year. The post Financing 1.5°C: Five Trends to Watch in Climate-Aligned Finance in 2022 appeared first on RMI .

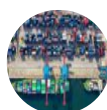


Frontiers

A Hybrid Model for Power Consumption Forecasting Using VMD-Based the Long Short-Term Memory Neural Network

07 January 2022

Energy consumption prediction is a popular research field in computational intelligence. However, it is difficult for general machine learning models to handle complex time series data such as building energy consumption data, and the results are often unsatisfactory. To address this difficulty, a hybrid prediction model based on modal decomposition was proposed in this paper.



World Economic Forum

How green corridors can enable the transition to zero-emission shipping

05 January 2022

Zero-emission fuels and vessels will need to be deployed at scale over the next decade to meet emissions targets by 2050. Green corridors offer a solution to scale pilots and demonstrations for sustainable shipping into industry-wide solutions. We test these hypotheses in The Next Wave: Green Corridors , by examining two potential trade routes: Australia-Japan and Asia-Europe. The decarbonization of shipping – responsible for 3% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions but more than 80% of global trade – is rapidly moving up the agenda, for policymakers and industry alike.

Accelerating Sustainability

Sustainable production is becoming a competitive advantage

Making production systems responsible for significant carbon dioxide emissions more sustainable is critical for fighting climate change, and for ensuring the right kind of future economic growth. The circular economy, or an economy designed around production and consumption that produce zero waste through reuse and recycling, provides a model that can help the manufacturing sector contribute to broader global sustainability. Examples of production that have employed circular economy practices include the construction of facilities for the 2012 Summer Olympics in London that were designed for deconstruction and later use (in addition to the use of leftover gas pipelines in the Olympic stadium's structure), according to a report published by the think tank CEPS in 2017. Related technology advancements and further organizational innovation could boost resource productivity - the amount of value that can be wrung from a single resource - and create new economic value. Leaders of governments, businesses, and non-governmental organizations all must play a role in making this shift to circular principles happen, particularly in light of the current rate of climate change.

About half of the world's energy consumption and 20% of greenhouse gas emissions are attributed to the manufacturing sector; more sustainable production has to become the global standard as soon as possible. Businesses can nudge consumers towards sustainable consumption by selling more durable products, while policy-makers can implement rules that reduce the price of those products - and levy taxes on goods made at facilities with large carbon footprints. Meanwhile public procurement policies can help by requiring a minimum amount of re-purposed raw material in purchases. In addition, providing a standard way for companies to report sustainable activities could help them gauge their effectiveness, and regulations encouraging the use of sustainable products (like allowing electric cars to use bus lanes) can help increase demand. Production requires a sufficient number of manufacturers and consumers willing and able to use recycled materials, and the Accelerating Sustainable Production project run by the World Economic Forum's Advanced Manufacturing and Production Platform serves as a guide for optimizing the benefits of the Fourth Industrial Revolution in production - helping countries and businesses achieve sustainable growth and contribute to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Related insight areas: [Future of the Environment](#), [Air Pollution](#), [Green New Deals](#), [Supply Chain and Transport](#), [Circular Economy](#), [Forests](#), [Batteries](#), [Retail](#), [Consumer Goods and Lifestyle](#), [Agriculture](#), [Food and Beverage](#), [Climate Change](#), [Sustainable Development](#), [Advanced Materials](#)



[Business and Human Rights Resource Centre](#) **From factories to homes: Why human rights due diligence must extend to all workers in the supply chain**

25 January 2022

The world is still reeling from the devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, with economic recovery unfolding as a stark, two-speed story of the Global South and Global North. Supply chains that were brought to a grinding halt by lockdowns are still limping along, with recent studies showing garment sector workers remain some of the world's worst affected. This crisis has compounded the pre-existing exploitative conditions commonplace before COVID-19. This is why it is critical, ahead of a Directive which could transform this broken industry, that workers from Asia, "the garment factory of the world" are heard.



[German Institute for International and Security Affairs](#) **Public-Private Alliances for Sustainable Commodity Supply Chains**

21 January 2022

Opportunities and Risks in the South African Mining Sector
The promotion of public-private cooperation in resource-rich countries of the Global South can serve as a flanking measure that strengthens the impact of supply chain laws. The case of the South African mining sector in its struggle against Covid-19 shows that close cooperation between companies, the state and private organisations can, under certain conditions, increase the sustainability of transnational supply chains. Nevertheless, these types of alliances carry the risk of negative cascading effects if core state tasks are delegated to companies.



[World Economic Forum](#) **Here's how we can resolve the global supply chain crisis**

17 January 2022

The supply chain crisis has impacted global trade, but particularly developing countries distant from production hubs. The recent crisis gives us a glimpse of the potential impact of climate change on supply chains. Regional pacts and more localized production could increase resilience, but this requires investment in digital and production infrastructure. Our livelihoods – food, jobs, energy – depend on functioning and resilient global supply chains. Unfortunately, the uncertainty caused by the progress of the COVID-19 pandemic from region to region has made it difficult to resume business on a global scale.



[World Economic Forum](#) **Deepfakes, cryptocurrencies and misinformation: 2022's cybercrime predictions**

31 December 2021

While cybercriminals continue to leverage the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, they will also find new opportunities to attack such as deepfakes, cryptocurrency and mobile wallets.



[Harvard Business Review](#) **Engineering Your Way Out of the Global Chip Shortage**

23 December 2021

Leadership teams are pulling out all the stops to blunt the damage of the global semiconductor chip shortage on their businesses. Many are overlooking a critical factor that can position their company for a much smoother ride through this turbulent period: the engineering team. With chips now playing integral roles in all kinds of products, the shortage has hampered a wide range of industries. Despite companies' best efforts to counter its effects, some manufacturers were forced to cut their annual production volume by as much as 25%. The problem, as many executives are painfully aware, is there are no quick fixes.



[World Economic Forum](#) **3 ways to accelerate the biomanufacturing revolution**

22 December 2021

Advances in synthetic biology are spurring a biomanufacturing revolution. It can help us address our gravest challenges, from microplastic pollution to pandemic prevention and preparedness. Here are 3 areas through which we can accelerate this transformation. Our collective ability to engineer biology together with the deployment of automation, AI and data-analytics in production processes, has advanced in leaps and bounds over the last two decades, spurring a biomanufacturing revolution. Economies of scale are enabling significant cost reductions in fundamental unit operations, which in turn have enabled a maturation of the overall biological engineering toolkit.

Environmental, Social and Governance

Institutional investors are increasingly seeking out options like green bonds and impact investments

A paradigm shift began after the financial crisis dramatically demonstrated the inter-dependence of individual financial choices, markets, economies, and global challenges like climate change. Meanwhile stagnant economic growth, mounting populism, and rising inequality all point to governments' limited ability to provide effective solutions. Against this backdrop, new preferences are forming, particularly among young people. A growing share of consumption is focused on goods and services that provide a collective experience, for example, while an awareness of climate change is spreading, and sustainability has become a key buzzword as corporations increasingly observe so-called environmental, social and governance, or ESG, standards. Institutional investors have also started to embrace the ESG agenda. More than 1,500 investors and managers, representing nearly \$60 trillion in assets under management, have signed the United Nations-backed Principles for Responsible Investment. Yet, many investors struggle to convert related commitments into practice. According to McKinsey, less than 1% of the total capital at the 15 largest US public pension funds is allocated to ESG-specific strategies, such as ESG-screened passive indexes. Many institutional investors continue to treat ESG as a marketing tool, rather than an integral part of a strategy.

In recent years, a number of related initiatives have emerged that have boosted the adoption of ESG. One of the most promising developments is so-called "green bonds," or traditional fixed income instruments used to finance exclusively environmentally sustainable projects. Another financial innovation gaining ground is impact investing, where commercial returns are coupled with socio-economic or environmental impact. Institutional investors such as endowments and sovereign development funds have been particularly active as part of this new investment model, which aims to achieve a triple bottom-line measured according to profit, environmental impact, and social benefit. Only time will tell if ESG can become mainstream. The extent to which institutional investors begin to access and promote ESG objectives requires an assessment of where they align with existing asset classes and investment products - and an understanding of strategies that can further specific ESG goals. This shift in perspective will enable institutional investors to play a larger role in shaping the future of various industries, as they incorporate these criteria into their investment portfolios.

