
Environment, Climate and Resource Challenges Dynamic Briefing

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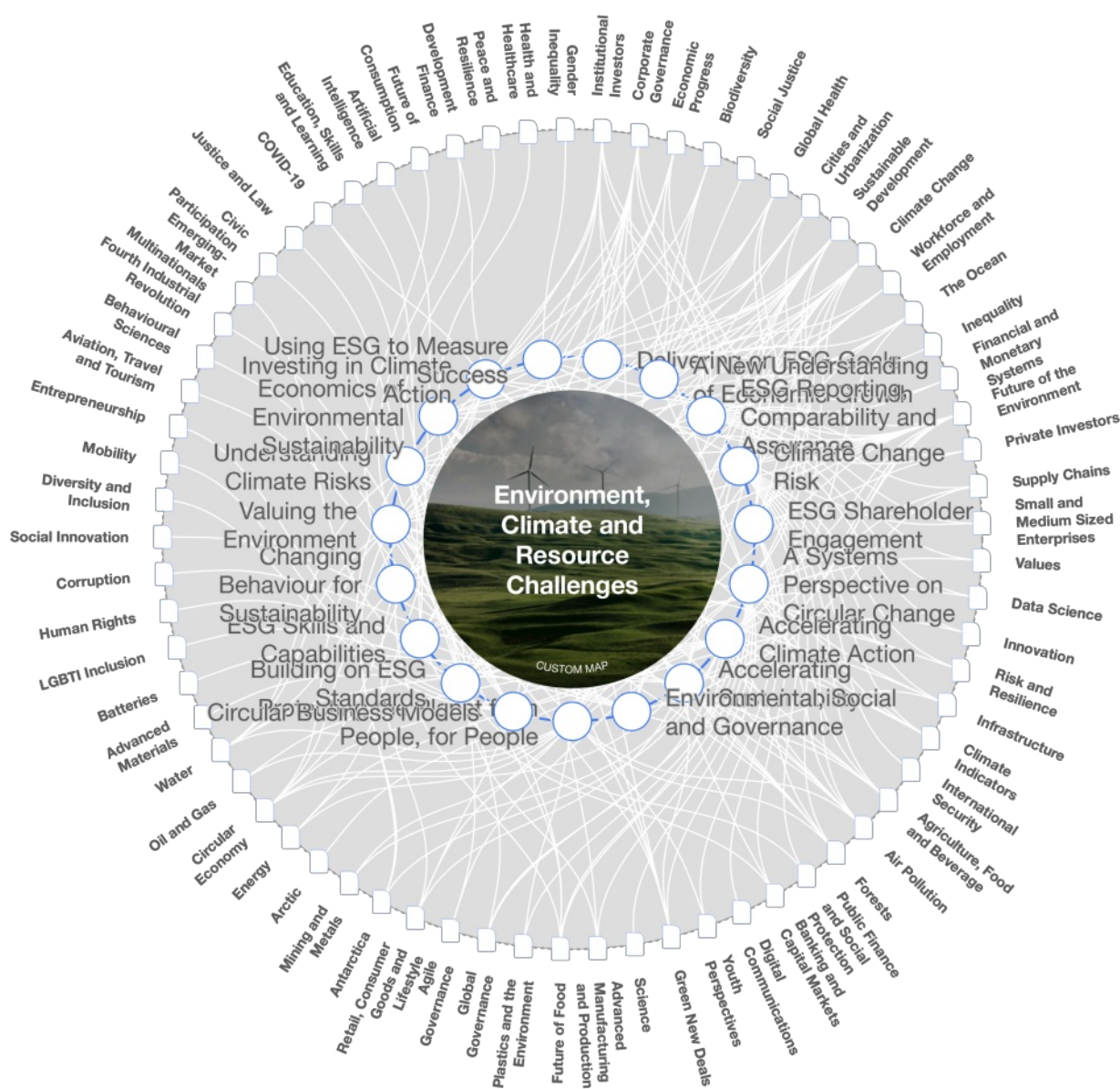


Environment, Climate and Resource Challenges

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



MIT Sloan Management Review

How Organizations Can Balance Authenticity With Propriety

09 May 2022

It has become a common complaint that I hear from executives and HR teams in my consulting practice: inappropriate, sometimes even disturbing, behavior at work in the name of “authenticity.” One employee was rude to a colleague, and when a supervisor stepped in, the employee snapped back, insisting that they were simply being authentic. Another employee announced, “I don’t trust White people,” and explained that that was her “authentic self.” When I recently hosted a conversation about this idea on the social audio platform Clubhouse, every manager in the virtual room said they were facing this challenge. At a corporate event, executives told me the last thing they want to do is encourage employees to be even more authentic. Get Updates on Transformative Leadership.



Harvard Business School Working Knowledge

How to Avoid the 'Ethical Slide' That Leads Companies Astray

17 April 2022

Building strong ethics requires continuous effort from everyone in an organization. In the book *Business Ethics: What Everyone Needs to Know*, J.S. Nelson offers practical advice for cultivating a “speak-up” culture.



Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania
- Knowledge@Wharton

How to Have More Successful Conversations

30 March 2022

Whether negotiating a salary increase or chatting with a co-worker, people have more productive conversations when they identify their motives and goals. New research co-authored by Wharton’s Maurice Schweitzer offers a tool for doing just that.



Harvard Business School Working Knowledge

Effective Leaders Share the Spotlight with Their Teams

07 March 2022

Many executives make decisions alone and take credit for every win. Research by Yuan Zou and Ethan Rouen shows how leaders—and their companies—directly benefit when they engage and elevate colleagues.

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

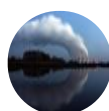


Yale Climate Connections

Living in energy-efficient homes can improve people's health

21 April 2022

Home energy efficiency upgrades can cut carbon pollution and help people save money on utility bills. For Kevin Kennedy, director of the environmental health program at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri, there's an even bigger pay-off. "Really it's the health benefit and the long-term outcomes for the people living in the home that in my mind matter most," he says. For more than 20 years, Kennedy has helped families identify and address environmental health hazards in their homes. For example, mold, dust, and dander can trigger asthma attacks, which send about a million children in the U.S. to the emergency room each year.