Related insight areas: [Corruption](#), [Future of the Environment](#), [LGBTI Inclusion](#), [Sustainable Development](#), [Social Innovation](#), [Infrastructure](#), [Corporate Governance](#), [Human Rights](#), [Climate Change](#)



Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania
- Knowledge@Wharton

The Challenge of Measuring Impact Performance

25 January 2022

Wharton's Katherine Klein interviews Maoz (Michael) Brown, head of research for the Wharton Social Impact Initiative, about a study revealing some of the problems with measurement in impact investing.



Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania
- Knowledge@Wharton

How Risk-shifting by Underperforming Funds Distorts Stock Prices

18 January 2022

As fund managers of laggard mutual funds try to catch up with their peers, they tend to pursue high-risk stocks that may give higher than average returns. In the process, they push the prices of those risky stocks disproportionately higher than what the returns may justify, according to a new research paper by experts at Wharton and elsewhere. The research explored the relationship between risk-shifting by underperforming mutual funds and "risk anomalies" such as subpar risk-adjusted performance of stocks with high market betas, or high volatility.



Project Syndicate

Capital Is Not a Strategy

06 January 2022

After years of central banks keeping interest rates low and pumping liquidity into financial markets, asset valuations are at historic highs. While entrepreneurs and venture-capital founders tell themselves that "capital is a strategy," bubble finance is no substitute for a business plan that can achieve positive cash flow.



Harvard Business School Working Knowledge

The Popular Stock Metric That Can Lead Investors Astray

06 December 2021

What if a bedrock method that investors have relied on for decades to find cheap-but-promising stocks to buy low and sell high no longer works well? The book-to-market ratio has been used since at least the Great Depression to identify undervalued stocks. It has become so detached from a modern economy driven by research and intellectual property that it no longer accurately signals so-called value stocks, suggests new research from Charles C.Y. Wang, Harvard Business School's Glenn and Mary Jane Creamer Associate Professor of Business Administration. Investors use book-to-market ratios to spot potentially underpriced stocks, and major stock indexes and institutional investors lean on the metric as well.

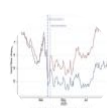


Overseas Development Institute

China's role in the multilateral development banks

01 December 2021

China's growing presence in the multilateral development banks (MDBs) reflects an understudied aspect of its growing role in development finance, its engagement with developing countries, and its ambitions in global governance. This event was the second of our seminar series on multilateral development banks, looking across China's engagement with the MDBs.



VoxEU

Bank leverage constraints and bond market illiquidity during the COVID-19 crisis

27 November 2021

The onset of COVID-19 led to heightened uncertainty and a 'dash-for-cash', particularly in the mutual fund sector which faced fire sale pressure. Typically, banks trading securities absorb such pressure and support market liquidity, but regulation may limit their ability to do so. This column analyses the role of bank leverage constraints as an amplifier of bond market illiquidity. It concludes that leverage ratio regulation can have negative side effects by increasing bond market illiquidity in times of economic distress, suggesting that the optimal leverage ratio is procyclical.



VoxEU

Mutual funds' loyalty helped to stabilise ESG stocks during COVID-19

23 November 2021

How did the stock market crash caused by Covid-19 affect different asset classes and fund types? This column studies the trading behaviour of actively managed equity mutual funds in the US during the crisis and finds that funds with high environmental, social, and governance ratings helped to stabilise the market, but other funds also provided support for ESG stocks. All funds experiencing inflows increased their net purchases, but this behaviour was stronger for ESG funds. Non-ESG funds experiencing outflows increased their net sales, but this was limited to their holdings of non-ESG stocks.

Protecting the Planet from People, for People

The values that have underpinned commercial activity require an update

Humanity has managed to bring the planet to the brink of destruction, with devastating implications. Colonialism and an unquenchable thirst for natural resources played key roles in the now-unfolding environmental crisis, as extraction and exploitation became the norm in many parts of the world. These activities undermined indigenous cultures, and subjugated indigenous peoples - relegating them to footnotes in a supply chain. They also triggered overconsumption in wealthy countries, elevated profits over ethics, marginalized efforts to replenish resources, and curbed necessary climate action. Configuring a more just relationship between the planet and people, and between the people who have benefitted from resource exploitation and those who have been marginalized as a result, is now urgently necessary. Related efforts call for effective prioritization - and a recognition of the fundamental role played by indigenous peoples as traditional environmental custodians. Assumptions that modern technology alone can solve problems like the climate crisis errantly overlook the value of traditional knowledge, which has been progressively depleted and dismissed during the era of exploitation that brought us to this crucial juncture.

The areas of the planet that tend to most conscientiously practice sustainability are managed by indigenous custodians using traditional practices. Evicting them from their lands in the name of economic development or to form “Protected Areas” is therefore a result of deeply flawed logic. Instead, there should be more mainstreaming of their approaches, acceptance of their sovereignty, and more of an effort to seek out their advice when it comes to stemming environmental damage. Ultimately, there is a need for fundamental, systemic change in terms of demand and consumption - including the manufacturing of more durable goods, and the reduction of disposable products that contribute waste. For businesses this calls for more sustainable, less expansive supply chains. The very values underpinning commercial activity require dramatic change. A greater emphasis on environmental protection is required, and greater returns must accrue to people by way of meaningful employment and just pay levels. The effort to achieve greater equality and sustainability is a key test for humanity, and one that it cannot afford to fail.

Related insight areas: [Oil and Gas](#), [Energy](#), [Forests](#), [Circular Economy](#), [Biodiversity](#), [Future of the Environment](#), [The Ocean](#), [Climate Change](#), [Plastics and the Environment](#), [Sustainable Development](#), [Air Pollution](#), [Mining and Metals](#), [Water](#)

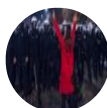


[World Economic Forum](#)

Global Risks Report 2022 Press Conference

11 January 2022

At the virtual press conference on the Global Risks Report 2022, speakers share key findings and insights from the report.



[Social Europe](#)

A tale of loss and hope: what can we learn from Poland?

21 December 2021

Poland's ruling nationalists aren't having it all their own way. The opposition needs more external recognition. Disproportionate: Kaczynski's attempt to suppress all opposition has kindled citizen engagement (Grzegorz Zukowski / shutterstock.com) Early this month, leading figures on the European populist right met in Warsaw. They had been invited by Jarosław Kaczyński, leader of Poland's ruling Law and Justice Party (PiS).



[International Civil Society Centre](#)

Climate Justice and Digital Transformation

10 December 2021

Scientists have proposed to call the current geological epoch to be the Anthropocene signifying the extent of human impact on Earth's geology and ecosystems, including, but not limited to, climate change. While there is debate on when exactly that epoch might have started there is consensus that the ongoing digital transformation of our economies and societies is part of it. The appropriate global response to achieve climate justice is seen as a transformation of the world economy, flicking the green switch and building a sustainable system driven by decarbonisation, renewable energy, green jobs and a sustainable agriculture that preserves the Earth's ecosystems and biodiversity.



[Business and Human Rights Resource Centre](#)

Development finance institutions and human rights: The urgent need to connect the dots

10 December 2021

Development finance institutions should take a critical look at the coherence of their sustainable development and human rights strategies, write Ioana Tuta and Signe Andreassen, Danish Institute for Human Rights.



[LSE Business Review](#)

It's time to consider the impact on teams of temporal aspects of diversity

23 November 2021

It is a consensus that diversity is beneficial for organisations. But research on how diversity relates to each workplace outcome still contains mixed findings. One hypothesis states that positive and negative outcomes occur in parallel. Frederick Herbert and Paris Will discuss the empirical findings on the differential outcomes of diverse teams based on temporal dynamics and suggest ways ... Continued.