Rocky Mountain Institute

Funding Our Future: Creating a One-Stop Shop for Whole-Home Retrofits

31 March 2022

Decarbonizing the US building stock must start by ensuring that low-income residents have easy access to affordable, healthy, safe, and climate-aligned housing. The post Funding Our Future: Creating a One-Stop Shop for Whole-Home Retrofits appeared first on RMI.



Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)

Climate change, ageing societies and the sustainability promise

30 March 2022

Will 2050 mark a turning point in human history when the human population has reached its peak and innovation has allowed us to put fossil fuels and mining in the past? Technology optimists make the case that high-performance products can be made by recycling scrap metal. Will the drive towards climate neutrality ensure prosperity for all, including developing countries? Will our decarbonisation and carbon neutrality objectives be a catalyst for this transformation or are they a pre-condition for it?



Mott MacDonald (RSS Feed)

Healthy Buildings: how we can improve our hospitals and homes through healthy infrastructure

24 March 2022

Healthy Buildings: how we can improve our hospitals and homes through healthy infrastructure "In terms of cost impact of healthy buildings, it is important to be careful in choosing a baseline against which 'extra over' costs are being benchmarked. Often baseline costs are established for a minimally compliant building and compared to that, every enhancement is considered 'extra over'," says Eszter.



World Economic Forum

This is how to ensure sustainable alternatives to plastic

09 March 2022

In trying to solve the plastic pollution problem, we may have created another problem: we are replacing plastic with materials that have a carbon footprint up to 3 times higher than plastics themselves, some of which are not even biodegradable in real-life conditions.



Project Syndicate

Governing an Ocean of Plastics

02 March 2022

The ocean provides livelihoods for millions of people around the world and absorbs up to a third of global carbon-dioxide emissions. But with the health of maritime ecosystems threatened by plastic pollution, a new international treaty is urgently needed.



UN Environment

A participatory approach towards a new global agreement on marine litter and plastic pollution

02 March 2022

This event is available in English only. .

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



Frontiers

Does ESG Disclosure Help Improve Intangible Capital? Evidence From A-Share Listed Companies

10 May 2022

With the disclosure of ESG, the investment related to ESG disclosure has increased, and the trend of changes in intangible capital has shown an “inverted S-shaped” curve. The research shows that, in the initial stage of investment in ESG construction, new ESG investments increase intangible capital. With the increase in ESG investment and the advancement of time, the positive effect of the increase in ESG scores on intangible capital begins to appear and gradually offsets the cost of ESG investment. However, when the ESG score of a company is raised to a certain level, the marginal effect of continuing to increase ESG investment will reduce the increase in intangible capital.



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Making the Business Case for ESG

04 May 2022

Witold Henisz is a Wharton management professor, director of the Wharton Political Risk Lab, and founder of the Wharton ESG Analytics Lab. He’s also a subject-matter expert on one of the most pressing issues in business today, which is ESG. Many investors want to put their money into socially conscious companies that proffer environmental, social, and governance criteria, but actually measuring a company’s ESG impact is an imperfect science at best.



GreenBiz

State lands open for carbon crediting, but how good are those credits?

02 May 2022

Last year, the global carbon offset market hit a record \$851 billion, according to analysts at Refinitiv. In the U.S., there are millions of acres that haven’t been available for carbon projects — located on federal and state land. Indeed, there are currently only two carbon projects generating carbon credits on state land; there are none on federal land.



London School of Economics and Political Science

Pink Tax: The gender bias in product recommendations and corporate social responsibility

29 April 2022

The conceptual underpinning of the ‘pink-tax’ refers to the profit-maximizing techniques adopted by companies based on psychological trends, shopping behaviour and interests, to promote the sale of products marketed towards female consumers at substantially higher prices than those promoted to male consumers. Far from being a “traditional” tax, these marketing strategies take advantage of women by increasing the price they pay. This difference results in a significant reduction in the opportunities and services available to women, augmenting deeply entrenched inequalities. Advertisements and the media impose physical standards and encourage society to adhere to gender-stereotypes that push women to purchase beauty products despite higher prices.



CGAP Blog

Regulating Platform-Based Finance: Seeing the Big Picture

14 April 2022

The scale and scope of platform-based finance extends beyond the powers of a single regulator — cooperation across agencies will be essential. Platforms combine technology, customer data and network effects across diverse markets. This brings in regulatory agencies covering a wide array of domains such as finance, competition, labor, consumer and data protection, telecoms and myriad commercial sectors. For financial regulators to act strictly within traditional silos framed in terms of financial institutions and services would be to ignore the multi-faceted nature of platforms, including risks that arise beyond the regulatory perimeter. How can financial regulators widen their perspective and take account of the big picture?

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



Kaiser Health News

Downsized City Sees Its Health Care Downsized as Hospital Awaits Demolition

02 May 2022

HAMMOND, Ind. — In 1898, three nuns took a train to this city along the south shore of Lake Michigan to start a hospital. They converted an old farmhouse into a seven-bed medical center.



The Tokenist

Gov. DeSantis Supports Musk's Twitter Bid, State Pension Fund Owns 946,960 Shares

21 April 2022

The State of Florida, which invested in Twitter through its state pension fund, may side with Elon Musk and his attempt to take ownership of Twitter. The post Gov. DeSantis Supports Musk's Twitter Bid, State Pension Fund Owns 946,960 Shares appeared first on The Tokenist .



Frontiers

Financing Orphan Drugs Through a Blockchain-Supported Insurance Model

13 April 2022

The cost of treatment for rare diseases is notoriously high imposing threats to the global healthcare system. Existing market-based tools for orphan drugs are not designed to reduce drug prices and could be hampered by adverse selection. We propose an alternative insurance mechanism, Massive Group Insurance (MGI), which aims at reducing the prices of orphan drugs through offering separate Intellectual Property Right (IPR) Fees to the drug company from an MGI Agency, which will collect insurance premiums from each country on each orphan drug that the country wants all its citizens to enjoy access to. The premiums will be calculated so as to ensure that the drug company will collect a profit no smaller than what it enjoys under the traditional model.



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What Higher Mortgage Rates Mean for the Housing Market

12 April 2022

The recent uptick in mortgage interest rates is having a chilling effect on home buyers at the moment, but Wharton real estate professor Benjamin Keys doesn't expect that to last. Sky-high rents have been spiraling faster than home prices in the last decade, which will continue to push many Americans toward home ownership. With a fixed-rate mortgage, they can budget a stable monthly housing expense for the next 15 or 30 years. "What's fascinating about the housing market right now is the forces of supply and demand seem to be out of whack," Keys said during an interview with Wharton Business Daily on SiriusXM . "We are in a really unique housing market right now, where we have both interest rates rising and we have housing prices rising."

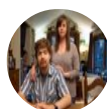


Kaiser Health News

Delays for Autism Diagnosis and Treatment Grew Even Longer During the Pandemic

30 March 2022

Wylie James Prescott, 3, had to wait more than a year after his autism diagnosis to begin behavioral therapy, even though research shows early treatment of autism can be crucial for children's long-term development. This story also ran on CNN . It can be republished for free. His mother, Brandie Kurtz, said his therapy wasn't approved through Georgia's Medicaid program until recently, despite her continued requests. "I know insurance, so it's even more frustrating," said Kurtz, who works in a doctor's office near her home in rural Wrens, Georgia.



Kaiser Health News

The Case of the \$489,000 Air Ambulance Ride

25 March 2022

Sean Deines and his wife, Rebekah, were road-tripping after he lost his job as a bartender when the pandemic hit. While visiting his grandfather in a remote part of Wyoming, Sean started to feel very ill. .

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



MIT Sloan Management Review

What's Lost When We Talk 'ESG' and Not 'Sustainability' | Andrew Winston

05 May 2022

Our expert columnists offer opinion and analysis on important issues facing modern businesses and managers. More in this series Over the 20 years I've worked at the intersection of business and society, I've seen many terms applied to this part of the business agenda: compliance, eco-efficiency, corporate social responsibility, socially responsible investing, green, clean, sustainability, regenerative, net zero, net positive, and many more. Some variation in how we talk about all of this is helpful, but we also need some common language that's both relatively easy to comprehend and interesting.



GreenBiz

Corporate GHG emissions need to move beyond 'best-guess' territory

02 May 2022

Historically, companies looking to calculate their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have had to rely on self-reported data and estimates rather than primary data from supply chain partners. These best-guess estimates lead to inconsistencies and a lack of clarity about what is really being emitted, where. That lack of visibility and transparency has made it challenging to establish credible and achievable goals for GHG emissions reductions in this decisive decade. RMI's Horizon Zero project aims to enable companies and brands to take much greater strides toward their net-zero goals by providing clarity on where emissions are happening throughout their supply chains, and specific guidance for their supply chain partners to decarbonize manufacturing processes.



GreenBiz

The temperature is rising on heat as an ESG issue

02 May 2022

I've become reasonably immune, for better or worse, to most mind-numbing headlines. They seem to happen daily. The full plate of issues that comprise my daily media diet has been overflowing with dispiriting news as we humans seem to gorge ourselves on a smorgasbord of conflict and controversy.



Harvard Business School Working Knowledge

What Role Do Individual Leaders Play in Corporate Governance?

19 April 2022

From 1997 to 2012, Scott Tucker built a nationwide network of payday lending businesses, becoming a pioneer in online lending along the way. Many of his borrowers could not access credit from commercial banks and depended on payday loans as a financial lifeline to cope with emergency expenses. But in 2012 federal prosecutors indicted Tucker on several criminal charges that he violated disclosure requirements. He was later convicted on 14 charges, including racketeering, misleading disclosures, and fraud. Associate Professor Aiysha Dey discusses how the case, "Scott Tucker: Race to the Top," examines the role of individual leaders in the corporate governance system, as well as their responsibility for creating a positive corporate culture that embodies ethics, self-restraint, and a commitment to serve.



Brookings Institution

Five trends to expect in Africa for the rest of 2022

13 April 2022

Ryan Short, a partner at Genesis Analytics, explores five trends to look for in Africa's business world for the rest of the year 2022. He touches on achieving "net zero" in greenhouse gas emissions, ESG and impact, the EU's green taxonomy, and more. He concludes giving some advice to African negotiators ahead of the COP27 climate summit in Egypt.



World Economic Forum

IPCC report: urgent climate action needed to halve emissions by 2030

06 April 2022

IPCC's latest report on Mitigation of Climate Change was published on 4 April. Emissions must peak by 2025 to limit global warming and reduce by 43% by 2030. We need to cut fossil fuel use, transition to renewable energy at scale and invest in carbon dioxide removal. The third and final instalment of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment report Mitigation of Climate Change, published on 4 April, found that average annual global greenhouse gas emissions were at their highest levels in human history between 2010 to 2019, but the rate of growth of emissions has since slowed. Central to averting climate disaster is the need for immediate and deep emissions reductions across all sectors if we are to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

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



Eco-Business

Plant-based bottles and paper straws: spotting false solutions in anti-plastic declarations

09 May 2022

What makes this treaty different is that it addresses the full lifecycle of plastic, including production, design and disposal, unlike other resolution versions which only include marine plastic debris, said Aliño. As an agreement to address the growing problem of plastic waste in the world's oceans is hoped to be reached by the end of 2024, experts weigh in to examine solutions that corporates claim to help curb the world's plastic blight. Substituting plastic for bioplastic When beverage giant Coke unveiled its prototype bottle made from fully plant-based plastic in October, critics questioned if it was really better for the environment than traditional plastic packaging. Coke's new bioplastic bottle is made from corn sugar instead of fossil fuels like traditional plastic, but it still does not help reduce waste, said Emma Priestland, corporate campaigns coordinator of BFFP.