[LSE Business Review](#)

The effects of diversity on teams change over time

23 November 2021

It is a consensus that diversity is beneficial for organisations. But research on how diversity relates to each workplace outcome still contains mixed findings. Frederick Herbert and Paris Will write that the static model, which views diversity as a constant and on-going trade-off, lacks nuance. A newly formed diverse team will have different outcomes from a diverse team ... Continued.



[Chatham House](#)

The trickle-up effect of rights-based climate litigation

16 November 2021

With governments failing in their pledges and companies accused of 'green-washing,' human rights-based litigation is increasingly important for accountability.

Circular Business Models

Opportunities abound to reimagine consumption with products designed for sharing, durability, and reuse

Much of the material used for production ends up being wasted, and a lot of the value we attempt to create in the process is forfeited. Moving towards a more circular economy entails a radical shift away from this dynamic - and large companies can play a significant role by using their scale to drive circularity into the mainstream. Successful circular economy businesses and initiatives can inspire well-known brands to follow suit, and while models supporting the shift to a circular economy will vary, the key consideration is always whether a business is creating value through extraction and consumption, or through regeneration and restoration. Extending an item's lifespan can be achieved through designing for durability, though in order to truly unlock greater value sustainable design strategies should be deployed in combination with innovation related to maintenance, repair, the standardization of parts, disassembly, refurbishment, and re-manufacturing. Business models that emphasize access over ownership, and selling performance rather than the product itself, will likely be able to keep things in use longer - even as they are used more intensively.

Manufacturers can increase profitability through greater durability, reusability, and energy and water efficiency - and therefore have an incentive to use better-designed products. Customers can also benefit from greater circularity, as paying for a service instead of acquiring an asset means they can enjoy benefits without bearing responsibility for maintenance, repair, and disposal - while accessing products that might have otherwise been out of reach. While cars can be shared among multiple users on peer-to-peer platforms (such as Zipcar or Car2go), power tools can be made available by the hour from local libraries, and clothing can be rented as needed (the New York Public Library lent out professional attire intended use at job interviews in 2018, and the LENA fashion library in Amsterdam operates a membership-based clothing lending service). Ultimately, whereas companies used to only sell cars, they are now selling mobility, and while they once just sold clothes, they can now provide access. By actively rethinking consumption, businesses can be successfully reoriented for the circular economy, and help preserve the value in social and ecological systems.

Related insight areas: [Corporate Governance](#), [Diversity and Inclusion](#), [Mobility](#), [Aviation](#), [Travel and Tourism](#), [Innovation](#), [Fourth Industrial Revolution](#), [Retail](#), [Consumer Goods and Lifestyle](#), [Behavioural Sciences](#), [Entrepreneurship](#), [Cities and Urbanization](#)



World Economic Forum

Special Address by Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India | Davos Agenda 2022

17 January 2022

Special Address by Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India at the World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda 2022. .



Social Europe

'Leaving no one behind': putting words into actions

13 January 2022

Mehtap Akgüç is senior researcher in the economic, employment and social policies unit of the European Trade Union Institute and an affiliate of the Institute of Labor Economics, focusing on labour markets and wage inequalities, migration and mobility, the green and circular economy and economic development. Kalina Arabadjieva is a researcher at the European Trade Union Institute, with a PhD in labour law. She is working on gender equality and the just transition. Béla Galgóczi is senior researcher for the European Trade Union Institute and author of Towards a Just Transition: Coal, Cars and the World of Work (ETUI, 2019).



Social Europe

Germany's reliance on its healthcare 'brown angels'

05 January 2022

The recruitment of nurses to meet shortages in the global north has side-effects—not all good—on their countries of origin. Unlike most of their professional peers, these Kerala nurses were able to find work at a clinic in Kerala (EstrellaBuena/shutterstock.com) There's a line in Mira Nair's film Monsoon Wedding : 'Computer engineers are India's biggest export!' Maybe it should say nurses instead. To address the severe shortage of nursing staff in Germany, in December the federal employment agency, die Bundesagentur für Arbeit (BA), signed an agreement with the state of Kerala on their recruitment. The agreement, based on the 2020 Skilled Immigration Act , is the second of its kind Germany has signed with a partner beyond the European Union.

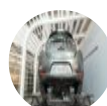


MIT Sloan Management Review

Break Out to Open Innovation

07 December 2021

Mercedes-Benz AG produces over 2 million passenger cars annually for a global market in the throes of transformation. Automakers are meeting new demands for electrification and connectivity, new competitors are arising, and customers have new expectations, such as the desire for sustainable mobility. All of these trends are driving the need to speed innovation in every facet of the automotive industry.



GreenBiz

What battery swapping could mean for corporate fleets

07 December 2021

One of the biggest challenges to electrifying a fleet of vehicles — aside from adjusting to the range and limitations of the vehicles themselves — is building up the expensive charging infrastructure to support it. A California startup is making a pitch for a solution that almost negates the need for charging infrastructure entirely: battery swapping. "The idea is very, very simple, which is instead of trying to move energy in energy form ... you move energy physically," said Khaled Hassounah, co-founder and CEO of Ample.



World Economic Forum

Innovating for Sustainability: The Entrepreneurs Who Could Save the World | Sustainable Summit 2021

01 December 2021

With digitization helping emerging economies make up 57% of global trade by 2030, innovation and entrepreneurship remain critical in ensuring strong development action. Speakers: Allon Raiz, Kristin Hughes, Maren Hjorth Bauer, Lasse Lindqvist, Jennifer Blanke, Tom Birbeck, Job Oyeibisi, Nivedha RM, Natasha Franck, William Kwende.

Building on ESG Standards

COVID-19 presents a chance to nudge extractive industries and the countries relying on them in a sustainable direction

Greater transparency and fostering of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles have become necessary for mining and metals firms to successfully operate in the global marketplace. ESG reporting has become a focus for mining companies looking to improve their collective reputation, secure financing, and address concerns related to resource extraction and sourcing. The concept of a social license to operate has evolved beyond local approval and cooperation - the multinational nature of extraction, transportation, processing, and production means that firms must now abide by global standards. This also means that they are being judged around the world on their efforts related to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, the International Council on Mining and Metals Performance Expectations, and other environmental frameworks. In addition, there is an increased focus on trust and safety. For developing economies reliant on extractive industries, even as COVID-19 has hindered economic growth continuing to work towards greater sustainability can help them better prepare for future market shifts. Now is the time to rebuild, with a focus on adding resilience.

In combination with consumer and investor pressure to decarbonize and develop more responsible sourcing, the push for more sustainable development has become an essential part of operations. Still, ESG reporting does not come without challenges for the industry. For mining and metals companies specifically, the adoption of drastic change has been slow. Responsible companies often struggle to differentiate themselves as more sustainable than others, as the practices of some mining companies that have led to disasters and human rights abuses reflect poorly on the entire industry - and on the commodities it produces in general. As there is no differentiated market for sustainably-sourced minerals and metals, companies that engage in responsible (and costly) practices must sell commodities at the same price as their more negligent peers. As a result, there is an inherent conflict between financial cost and sustainable development; without being able to financially justify the changes required to adhere to ESG standards and principles, it will remain difficult to mobilize the industry in that direction. First movers and industry leaders will be required, to lead the way forward for the collective benefit of the industry.

Related insight areas: [Climate Change](#), [Corporate Governance](#), [Advanced Manufacturing and Production](#), [Future of the Environment](#), [Public Finance and Social Protection](#), [COVID-19](#), [Emerging-Market Multinationals](#), [Values](#), [Sustainable Development](#), [Workforce and Employment](#), [Justice and Law](#), [Civic Participation](#)

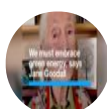


World Economic Forum

Fast-Tracking Circular Solutions for Net-Zero Industries | Sustainable Development Summit 2021

09 January 2022

To reach net-zero emissions from heavy industry sectors by 2050, new approaches and solutions will need to be deployed at scale across supply and demand-side industries. This session explores collaboration models, policies and pathways that hold the greatest promise to fast-track circular economy solutions and accelerate the race to net zero. .