Eco-Business

Critics question labelling of plastic products as 'eco-friendly' in Earth Day promo

27 April 2022

The discounted items were mainly consumer and fashion goods made, packaged or shipped with reduced, recycled or "better" plastics, which Lazada defines as plastics that are widely recyclable. Among the items labelled green were Gillette women's razors, Oral-B electric toothbrushes, Unilever plant-based liquid detergent, Nike polyester training t-shirts and Casio watches. These are not easily recyclable, sustainability experts said. The promotion only ran on Earth Day. A click to shop for Lazada's "eco-friendly" labels now leads to a flash sale, and LazEarth-tagged products are no longer searchable on the site.



London School of Economics and Political Science

Long Read: Cities and Climate Change – Improving Liveability through Impactful Research in Two Cities in South Asia

22 April 2022

Solid Waste Management affects each and every individual on the planet. This is of particular relevance in the developing world where increasing population, urbanisation and lack of resources very often make city life unclean, unhealthy and hazardous. Climate change has exacerbated these issues. On the occasion of Earth Day, Mani Nepal and A.K. Enamul Haque discuss the findings of their study, in two cities of Nepal and Bangladesh, that successfully identified the main challenges faced by city administrations in tackling the issue, and impacted on the policies adopted.



Mott MacDonald

From squandered to treasured: how water management became sustainable

13 April 2022

By 2040, a far-sighted approach to water resource management in mature economies coupled with investment for the long-term has relieved public fears about water scarcity resulting from growing populations and climate change. Drinking water supplies are stable, even in water-stressed areas, while availability of water ensures farmers enjoy plentiful harvests. People everywhere enjoy a better environment. In cities, rivers are healthier with more biodiversity, supporting mental and physical wellbeing, and boosting water-based leisure and tourism.



Mott MacDonald

Enabling net zero through the circular economy

13 April 2022

By presenting a hierarchy of carbon reduction options - build nothing, build less, build smart, build efficiently - it is clear that the greatest potential for impact is at early design and procurement stages. The second question centres around the design stage of infrastructure projects. By designing with the next product cycle in mind, companies can reduce the need to 'take' in the future and decrease demand for more virgin material down the line Embedded within our built environment is a significant amount of embodied carbon. How do we reduce these emissions, while simultaneously honouring the development needs of our cities and countries?.

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



World Bank

Global Wildlife Program: Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development

28 April 2022

Biodiversity has become increasingly threatened due to land-use change, overexploitation, and climate change, which has led to a precipitous 68% decline in the population of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, and reptiles since 1970. The presence of wildlife ensures that an ecosystem can function effectively and provides communities and countries with socio-economic benefits through wildlife-based livelihoods such as tourism. However, wildlife crime is undermining conservation and jeopardizing efforts to develop economic opportunities for communities that live around protected areas. The World Bank-led Global Wildlife Program is a global partnership on wildlife conservation and crime prevention for sustainable development.



TED

The African Swamp Protecting Earth's Environment | Vera Songwe | TED

20 April 2022

The peatlands of Africa's Congo Basin are a vast expanse of swamp and greenery that act as one of the world's most effective carbon sinks -- and they're under threat of environmental destruction. Economist Vera Songwe explains how putting a price on the carbon stored in the peatlands would not only help protect this vital resource but also recognize and reward the African communities that have contributed little to climate change. "This is not just about decarbonization," Songwe says. "This is also about development with dignity."



International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Responding to Global Shocks and Managing Uncertainty

19 April 2022

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva joins World Bank Group President David Malpass for to discuss how to respond to global shocks and manage uncertainty.



United States Institute of Peace

What Russia's Invasion of Ukraine Means for African Governments

15 April 2022

As Russia's war in Ukraine advances into its second month, the conflict's effects continue to ripple across the world. In Africa, the conflict is upending long-term trends across the continent and eliciting mixed reactions from governments. As increased sanctions push the Kremlin to further explore relationships with countries outside of Europe and the United States, African countries are currently left with impending shortages in food and financing for energy projects. While some see this as an opportunity to build economic capacity from within the continent, others have opened the door for the Russian government to re-shape its approach toward Africa.



ReliefWeb

Global Impact of war in Ukraine on food, energy and finance systems

14 April 2022

The war in Ukraine is setting in motion a three-dimensional crisis - on food, energy and finance - that is producing alarming cascading effects to a world economy already battered by COVID-19 and climate change, according to the new findings of the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG). "We are now facing a perfect storm that threatens to devastate the economies of developing countries," said UN Secretary-General António Guterres. "The people of Ukraine cannot bear the violence being inflicted on them."



Exponential View by Azeem Azhar

Venture Capital and Deep Decarbonization (with Energy Impact Partners' Shayle Kann)

13 April 2022

Venture capitalists offer their investors outsized financial returns in exchange for taking on considerable risk. But what if that risk includes backing products where the economics of the end market aren't clear? Moreover, what if the companies being supported have the non-financial goal of tackling climate change? As more money than ever pours into climate tech, Azeem Azhar speaks with Shayle Kann, a partner at Energy Impact Partners, about the challenges of investing in the net zero economy.

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



Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft

Reference-factory.H2 – electrolyzer and fuel cell production of the future

02 May 2022

Hydrogen is a key element in the energy transition. To ensure that hydrogen can become generally established as an energy source, it must be produced at market prices, in sufficient quantities and in a climate-neutral manner, and used with a high CO2 reduction rate. This requires affordable, robust hydrogen systems in the form of electrolyzers and fuel cells. With the intent of launching their serial production in the future, Reference-factory.H2 provides both a design for guidance and a modular system based on new and specifically optimized technologies. This shall contribute to the economically viable production of electrolyzers and fuel cells, accelerate their market breakthrough and massively reduce the cost of hydrogen.



Frontiers on COVID19

Commentary: The Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Supply Chains and Their Sustainability: A Text Mining Approach

02 May 2022

Recent lockdown measures imposed by the Shanghai government (in late March 2022) remind us of the fact that the resilience of our supply chains is still weak. After more than two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, many economic struggles remain when a major urban hub goes under a lockdown or becomes a restricted zone. This is also one of the reasons that local governments of larger cities like Shanghai try to evade lockdown measures, as the economic impacts are immense. In cases like Shanghai, they focus on district-level measures to contain the disease or divide the city into different parts with different lockdown measures. But more recently, the whole city has been experiencing a lockdown situation again. Nonetheless, the most significant impact is on the supply chains, which are disrupted at multiple scales in all cases.



Project Syndicate

The Gathering Stagflationary Storm

25 April 2022

While recent shocks have made the current inflationary surge and growth slowdown more acute, they are hardly the global economy's only problems. Even without them, the medium-term outlook would be darkening, owing to a broad range of economic, political, environmental, and demographic trends.



Mott MacDonald

Should ports rush to automate?

13 April 2022

Should ports rush to automate? Automation: Miracle cure or red herring? Senior ports and maritime engineer Alex To appraises the opportunities and benefits. Mention automation in container ports and most people think 'heavy machinery', and the use of robotics and software to replace humans operating cranes and vehicles. The new fully automated Euromax Port at Rotterdam offers a state-of-the-art example of how the substitution of manual operation can bring impressive efficiencies and competitive advantages.

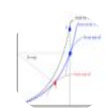


Science Daily

Blockchain offers a solution to post-Brexit border digitization to build supply chain trust, research shows

11 April 2022

As a result of the UK leaving the European Union, logistics firms have faced additional friction at UK borders.

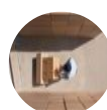


VoxEU

Global supply chain risk and resilience

06 April 2022

Supply disruptions caused by systemic shocks such as Brexit, Covid, and Russia-Ukraine tensions have catapulted the issue of risk in global supply chains to the top of policy agendas. In some sectors, however, there is a wedge between private and social risk appetite, or increased risks due to lack of supply chain visibility. This column discusses the types of risks to and from supply chains, and how supply chains have recovered from past shocks. It then proposes a risk-reward framework for thinking about when policy interventions are necessary.



Harvard Business Review

In Uncertain Times, Big Companies Need to Take Care of Their Suppliers

06 April 2022

The resilience of a supply chain is dependent on the reliable performance of the suppliers who make it up, but the fiscal health of many of lower-tier firms is often not visible to executives at companies several tiers up. This is especially true for original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) like automakers or industrial equipment producers who often have many lower-tier suppliers. The problem is that many of these OEMs designed their procurement strategies and supply agreements during a time when the global geopolitical and trading environments were comparatively benign, with steady growth of cross-border trade, low inflation, and stable raw materials and logistics costs.

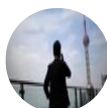
Environmental, Social and Governance

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



Frontiers

Investigating the Role of Education, Foreign Investment, and Economic Development for Sustainable Environment in BRI Countries: Application of Method of Movements Quantile Regression

28 April 2022

Environmental pollution comes from several sectors of activities. It is almost conceivable that the education sector subsidies to the disruption of the environmental quality. The study employs panel cointegration techniques and method of moments quantile regression (MMQR) to inspect the influence of income, education (scholarly enrollment and expenditure), and foreign direct investment on carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions for a panel of 46 Belt and Road initiative (BRI) countries spanning the period 1996–2016. The estimation shows that the hypothesis of environmental Kuznets is established for both the models. Using fully modified ordinary least squares (OLS), fixed effects OLS and dynamic OLS, long-run elasticities show that real income increases the emissions.



World Economic Forum

Five 'Monday morning priorities' for private equity investors looking to progress on sustainability

21 April 2022

Private equity investors are under increasing pressure to deliver on environmental, social and governance issues. Sustainable investing offers investors an opportunity to create real financial value, but it requires leadership to drive impact. The industry is at a critical point where it needs to respond to quickly evolving societal goals and expectations. The pressure on private equity investors to deliver real impact on environmental and social issues alongside financial returns – often referred to as 'sustainable investing' – has rapidly escalated. Leadership on this issue will position private equity to drive tremendous social and environmental impact.



World Economic Forum

Why private companies need to catch up on sustainability

08 April 2022

Public companies are leading private companies in three interlinked areas: environmental sustainability, corporate social responsibility and people sustainability. A diverse and inclusive culture attracts and retains the best talent, which leads to competitive advantages for those companies that have inclusive cultures. We call for improved transparency from private companies and their owners for better ESG and DEI insights to ensure that proper progress is being made. Sustainable businesses are focusing on three interlinked areas: environmental sustainability, corporate social responsibility and people sustainability. Their investors (i.e.



LSE Business Review

Demystifying the 'dividend puzzle' and making sense of government regulations in times of pandemics

16 March 2022

In the early days of 2020, when measures to contain the coronavirus pandemic hurt economies worldwide, many publicly listed firms omitted or suspended their dividend payments. For investors across the world, who seek for or solely rely on dividend income, this situation caused great difficulty. By the end of 2021, dividends had bounced back. Globally, 90 ... Continued.



GreenBiz

The ESG bar is high this proxy season: Is your board prepared?

07 March 2022

Last year saw a record number of ESG and climate-focused shareholder proposals winning majority support in 2021. Therefore, we can only expect the same for 2022 as shareholders' and stakeholders' expectations continue to rise. The success of hedge fund Engine No. 1 in securing board seats at Exxon Mobil in 2021 was a major warning sign for what will come. So, what can companies and their boards expect this year and are they prepared?.

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



World Bank

Financiamiento climático para comunidades indígenas

19 April 2022

Los pueblos indígenas, buscando proteger sus bosques y luchar contra el cambio climático, trabajan con programas como REDD+. Este proyecto global, respaldado por el Fondo Cooperativo para el Carbono de los Bosques del Banco Mundial, trabaja con comunidades indígenas para ayudarles a proteger los bosques de los que dependen y en los que han vivido durante generaciones. En todo el mundo, estos bosques están en peligro ya que el cambio climático está alterando drásticamente las condiciones climáticas que los sustentan. A través de REDD+, las comunidades indígenas pueden recibir una compensación por su arduo trabajo de mantenimiento de sus bosques.