World Economic Forum

We must embrace green energy, says Jane Goodall | UpLink

03 January 2022

Jane Goodall says we must embrace more green energy or the future for the children will be very dark. .



LSE Business Review

SMILE in 2022

17 December 2021

As 2021 draws to a close, Grace Lordan offers six life lessons rooted in the behavioural sciences that will make you SMILE. This year I wrote a book called Think Big Take Small Steps and Build the Future you Want. The high levels of sales, translations into a dozen languages I will never learn to ... Continued.



Eco-Business

Cutting out coal: what does a just transition look like?

08 December 2021

Thermal coal is the number one cause of global temperature rise. It is responsible for nearly half of carbon dioxide emissions worldwide and 72 per cent of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the energy sector.



Clean Energy Wire

German copper heavyweight Aurubis to enter e-car battery recycling market

06 December 2021

Copper producer Aurubis from Hamburg will enter the budding e-car battery recycling market and plans to open an industrial-scale pilot plant within the next five years, Volker Mester writes in the Hamburger Abendblatt. CEO Roland Harings told the newspaper that the rapidly growing battery production industry in Europe and elsewhere causes “considerable amounts” of recyclable material that have led the company to strive for “a leading role” in the e-car recycling market. Aurubis just achieved the most profitable year in the company’s history, “but without the scarcity of some materials and primary industrial products, business could have been even better,” Harings said.



Rocky Mountain Institute

Private Financial Institutions Are Stepping In to Decarbonize Steel

30 November 2021

Finance at COP, the UN climate change conference, used to be about public dollars. It was largely about rich countries pledging the elusive \$100 billion in annual climate finance to developing countries—and about government ministers negotiating with government ministers. But... Read More The post Private Financial Institutions Are Stepping In to Decarbonize Steel appeared first on RMI .



Al Jazeera

Serbian anti-mining activists block bridges, roads

27 November 2021

Skirmishes have erupted in Serbia between police and demonstrators who blocked roads and bridges to protest against new laws they say favour the interests of foreign investors damaging the environment. The government has offered mineral resources to companies including China’s Zijin copper miner and Rio Tinto, but activists say the projects would pollute land and water. Hundreds of people on Saturday appeared simultaneously in the capital, Belgrade, the northern city of Novi Sad and other locations to block main bridges and roads for one hour in what organisers described as a warning blockade.

ESG Skills and Capabilities

The employees required to assess new layers of corporate performance need a blend of competencies and skills

As the Environmental, Social and Governance marketplace grows, every firm involved is in need of people equipped with up-to-date sustainable business and investment skills. Banks and asset managers have been staffing up their ESG departments to help them analyse the non-financial performance of firms, and integrate that information with more traditional financial data in order to more comprehensively inform their investment decisions. Entirely new financial firms are also emerging, to supply the market with sustainable investment products like green bonds and access to activist shareholder funds and clean technology-focused venture capital investments. Their employees need a combination of foundational financial analysis skills and fluency in the language of carbon emissions, living wages, political activity, and other ESG matters - as well as an ability to critically consume related information. Non-financial firms need sustainability departments capable of measuring and monitoring firm performance, and communicating in an accurate and timely way to the capital markets and other stakeholders. The necessary related skillsets include an ability to engage and collaborate with business leaders while bringing a broader set of stakeholder concerns to the table.

To better connect businesses and disparate stakeholders, there is a growing industry of data providers, analytics and artificial intelligence firms, rating agencies, and other services designed to help process new layers of information about corporate performance. The necessary skillsets for this combine data analytics, computer science, and consulting with a deep understanding of sustainability. To develop a new generation of professionals equipped with these skills, business schools can further integrate sustainability into their curricula, and collaborate with operational and financial disciplines. Meanwhile academic programs in the environmental and social sciences can prepare people to apply their expertise to capital markets. Professional associations of investors, auditors, and accountants can provide continuing ESG education via organizations like the CFA Institute. Because ESG skills are often hybrid, the necessary certification and credentialing has been idiosyncratic - MBAs and Master of Finance degrees appear in credentials alongside degrees in environmental science or labour economics. While some people may have dual degrees covering such fields, others pursue specific sustainability certificates. As the ESG field matures and solidifies, employers may begin to seek more such harmonized certifications and credentials.

Related insight areas: [Sustainable Development](#), [Economic Progress](#), [Workforce and Employment](#), [Education](#), [Skills and Learning](#), [Banking and Capital Markets](#), [Data Science](#), [Future of the Environment](#), [Corporate Governance](#), [Artificial Intelligence](#)



[LSE Business Review](#)

The morality of business and the risk of a dead planet

18 January 2022

The Friedmanite view on business still reigns supreme. But who deals with the negative externalities of doing business? Is a car company liable for the CO2 emissions it enables? Is a consumer goods company responsible for the tropical forest farmers cut down to meet the multinational's demand? Is a financial company liable for the wealth inequality ... Continued.



[Eco-Business](#)

Plastic to go? All eyes on world's first compulsory deposit return scheme for takeaway cups in South Korea

11 January 2022

Details on the legally-binding policy, set for a June launch this year, are scant. Insiders familiar with its workings are worried that a less-than-ideal cup recovery rate will hamper a larger movement towards a circular economy.



[World Economic Forum](#)

Putting capital markets into stakeholder capitalism

07 January 2022

Capital markets have a key role to play in building a more equitable and environmentally sustainable economic system. ESG assets under management reached \$35 trillion in 2020 and are forecast to exceed \$50 trillion in 2025. Capital markets must facilitate and promote transparent and reliable ESG disclosure to prevent greenwashing from stalling the global transition to a low-carbon economy. As we build our way out of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is working together to make a more resilient and sustainable global economy. At a national level, we see initiatives like "Build Back Better" and "Levelling Up", while COP26 has united the world around goals on such things as halting deforestation, phasing out coal power and reaching net zero by 2030.



[Wired](#)

Why 2021 Was the Biggest Year for the Labor Movement in Games

28 December 2021

Marked by walkouts, strikes, petitions, and open letters, 2021 has been the biggest year yet for workers in the US video game industry taking a stand against labor conditions. Over the last year, a vocal contingent of video game workers has warned employers that they won't tolerate subpar labor conditions just to fulfill their childhood dream of making video games. "In my experience, it actually isn't suffering that drives people to take the risk and organize," says Tom Smith, senior director of organizing for the Communications Workers of America, the country's largest communications and media union. "It's hope.



[Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania](#)
- [Knowledge@Wharton](#)

How Interest Rates Will Temper Stock Values in 2022

21 December 2021

The stock markets are unlikely to continue their bull run of the past year in 2022 with investors eyeing other opportunities as interest rates rise, according to Wharton finance professor Itay Goldstein. Federal Reserve officials last week projected at least three quarter-percentage-point rate increases next year, signaling their concern over rising inflation. The Fed also stated that it would reduce its asset purchases next year as part of a tighter monetary policy. "Now that interest rates will start going up, maybe it will give people other alternatives, and maybe this will start reducing prices in the [stock] market," Goldstein said in an interview on the Wharton Business Daily radio show that airs on SiriusXM. (Listen to the full podcast above.).



[Harvard Business School Working Knowledge](#)

Truth Be Told: Unpacking the Risks of Whistleblowing

10 December 2021

The stakes are high for employees who report potential malfeasance at their companies. Aiysha Dey and Jonas Heese discuss how companies benefit from whistleblowers and steps regulators could take to empower them.

Changing Behaviour for Sustainability

The behavioural sciences can help people and companies behave in more environmentally-sustainable ways

The climate crisis has created a need for more sustainable use of natural resources and a longer-term, more global perspective. Humanity often struggles to act in its own future best interests. People may aspire to consume less, save more energy and water, and purchase more sustainable products, but they nonetheless often fall back on bad habits and preferences. Traditional approaches to tackling this “intention-behaviour gap” often fail. Simply informing people about the importance of sustainability is often not enough to affect their behaviour, as decision-making is often guided by more ephemeral influences like mood, short-term desire, or habit. More often than not, people are also lazy - in the sense that they do not consider all available information when making decisions, or prefer convenient and accessible options over rational ones. To circumvent this, behavioural scientists investigate not only how persuasion can be more effective, but also how subtle changes to one’s environment, or so-called “nudges,” can make it easier for people to act in line with their aspirations.

Such nudges should always allow for the retention of consumers’ freedom of choice. For example, the Flemish government in Belgium was able to increase sales of local regional and seasonal foods by up to 30% simply by placing them at eye level for shoppers. Defaults can also work as powerful nudges; a 2008 study by researchers from the Max Planck Institute for Human Development and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology published in the *Journal of Environmental Psychology* showed that the proportion of people choosing a green, sustainable energy source over a less expensive, less sustainable source like coal can be substantially increased by simply making the green option the default on a registration form. People do not like deviating from what is displayed as the default - possibly because they think it indicates a recommendation, or prevailing norm. Information about established norms is also effective in nudging people to behave more sustainably. A 2008 study published in the *Journal of Consumer Research* described guests at a US hotel re-using their towels more frequently if a sign informed them that the majority of guests in the same room had re-used their towels. And a 2011 study published in the *Journal of Public Economics* showed that providing US citizens with monthly reports about their energy consumption, alongside comparisons to that of their neighbours, reduced their energy consumption by about 2% relative to a baseline. Even small, behaviourally-informed changes to the environments in which we make our decisions, or to the narratives we use to make sense of the world around us, can help us better act in accordance with the planet’s best interests.

Related insight areas: [Future of Consumption](#), [Global Health](#), [Sustainable Development](#), [Future of the Environment](#), [Agriculture](#), [Food and Beverage](#), [Climate Change](#), [Retail](#), [Consumer Goods and Lifestyle](#), [Future of Food](#), [Circular Economy](#)



[Harvard Kennedy School – Journalist's Resource](#)
Native Americans have higher death rates, lower life expectancy than white, Black and Hispanic populations, CDC study shows

25 January 2022

Facebook Twitter LinkedIn Reddit Email American Indian and Alaska Native populations have substantially higher death rates across age groups and the lowest average life expectancy compared with white, Black and Hispanic populations in the U.S., according to a recent study by researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The study also shows that 34% of non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native deaths are misclassified as a different race on death certificates, leading to underestimation of deaths in this population.



[Harvard Kennedy School – Journalist's Resource](#)
'Deaths of despair': Research on opioid crisis origins and the link between minimum wages and suicide reduction

19 January 2022

Facebook Twitter LinkedIn Reddit Email Late last year, the National Center for Health Statistics released provisional data showing a large increase in drug overdose deaths from April 2020 to April 2021. The center estimates 100,306 drug overdose deaths in the U.S. over that time, a 29% rise from 78,056 overdose deaths over the same period one year prior. Drug overdose deaths are one part of what Princeton University economists Anne Case and Angus Deaton term “deaths of despair.” Liver disease from alcohol use and suicide are the other contributors. Case and Deaton first described the contours of deaths of despair in the U.S. in an influential 2015 paper and a follow-up paper in 2017.



[Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania - Knowledge@Wharton](#)
How Science Can Help You Keep Your Fitness Goal

10 January 2022

Fitness centers typically see a surge in attendance at the start of January, when millions of Americans resolve to get in shape by exercising more. By February, however, a large percentage of gym-goers quit. A new megastudy from the Behavior Change for Good Initiative (BCFG) at Penn reveals techniques that may be able to make those New Year's resolutions stick around longer.



[The Conversation](#)
Nudges: four reasons to doubt popular technique to shape people's behaviour

10 January 2022

Throughout the pandemic, many governments have had to rely on people doing the right thing to reduce the spread of the coronavirus – ranging from social distancing to handwashing. Many enlisted the help of psychologists for advice on how to “nudge” the public to do what was deemed appropriate.



[Chemistry World](#)
Mental health in science

06 January 2022

Source: Courtesy of Zoë Ayres Zoë Ayres is a scientist and mental health advocate When Zoë Ayres decided to share a poster exploring mental health during a PhD as part of the 2019 Twitter #RSCPoster event, she wasn't quite sure how the online chemistry community would respond. .



[McGill Reporter](#)
Pandemic worriers shown to have impaired general cognitive abilities

02 December 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has tested our psychological limits. Some have been more affected than others by the stress of potential illness and the confusion of constantly changing health information and new restrictions. A new study finds the pandemic may have also impaired people's cognitive abilities and altered risk perception, at a time when making the right health choices is critically important. Scientists at McGill University and The Neuro (Montreal Neurological Institute-Hospital) surveyed more than 1,500 Americans online from April to June, 2020. Participants were asked to rate their level of worry about the COVID-19 pandemic and complete a battery of psychological tests to measure their basic cognitive abilities like processing and maintaining information in mind.



[World Economic Forum](#)
8 tech innovations that support a healthy ageing population

30 November 2021

Increased life expectancy does not equal a healthy and autonomous lifespan. The ageing population requires solutions to assist with healthy living. We outline eight key areas of ingenuity and impact in the field of ageing tech. We're living longer. Are we ageing better?.

Valuing the Environment

Increasing sustainability and combatting climate change require shared values

Efforts to establish shared values that can propel us down a more environmentally-sustainable path have included the founding of Earth Day in 1970, the United Nations “Earth Summit” held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and the UN Sustainable Development Summit 2015 - which established the Sustainable Development Goals. The goals key on shared values in order to set targets related to resource and energy efficiency, circular economy practices, decarbonization, and nature-based solutions that can re-orient development towards more responsible economic growth. Applying more innovative economic indicators that go beyond GDP to focus on values could encourage better policy choices. Sustainable finance can play a significant role in this regard, by providing the necessary (and often difficult to obtain) funding for sustainable infrastructure in developing economies - and for renovating and refurbishing existing infrastructure in developed economies in more sustainable ways, in fields like energy (using more renewables), mobility (better facilitating public transportation and electric vehicles), and telecommunications (finding more sustainable ways to provide computing power and data storage).

Cities poised for massive population increases are ideal places to focus investment aimed at bolstering our “natural capital,” or the natural resources on land and in the atmosphere that provide the essential functions necessary to maintain our planet’s metabolism. Natural capital enables human life and well-being through ecosystem services like climate regulation, fresh water flows, arable land, and natural fuels. Natural capital is limited, however. It can be and is being quantitatively and qualitatively depleted by human activity (the cleaner air enjoyed following COVID-19 mobility restrictions vividly illustrated the impact of this activity). Increasing environmental sustainability will mean boosting our capacity to use renewable resources, and to progressively substitute the consumption of non-renewable with renewable resources. The current, generally-accepted model of economic development is unsustainable; several elements of natural capital are under severe stress, causing severe environmental damage, social conflict, and economic instability. This stress has only grown worse over time, despite clear warnings about how to best address it. Without increased commitments to shared values related to sustainability, the extinction of species, pollution, and the climate crisis may therefore become irreversible.

Related insight areas: [Development Finance](#), [Forests](#), [Climate Change](#), [Cities and Urbanization](#), [Future of Food](#), [The Ocean](#), [Institutional Investors](#), [Green New Deals](#), [Youth Perspectives](#), [Circular Economy](#), [Infrastructure](#), [Water](#), [Biodiversity](#), [Future of the Environment](#), [Risk and Resilience](#), [Antarctica](#)



UNESCO

How to address online #HateSpeech with a human rights based approach?