World Bank

Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, & Land Rights in Belize | Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

19 April 2022

The ties that bind Indigenous Peoples and local communities to their land are strong. Pablo Mis, a Q'eqchi Maya of Belize, explains this generations-long connection to the forest and land his people call home, and how REDD+ funding has allowed him to map their land. He also discusses the long but successful fight to have their land rights legally recognized, and how the Indigenous Technical Desk he set up made this possible. Featuring Indigenous Peoples and local communities working on REDD+, Get REDDY shares accessible, easily understandable information and knowledge about climate change, REDD+, and results-based climate finance to help communities in their engagement with REDD+ programs and activities.



World Bank

How Climate Change Has Affected Communities in Panama | Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

19 April 2022

Kuna Yala leader Onel Masardule of Panama discusses climate change and how it affects his community. Mr Masardule has successfully fought for the recognition and inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in climate finance programs. With his 10+ years of experience in this field, he lays out what REDD+ is, and how it helps him ensure that Indigenous rights are respected. Featuring Indigenous Peoples and local communities working on REDD+, Get REDDY shares accessible, easily understandable information and knowledge about climate change, REDD+, and results-based climate finance to help communities in their engagement with REDD+ programs and activities. It discusses topics identified by Indigenous communities such as gender equality, land tenure, benefit sharing, safeguards, and climate change.



SpringerOpen

Politicization of intergenerational justice: how youth actors translate sustainable futures

18 April 2022

Politicization of intergenerational justice: how youth actors translate sustainable futures Henrike Knappe* and Ortwin Renn Politicizing intergenerational justice To politicize intergenerational justice, youth activists have adopted the more radical terms (and associated terminology) of “environmental justice” and “climate justice” and translated them into a new version of intergenerational justice.



Igarapé Institute

The ecosystem of environmental crime in the Amazon: an analysis of illicit rainforest economies in Brazil

13 April 2022

The ecosystem of environmental crime in the Amazon: an analysis of illicit rainforest economies in Brazil Researchers analyzed data from 369 the Federal Police (PF) operations carried out between 2016 and 2021 Environmental crimes are rarely committed isolated from other offenses. Amazon deforestation is not only largely illegal but also driven by a diverse array of offenders through markets contaminated with crimes that despoil the environment, such as illegal logging, illegal mining (especially gold), land grabbing and unsustainable farming. There are a wide array of violations, from environmental, to tax evasion and interpersonal violence from assault to homicide.

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



GreenBiz

Burger King UK becomes first fast food company to trial reusable packaging

02 May 2022

Burger King UK is to trial reusable and returnable packaging, in support of its efforts to slash single-use plastic from its restaurants by 2025. The company last week announced it has partnered with global re-use platform Loop to introduce a scheme in five branches where customers will have the option to pay \$1.26 deposit for a reusable cup or container instead of using throwaway packaging. Burger King restaurants in Ipswich and Newmarket in Suffolk will undertake a five-month pilot that will offer customers the option to choose 10 Burger King products that can be served in the Loop reusable packaging, including a range of burgers and sides, as well as drinks. When customers return the reusable cup or container, they can do so by downloading the Loop app, scanning the barcode on either the cup or container and returning it into a Loop bin.



World Economic Forum

You can fix and upgrade this laptop yourself

28 April 2022



Eco-Business

The future is circular for luxury automobiles: BMW sustainable design chief

06 April 2022

Do recyclable materials take the gloss out of luxury? Daniela Bohlinger, head of sustainability at BMW Group Design, shares how the heritage car brand is striving to create a design language that strikes the right balance.

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



Brookings Institution

New targets and metrics for energy reliability, productivity, and quality

28 April 2022

In this thirteenth interview of the “17 Rooms” podcast, Clare Boland Ross and Todd Moss discuss new “measurable metrics” to reframe SDG7 energy targets to be more ambitious and location-specific. Ross, managing director of the Power and Climate Initiative at The Rockefeller Foundation and Moss, executive director at the Energy for Growth Hub, moderated Room 7 focused on Sustainable Development Goal number 7—on affordable and clean energy—during the 2021 17 Rooms flagship process.



Eco-Business

‘A huge mistake’: alarm bells ring as deep-sea mining negotiations progress

12 April 2022

Deep-sea mining may start as early as 2023 after Pacific Island nation Nauru triggered a two-year rule in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea that could allow its sponsored company to start mining, with regulations currently in place.

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



Asian Development Bank

Debunking Viet Nam's Credit Rating Misconceptions

04 May 2022

There have been growing concerns that Viet Nam's fast-growing corporate bond market is harboring financial risks. The single most important step that the government could take to improve the transparency, safety, and sustainability of the corporate bond market is to mandate public credit ratings for all publicly and privately traded bonds. Under the 2019 Law on Securities, the government introduced some mandatory ratings. However, the regulations were tightly scripted and would mandate few, if any, issuers to be rated. Expanding the regulations to encompass all bonds is controversial, and opponents raise several objections.



GreenBiz

The sustainability job market is booming. What does that mean for hiring?

02 May 2022

Defining a "sustainability" job is tough. "Everybody who wants to work in sustainability should be cautious about a job that's called a 'sustainability' job," she said.



GreenBiz

Definitive Guide to ESG

02 May 2022

This Definitive Guide to Getting Started with an ESG Program is a comprehensive resource full of tips, advice and examples to help companies implement and manage ESG as a part of a complete risk and compliance strategy. By proactively addressing impacts of ESG, like climate change, companies can better predict future innovation to avoid supply chain disruption by advancing ways in which materials are sourced and ensuring the global economy drives value creation with ESG elements in mind. For anyone responsible for: ESG program management or creation What you'll learn: What ESG is and why it's growing in importance ESG regulatory drivers and the risk of non-compliance The necessity and value of an ESG program and how to get started.



GreenBiz

The Future of Sustainability Management Platforms

14 April 2022

The call to focus on climate change and track greenhouse gas emissions has never been louder. However, rules, guidelines, standards and regulations are constantly changing, including the potential new SEC reporting requirements, and companies still have siloed or missing data, making carbon accounting a daunting task — especially for Scope 3 emissions.