12 January 2022

Some people use messages that violate other people's rights to dignity, equality and safety. When does free speech become criminal 'hate speech' and how do we best respond to it? Navigating that fine line isn't easy. But, in the interests of protecting human rights for all we can - and must- work together more intensively to address the problem. .



Brookings

Staffing and compensation are at the heart of building a better early childhood system

01 December 2021

When COVID-19 hit, the work of being a child-care teacher—already challenging and low paying—became even more demanding, dangerous, and emotionally challenging. Prior to the pandemic, teachers left child-care sites at extremely high rates (more than twice as high as those of K-12 teachers), and the pandemic has exacerbated this issue.



Chatham House

How can the investor community address the 'S' in ESG? – the role of social purpose values

24 November 2021

This webinar highlights the crucial relationship between an open civic space and a profitable business environment. 2020 was a tipping point for investors to think and act more responsibly, galvanized by catalysts like the killing of George Floyd and the pandemic. There is increasing investor support for social and environmental causes. Younger investors are placing increasing emphasis on values and social issues in their investment decisions. The 'S' in the Environment Social and Governance (ESG) agenda is clearly gaining traction, but how far does it extend to civil and political liberties i.e.



London School of Economics and Political Science

Voters' notions of 'us' and 'them' may consolidate a new cleavage in Western European politics

23 November 2021

West European party systems have become characterised by increasing fragmentation and the rise of new challenger parties.



Project Syndicate

Escaping Bibi's Shadow

15 November 2021

Open policy conflicts within Israel's ideologically diverse government could ultimately render the fragile coalition untenable. Unless Prime Minister Naftali Bennett shows great political acumen in the months ahead, his predecessor, Binyamin Netanyahu, may yet exact revenge on his onetime acolyte.



World Economic Forum

As COP26 unfolds, we need to demand more of our leaders

09 November 2021

COP26 aims to tackle the critical issue of climate change, one part of a set of multidimensional crises including a health crisis, and a crisis of social and economic inequities. We need competent, altruistic leaders to address these challenges but all too often power brings out the worst in people. Empathy and humility must be cultivated in leaders if we are to effectively address the issues humanity faces. As world leaders meet in Glasgow at the UN's COP26 climate summit to tackle one of the most urgent crises of our time, will they have the courage to implement the bold changes that are needed to save human life on our planet, or will they yet again do too little, too late? This question that is on everyone's minds speaks to the kind of leaders we need today.



United Nations

David Attenborough, People's Advocate for COP26, Address to World Leaders | Climate Action

02 November 2021

In an electrifying speech delivered at the opening of the World Leaders Summit on Climate Change in Glasgow, Sir David Attenborough gave a message of hope on behalf of the world that through action, we will witness the recovery of the natural world. But his warning of what will follow should we fail to act was also clear and stark. Sir David's speech was illustrated with stunning, cinematic pictures shown on giant screens behind him, produced by Silverback Films, the production company that has collaborated with him on many of his most celebrated natural history documentaries.

Understanding Climate Risks

Extreme weather, rising sea levels, and food and water scarcity are becoming a reality

All ten of the hottest years on record have occurred since 2005. The global average temperature is now about 1°C above the pre-industrial average, and increasing at a rate of about 0.2°C per decade. This warming is largely the result of human activity. Carbon dioxide released by burning fossil fuels, and through agricultural activity like farming, has raised the pre-industrial concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by about one-third to more than 400 parts per million - which has in turn intensified the trapping of heat. Global warming is causing sea levels to rise and is changing precipitation patterns, with increased rainfall in some regions and more extreme drought in others. The world experienced a staggering number of climate-related disasters in 2020 - causing damage from hurricanes, wildfires, droughts, and floods that resulted in financial losses totalling more than \$200 billion, according to the German reinsurer Munich Re. The US National Climate Assessment issued in late 2018 projected yearly related losses of \$300 billion in the US alone by the end of this century.

The Paris Agreement on climate change aims to limit global average temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. However, a 2018 report published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change vividly illustrated the need to limit warming to no more than 1.5°C; many ocean ecosystems, including the majority of the world's warm water coral reefs, are likely to disappear if warming exceeds this level. The average global rise in sea level - which is projected to be about half a metre by 2100, if warming reaches 2°C - could be reduced by 20% by hitting the 1.5°C target, thereby protecting an estimated 10 million vulnerable people. A slower temperature rise would also help affected regions better adapt to climate change. In order to meet the 1.5°C target, however, countries must go well beyond their initial Paris Agreement pledges and commit to net-zero emissions by the year 2050. Achieving this will require far-reaching changes to many aspects of modern society as we know it, but would also help create a more sustainable, equitable world.

Related insight areas: [Water](#), [Antarctica](#), [Future of the Environment](#), [Air Pollution](#), [The Ocean](#), [Climate Indicators](#), [Corporate Governance](#), [Peace and Resilience](#), [Global Governance](#), [Sustainable Development](#), [Future of Food](#), [Forests](#), [Risk and Resilience](#)



RAND Corporation

Lay Detection of Unusual Patterns in the Frequency of Hurricanes

25 January 2022

An increase in the severity of extreme weather is arguably one of the most important consequences of climate change with immediate and potentially devastating impacts. Recent events, like Hurricane Harvey, stimulated public discourse surrounding the role of climate change in amplifying, or otherwise modifying, the patterns of such events. Within the scientific community, recent years have witnessed considerable progress on "climate attribution"—the use of statistical techniques to assess the probability that climate change is influencing the character of some extreme weather events. Using a novel application of signal detection theory, this article assesses when, and to what extent, laypeople attribute changes in hurricanes to climate change and whether and how certain characteristics predict this decision.



Center for Global Development

Economics & Marginalia: January 21, 2022

21 January 2022

I once saw Meat Loaf speak at the Oxford Union (an institution and building I otherwise spent a great deal of time ignoring; considering some of the characters it has belched out into public life in the last couple of decades I made a wise choice). He was fantastic: full of good stories (ranging from buying a whole sturgeon to spite a snooty shopkeeper to picking up a hitchhiker who turned out to be Charles Manson), wit and a healthy sense of the absurdity of the occasion, which tracks well with a man whose most famous songs include "I'd lie for you (and that's the truth)", and "I'd do anything for love (but I won't do that)"—apparently, he is the only writer in the world with more well-worn parentheses keys than me. Mr. Loaf died yesterday, and the world is a little bit less fun as a result. As ever, we take solace in economics.



RAND Corporation

A Simple Strategy to Communicate About Climate Attribution

21 January 2022

Hurricane Harvey and other recent weather extremes stimulated extensive public discourse about the role of anthropogenic climate change in amplifying, or otherwise modifying, such events. In tandem, the scientific community has made considerable progress on statistical "climate attribution." However, explaining these statistical methods to the public has posed challenges. Using appropriately designed "spinner boards," we find that even members of the general public who do not understand the difference between weather and climate are readily able to understand basic concepts of attribution and explain those concepts to others. This includes both understanding and explaining the way in which the probability of an extreme weather event may increase as a result of climate change and explaining how the intensity of hurricanes can be increased.



World Economic Forum

Predictions 2022: CEOs and top leaders share tactics that will speed the net zero transition

20 January 2022

Tackling climate change will require new thinking and approaches. We'll need a range of innovative approaches and solutions that can scale impact to make a fossil-free future a reality quickly. Leaders from top companies explore solutions and approaches that will help drive the net zero transition, including some that might be surprising. Humanity's future on planet Earth depends on protecting and restoring nature. Leaders must think innovatively to create solutions that can scale and can effectively tackle our climate goals.



World Economic Forum

The Udokan project: How sustainable mining can feed clean tech

19 January 2022

A greener global energy system will rely on metals like copper. Copper could face a severed supply problem in the future. Sustainable production of copper can be achieved through a multi-layered and considered strategy. Operating in a low-carbon economy means new technology with fewer emissions. Even tech requires materials that still need to be mined.

Economics of Environmental Sustainability

Climate change and rising temperatures promise to severely hinder production and health

In late 2018, the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued an alarming report noting that global temperatures are on track to be 1.5°C higher than the preindustrial era as soon as 2030. Currently, at 1°C warmer than the preindustrial era, we are already experiencing severe consequences of climate change including forest fires in the Arctic, and the increased intensity of hurricanes. A 1.5°C increase would mean more rapid sea level rise, hot extremes in most inhabited parts of the world, a higher probability of drought, and other risks to human security and economic growth, according to the UN report. Climate change, pollution, and resource depletion have been impacting the economic productivity of both countries and private companies. These forces also disproportionately impact the poor, exacerbating socio-economic inequality. According to an edition of the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook published in 2017, the per capita GDP in a typical low-income country will be 9% lower by 2100 than it would have been in the absence of climate change-related temperature increases. A subsequent edition of the outlook published in late 2018 noted that robust global economic growth will require better buffering low-income countries against the effects of climate change, with things like climate-smart infrastructure.

While weather shocks tied to climate change have an immediate impact on agricultural production, they also have broader impacts related to labour productivity, mortality, health, and conflict - as threats to food security aggravate already-simmering issues in fragile states. According to IMF calculations, a temperature increase of 1°C to the median, low-income developing country temperature of 25°C can reduce crop production and agriculture value added (the processing of raw materials) by between 1% and 2% annually. Agriculture and farming in the oceans also face significant climate-related challenges. Climate change-related changes in marine fisheries production may be just as large as those in crop agriculture, according to a report published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 2018; primary production of the global ocean is expected to decline by 6% by 2100 (and by 11% in tropical zones), according to the report. Economic policies and business practices need to better take environmental constraints into account, in order to make stable growth and freedom from conflict realistic possibilities for future generations.

Related insight areas: [Climate Change](#), [Health and Healthcare](#), [Global Health](#), [Forests](#), [Agile Governance](#), [Future of the Environment](#), [Sustainable Development](#), [Green New Deals](#), [The Ocean](#), [Agriculture](#), [Food and Beverage](#), [Air Pollution](#)



Center for Global Development
Country Platforms and Delivery of Global Public Goods

20 January 2022

This paper discusses three potential requirements for country platforms to facilitate effective delivery of GPGs. We propose that existing country platforms be repurposed to coordinate the contribution of domestic and external stakeholders to GPG delivery efforts at the country level. For this proposed approach to be successful, an explicit link must be introduced between country-level efforts and global initiatives to provide GPGs.



Project Syndicate
The Futility of Unconditional Debt Support

20 January 2022

In many low- and middle-income countries, poor policy choices have created financial and economic problems that have only grown worse as a result of the pandemic. Unless these mistakes are corrected, continued financial support will never provide genuine economic relief.



World Economic Forum
Special Address by Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China | Davos Agenda 2022

17 January 2022

Special Address by Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China with Klaus Schwab at the World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda 2022. .



World Economic Forum
Why we need a new social contract for the 21st century

14 January 2022

The social contract on which society is based originated in the post-war era and is no longer fit for purpose. New social contracts could help bring about a more equitable prosperity. These new social contracts should be based on key principles including stakeholder capitalism, skill development, economic security and a transition to net zero. A social contract is a real or hypothetical agreement between a government and its people setting out the rights and duties of each. The social contracts on which society is currently based largely emerged in the post-war era, and are no longer fit for purpose.



Smithsonian Magazine
In Norway, Kids Slice Out Cod Tongues for Serious Money

06 January 2022

Pay a winter visit to Norway's remote Lofoten Islands, north of the Arctic Circle, and it's impossible to miss the rows of headless fish carcasses hanging from wooden racks to dry. Follow the snaking two-lane road from village to village and you'll arrive at the dock of H. Sverdrup AS fish factory in a town called Reine. When I visited, a group of kids with sharp knives and bloody smocks stood huddled together for warmth. School had just ended, and they were waiting for more cod heads to arrive.



Project Syndicate
Is Climate Finance the Next Bubble?

04 January 2022

While the conventional wisdom is that the next financial crash will come from the collapse of the cryptocurrency bubble, climate finance may pose a more serious risk. Mounting evidence suggests that green lending is displaying all the pathologies associated with financial manias.



New Statesman
Protests, nature protection and plant-based meat: ten climate and environment predictions for 2022

03 January 2022

Covid was supposed to be the moment the world changed. Shows of solidarity among neighbours and the enjoyment of small pleasures and local parks during the first lockdown were all heralded as encouraging signs the world was ready for a slower, more sustainable pace of life. Travel stopped, emissions dropped and people appreciated the reduced noise and pollution. Fast forward to 2022, however, and this vision is increasingly blurry. As people, hopefully, escape from the shackles of the pandemic and governments have to make tough decisions about how to spend depleted coffers and boost the economy, it is unlikely this will be the year that humanity gets to grips with the climate and nature crises.

Investing in Climate Action

Strategic investments can stimulate economies and build climate resilience

Investments in green transportation, sustainable agriculture, and climate-resilient infrastructure can have a multiplier effect. According to the Business Commission for Sustainable Development, investing \$320 billion annually in sustainable business models in developed economies could unlock \$2.3 trillion in additional annual investment by 2030. A report published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development found that better integrating economic and climate action could increase average economic output in G20 countries by almost 3% by 2050. And, the International Finance Corporation has identified nearly \$23 trillion in climate-smart investments in emerging markets through 2030. Investment in decarbonization surpassed \$500 billion for the first time in 2020, despite COVID-19, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance, and direct investment in electrical power capacity from renewable energy exceeded \$300 billion for the second time (following 2017) - including \$50 billion in offshore wind. Corporations are signing long-term, large-scale renewable energy contracts, and the Green Climate Fund (an element of the Paris Agreement) is sponsoring nearly 150 projects in developing countries with over \$7 billion in committed financing - though still short of the \$100 billion targeted to be available annually by 2020.

Governments can catalyse private investment in climate resilience by providing incentives and funding innovation. Businesses can reinforce government action in turn, by making climate-smart investments and by supporting the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. According to the New Climate Economy report published in 2018 by the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate, \$90 trillion will be spent globally through 2030 on new infrastructure - which exceeds the value of all current infrastructure stock. Developing countries are expected to account for roughly two-thirds of this new infrastructure investment, which can be made sustainable and compatible with climate goals through relatively modest additional upfront costs. Ultimately, these upfront costs can be more than offset by efficiency gains and fuel savings. The potential rewards are enormous; the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate's report projects an economic gain of \$26 trillion through the year 2030 if investments are made in low-carbon technologies and resilient infrastructure, rather than conducting business as usual. Such investments offer an unprecedented opportunity to leapfrog the wasteful, polluting infrastructure of the past, and accelerate the global transition to efficient, climate-resilient, and low-carbon economies.

Related insight areas: [Economic Progress](#), [Financial and Monetary Systems](#), [Infrastructure](#), [Climate Indicators](#), [Energy](#), [Circular Economy](#), [Private Investors](#), [Institutional Investors](#), [Sustainable Development](#), [Water](#), [Green New Deals](#), [COVID-19](#), [Development Finance](#), [Advanced Manufacturing and Production](#), [Cities and Urbanization](#)



Rocky Mountain Institute

People Are the Most Important Part of Regulation in the Decisive Decade

26 January 2022

Public utility commissions (PUCs) across the country often lack the resources they need to regulate for an equitable, decarbonized future. The post *People Are the Most Important Part of Regulation in the Decisive Decade* appeared first on RMI.



VoxEU

COP26 assessment and challenges

26 January 2022

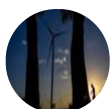
The 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) concluded ‘successfully’ with the adoption of the Glasgow Climate Pact. The agreement was the first to target specific energy sources. This column reviews the COP26 landscape and the challenges going forward. Developing countries are expected to continue pressuring industrialised ones to achieve net zero sooner and raise nationally determined contributions. The lack of space for realistic international discussions on energy security may limit the effectiveness of pushing the COP26 standards.