GreenBiz

It's time to comment on climate risk disclosure

06 April 2022

The noise in the sustainability space has gradually grown louder over the past few years, most often via forward-looking aspiration: bold commitments, proclamations of renewed corporate purpose, even a (nominal) redefinition of the corporation's role in society.



GreenBiz

Will just transition agendas reshape supply chain sustainability goals?

30 March 2022

The concept of supporting a "just transition" is becoming more visible in sustainability circles, and if it gains ground, it could become part of corporate pledges akin to those that commit companies to net-zero operations by a certain year. Such an outcome has significant implications for supply chain sustainability. Is just transition another short-lived buzzword that will have minimal impact on supply chain operations or is it something more substantial? Will just transition's star fade after it rises? There are various interpretations of just transition.



VoxEU

Accounting for companies' value creation and societal impact

18 March 2022

There is ongoing debate over how to judge a company's performance beyond profits alone. This column devises a way of accounting for who benefits from a company's value creation and why. The authors identify eight pathways through which economic value from corporations flows to households and the economy, and how these have evolved over the past 25 years. The analysis also suggests a growing disparity between types of companies in terms of their impacts on the eight pathways.

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



GreenBiz

Climate change's attention deficit disorder

07 March 2022

Remember climate change? It's not an entirely facetious question. With a brutal war and humanitarian crisis raging in Eastern Europe, a resulting global energy crisis, a quickly unfolding food crisis, a shaky global economy, raging inflation — oh, and a still-rampaging pandemic, with all its health and mental health impacts — it's been not-so-easy to keep the climate crisis top of mind.



GreenBiz

Changes to menu messaging can increase sales of climate-friendly food

03 March 2022

Food production accounts for a quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions, with animal-based foods contributing double the amount of emissions to plant-based foods. Shifting consumer demand away from animal-based foods toward more plant-based alternatives is critical for reducing food-related climate change impacts, as well as resource use and biodiversity loss. New research suggests that making simple changes to messaging on restaurant menus may help consumers make this shift. A simple behavioral science solution.



Inter-American Development Bank

Webinar: "Can cash payments for vulnerable families impact brain function in babies?"

24 February 2022

"Baby's First Years" is the first experimental evaluation that examines the effect of an unconditional income transfer on children's brain development. In this webinar, Professor Hirokazu Yoshikawa, co-author of the study, presents the findings, discussing possible social policy ramifications for Latin America and the Caribbean.

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



Harvard Kennedy School - Belfer Center for
Science and International Affairs
Women in STEM Share Experiences
13 May 2022

Throughout this spring, Belfer Fellow Dr. Syra Madad developed and hosted a Women in STEM event series to highlight women leaders in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The aim of the series was to recognize the many accomplishments and contributions by women in STEM fields while educating and empowering young women, providing valuable advice, and sharing pearls of wisdom. This six-event series featured guest speakers that included America's Top Young Scientist Gitanjali Rao, former White House Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett, leading figure in the U.S. space program Lori Garver and Spacecraft Operations Engineer Nagin Cox, Tiktok-renowned epidemiologist Dr. Katrine Wallace, and many more.



Frontiers
Mainstreaming Equity and Justice in the Ocean
20 April 2022

Equity and justice considerations have risen to the surface in policy deliberations, management decisions, and program design related to marine conservation, fisheries management, and blue economy development. These topics have been brought to the forefront by academic documentation of social justice and distributional issues across these different marine policy realms (Kittinger et al., 2017; Cohen et al., 2019; Martin et al., 2019; Armstrong, 2020; Bennett et al., 2021a) and coinciding civil society efforts to raise the profile of the social injustices facing small-scale fishers, coastal communities, different genders, and diverse racial and ethnic groups (Isaacs, 2019; Johnson, 2020; Gustavsson et al., 2021).



Nautilus
Animals Feel What's Right and Wrong, Too
13 April 2022

Amy's job is pretty repetitive, but normally she doesn't mind doing what she's asked. Today, however, she's working alongside Sidney. Amy can't help noticing that Sidney is receiving a small reward every time he completes a task, while she gets nothing. After a few rounds of this treatment, Amy has had enough. She refuses to go on performing her tasks, disengaging completely.



GreenBiz
Solutions to the climate crisis will come from the multitudes
06 April 2022

If we take away one thing from this week's climate report, let it be this: The solutions to the climate crisis already exist and are sufficient to bring humanity back into balance with Earth's living systems. Climate change is commonly discussed as a systemic problem, not an individual-level problem. In our current system are very real, very powerful individuals with their hands on the controls, essentially turning the dials up or down on the levels of planet-warming greenhouse gases that are churning into our atmosphere every second. Utility commissioners empowered to approve yet another coal or gas plant or shut it down. American politicians emboldened to enact climate legislation or let it die.



The Conversation
Elite performance horses: why they're supreme athletes – and how to train them ethically
01 April 2022

It's hard to ignore the power and beauty of a horse when it runs at full throttle or jumps over a massive hurdle. This much loved and gentle animal is a spectacular athlete, capable of running world record speeds of almost 44 miles per hour and gravity-defying leaps as high as 2.47 metres. They have impressive stamina too - some breeds, such as Arabians, are able to cover up to 100 miles in a single day during endurance competitions. These are astounding feats, made all the more amazing when you consider that they weigh from 400-800kg. Compared to other similarly sized mammals, horses have a superior ability to use oxygen – their aerobic capacity is around two and half times that of cattle, and this is a large part of what gives equines their athletic edge.



Mott MacDonald (RSS Feed)
Let's move now to tackle the risks of artificial intelligence
24 March 2022

You have probably noticed advertisements on the web which have a knack of knowing exactly what you are interested in. You may have sought help from a digital assistant such as Alexa or Siri, and you will almost certainly have spoken to intelligent machines on the telephone. Whether you are aware of it or not, artificial intelligence (AI) is playing an increasingly important part in your life. AI can deliver enormous benefits. For example, it is already being used to diagnose illnesses and improve the safety of self-driving cars.