Bruegel

Where is Biden's climate policy?

25 January 2022



Project Syndicate

Asia's Emissions-Reduction Plan for the World

19 January 2022

By significantly shortening the life of Asia’s coal-fired power plants, the new Energy Transition Mechanism will unlock new investment in sustainable and renewable sources of power. This model will help to solve the region’s climate challenges, and can potentially be scaled and exported around the world.



World Economic Forum

Business leaders must rethink their goals to tackle climate change. Here's why

18 January 2022

Tackling climate change will require working toward shared goals such as developing solutions to scale carbon capture or decarbonize infrastructure. Achieving shared climate change goals will require focus from the private sector to scale proven technologies and mobilize needed capital. To be effective in tackling climate change, companies must redefine success and shift to shared goals to scale positive long-term change for the planet. Most nations today recognize both the importance and the urgency of the battle against global warming; but there are still significant differences on how best to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions and how to share the cost of doing so. In the polarized world we unfortunately live in, this creates a lot of room for conflict – conflict between cultures, geographies and even generations.



World Economic Forum

How to deliver on climate pledges? Look at these industries transitioning to net zero

17 January 2022

To stay below the 1.5°C target of the Paris Agreement, this must be the “decade of delivery” for governments, industries and organizations. COP26 was public-private in nature and brought forward the 2050 target of net zero through tangible and measurable 2030 goals, both important steps towards a decade of delivery. The changes underway in industries including shipping, aviation and steel to transition to net zero shows the work that can be done this decade to meet future climate commitments. “We don’t believe you (...) but I am here to say, prove us wrong.” These were the words spoken by the Ugandan climate justice activist Vanessa Nakate on the penultimate day of COP26.



Observer Research Foundation

Energy trends in 2022: ‘Known’ knowns and the ‘known’ unknowns

17 January 2022

This article is part of the series Comprehensive Energy Monitor: India and the World. Optimistic forecasts for renewable energy (RE) capacity additions, particularly for photovoltaic (PV) power generation capacity and less optimistic forecasts for fossil fuel investment are two key threads that run through most reports on energy sector expectations for 2022.

Using ESG to Measure Success

Environmental, Social and Governance performance is not captured in quarterly earnings reports

At its root, ESG is about expanding our appreciation of a firm's performance and impact. While quarterly earnings reports might convey key figures, they leave much hidden related to both the causes and effects of the firm's success. By widening our view, we may see that a mining firm's profits come at the expense of workers, communities, and the environment, for example - while another firm in the same industry may be investing in worker safety and environmental efforts in ways that aid long-term performance, but do not show up in a balance sheet. This wider view helps determine whether firms can be considered "sustainable," and so it is essential to enable broad access to it. While firms can constrain their own future success if they negatively impact the people, customer and community trust, or natural resources they depend upon, one key challenge relates to how broad the view of these impacts and risks should be. What should be in scope when assessing "non-financial performance" for technology firms, relative to automotive companies, mining interests, or financial firms? And, how long should our time horizon be when considering related risks and impacts?

There are no easy answers to these questions, and different countries and institutions define sustainability differently. ESG has become an umbrella concept for hundreds of issues, practices, and metrics used to hold firms accountable. One MIT study of ESG rating agencies found that 50% of the significant divergence in ratings was caused by differences in scope and definition. The World Economic Forum and its partners have sought to lessen these differences by developing the "Stakeholder Capitalism Metrics," designed to make ESG metrics comparable across industries and regions; more than 50 companies have so far adopted them. Writing and publishing reports may increase transparency, but it does not change practices. And while buying and selling equities based on ESG information is increasingly common, the effects on firms (and society in general) are indirect at best. ESG information can only improve the world under certain conditions: when C-suite executives actually use it to guide decision making, when it attracts the best employees, customers, suppliers, and capital, when it influences regulatory action, or when it impacts shareholder voting - which can make non-financial information truly material.

Related insight areas: [Future of the Environment](#), [Institutional Investors](#), [Small and Medium Sized Enterprises](#), [Air Pollution](#), [Gender Inequality](#), [Corporate Governance](#), [Green New Deals](#), [Workforce and Employment](#), [Banking and Capital Markets](#), [Economic Progress](#)



London School of Economics and Political Science

Corporations can't afford to stop donations to candidates, even those who still support Trump.

17 January 2022

After the January 6, 2021 US Capitol insurrection, many companies stopped their donations to candidates who supported President Trump and other enablers of the attack. Melissa M. Smith writes that the need for effective lobbying by these companies means that these donations were only paused. As we head into a midterm election year, and with campaign finance reform still mostly [...].



Eco-Business

Steel industry: the decarbonisation imperative

12 January 2022

As days pass, there is increased evidence and response to GHG emissions and global warming leading to climate change. The Paris Agreement, 2015, has set the framework for a global response to climate change among world leaders to strive for keeping atmospheric temperature increase well below 2 °C and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 °C. The 194 national governments and the European Union have signed the agreement which include some of the world's biggest polluting industries. Every manufacturing sector is exploring ways and means to reduce the carbon footprint of their operations. The steel industry, the backbone of all infrastructural developments, is tipped to play a major role in the above decarbonization agenda.



World Economic Forum

Stakeholder Capitalism | EP3 - Planet vs. Profit: Can Growth be Green?

06 January 2022

While the value of big tech companies has soared, what problems has that created? A lack of market competition and the impact that has on economies; data protection concerns; falling public trust. Is big tech too big, and what should be done? .



World Economic Forum

Stakeholder Capitalism | Ep 2 - How Trade Unions Lift Worker Wages | World Economic Forum

23 December 2021

The decline of incomes for the bottom 50% of Americans has coincided with a fall in union membership. This episode looks at how those two facts might be linked and looks to Denmark where union representation is welcomed by employers.



World Economic Forum

5 reasons why COP26 should finally mark a turning point for forests, food and climate

13 December 2021

No longer the 'forgotten solution', nature appeared prominently in the final text of the Glasgow Climate Pact, the agreement reached at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference. We need to treat the food and land use transition with the same degree of urgency as the energy and industry transitions. The food agenda will likely feature more prominently at COP27 in Egypt and provides another opportunity to build momentum. There has been no shortage of commentary and reflections on COP26, particularly on the role of certain governments and individuals. From my vantage point – as a Friend of COP and someone who has been involved in the forests and land use work for over a decade – the UK COP Presidency deserves credit for bringing the nature agenda into the heart of the climate negotiations.



VoxEU

Socially responsible investors amplify the positive externalities of regulatory enforcement

08 December 2021

Whether socially responsible investors have any impact on the environmental, social, and governance policies of portfolio firms has become a much-debated issue. This column shows that firms reduce emissions at their local plants following enforcement actions by the US Environmental Protection Agency against nearby plants of firms operating in the same market, and that the emissions reduction is twice as large if a nearby 'socially responsible' mutual fund owns shares of the parent firm of the peer plants. The threat of exit by these funds appears to have real consequences for how the local plants respond to the enforcement action.



Land Portal

Planning for progress in Timor-Leste

30 November 2021

After two decades of independence, development in Timor-Leste is exemplified by growing economic activity in Dili, the country's capital city. Businesses are emerging on various corners, new infrastructure and public buildings are being constructed, and much improved information and communication technology has opened doors for the service sector and private enterprises to grow. Despite this notable progress, the increasingly vibrant capital has many flaws. The city is prone to disaster as evidenced by the deadly floods that occurred in April this year. Given that many people still live in hazard-susceptible areas, future disasters such as flooding and landslide very likely will claim more lives and cause greater damage.

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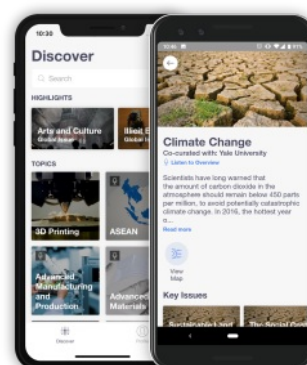
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