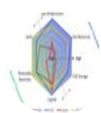
Understanding Climate Risks

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



World Economic Forum

Why India's clean energy future lies with green hydrogen – not blue

13 May 2022

Green hydrogen is generally assumed to be more expensive than blue – but this depends on several factors. In India, the path to a prosperous, clean energy future lies with the former. To give ourselves the best chance of following this path, however, we must act now. As the International Energy Agency's recent Global Hydrogen Review 2021 points out, the dream of a future economy powered by green hydrogen – that is, hydrogen produced by electrolyzing water using renewable electricity – faces several challenges, despite tens of billions of dollars in subsidies being announced to stimulate supply. The report advises that 'in many parts of the world, the cost of producing hydrogen from renewable electricity remains higher than fossil fuel alternatives'.



Eco-Business

'50:50' chance global warming reaches 1.5°C by 2026

13 May 2022

Annual temperatures are expected to be 1.1 to 1.7°C above pre-industrial levels in the next five years, WMO said. Average temperatures across the period will likely be higher than the past five years, it added. "We are getting measurably closer to temporarily reaching the lower target of the Paris Agreement on climate change," said WMO secretary-general, professor Petteri Taalas. Countries globally vowed to keep climate change to well under 2°C, and strive for 1.5°C, in a landmark climate deal called the Paris Agreement in 2015. The 1.5°C target was reiterated last November at COP26, a global climate conference.



Rocky Mountain Institute

A Fair Green Deal for the Last Coal Plant in Mississippi

12 May 2022

Late in 2021, Southern Company, the giant utility headquartered in Atlanta, announced it would pursue the retirement or conversion of 15 coal-fired generation units at its power plants, totaling nearly 9,000 MW of capacity. One Southern-owned plant was conspicuously absent from those plans: the Red Hills Generating Facility, a 440 MW lignite coal-fired power station [...] The post A Fair Green Deal for the Last Coal Plant in Mississippi appeared first on RMI .



World Economic Forum

Why we need global cooperation on decarbonizing cities and real estate

12 May 2022

Given more than 60% of carbon emissions within cities typically come from buildings, a concerted effort to decarbonize real estate is needed sooner rather than later. With little harmonization or integration, cross-border real estate investors and end-users are struggling to navigate the global net zero carbon regulatory landscape. We're reaching an inflection point where governments and the real estate industry need to work together on greater harmonization and consistency of policy, regulation and reporting. In an increasingly challenging and volatile world, the urgent need to decarbonize real estate remains a constant. There are no quick fixes that will suddenly transform today's energy inefficient buildings into models of sustainable construction in the coming decades.



Nature

Climate change: put water at the heart of solutions

10 May 2022

Adaptation plans must heed those who face water insecurity. Adaptation plans must heed those who face water insecurity.



Yale Climate Connections

Volunteer pilots rescue sea turtles stunned by cold water

09 May 2022

Hundreds of volunteer pilots across the U.S. have offered their time and planes to fly rescue missions for sea turtles in need of help. "We are all about taking care of these endangered species," says Leslie Weinstein, president of Turtles Fly Too . The nonprofit coordinates emergency flights for sea turtles that wash up on the shores of Cape Cod and elsewhere, suffering from cold-stunning. It's a reaction the animals can experience in waters below about 50 degrees Fahrenheit. "They become lethargic," Weinstein says.



World Health Organization

The Air Quality Life Index (AQLI)

05 May 2022

The WHO changed its particulate pollution guidance on September 22, 2021. The data here reflects the previous guidance.

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



VoxEU

Widespread food insecurity is not inevitable: Avoid escalating food export curbs

04 May 2022

Ukraine and Russia play an outsized role in global markets for key crops. Disruption to food prices and supplies arising from the conflict is being felt thousands of miles away, and not only in net food-importing countries. This column shows that governments are exacerbating matters through unilateral resort to export curbs. Bans on wheat exports alone are responsible for a 7 percentage point increase in world wheat prices (roughly one-sixth of the observed price surge) and risk igniting a multiplier effect. Assurances of adequate food supply must be provided by other suppliers.

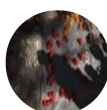


RAND Corporation

Pathways to Retirement Among Dual Earning Couples

21 April 2022

This paper examines the transition from full-time work to fully retired among dual earning couples, which we call joint retirement trajectories. We analyze 12 waves of the Health and Retirement Study to map out the distribution of potential pathways that couples undertake when retiring.



Brookings

Institutions, informality, and conflict in the Sahel: The case for Mali

12 April 2022

Ahmadou Aly Mbaye and Nancy Benjamin integrate the latest governance research with original survey-based results from the Sahel region in order to improve on policy approaches to increasing economic resilience.



Asian Development Bank

Asia's Developing Countries Need Bold Tax Reform to Rebound from the Pandemic

07 April 2022

It's been said taxes are the price we pay for a civilized society. Without taxes governments simply don't have the resources to pay for the public goods and services that everyone depends on. Despite Asia's stellar progress in reducing poverty and improving living standards, governments across the region often struggle to generate sufficient revenue. Consequently, many countries in the region spend comparatively little on public education, healthcare, and social protection. Spending shortfalls in these areas were vividly illustrated by the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, evident in strained education infrastructure, overflowing hospitals, and limited financial assistance to the poor.



VoxEU

Globalisation and the effective taxation of capital versus labour

06 April 2022

Globalisation has wide-ranging effects on tax systems. This column uses a new dataset of taxes on capital and labour across countries and time to assess these dynamics. The authors document a global convergence of average effective labour and capital taxes over time, as labour taxes have increased and capital taxes fallen. However, the large fall in capital taxation in developed economies contrasts its gradual rise in developing economies, albeit from a low base. This trend is consistent with evidence suggesting the causal effect of trade integration on the tax capacity of developing economies.



University of Chicago

Universal basic income policies don't cause people to leave workforce, study finds

31 March 2022

New research from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy suggests that a universal basic income would not cause people to leave the workforce. Such proposals, including one considered by Hillary Clinton during her 2016 presidential campaign, include direct payments that ensure each resident has a baseline of income to provide for basic needs. While previous research has focused on the effects of these unconditional cash transfers at the micro level—for example, winning the lottery—this study examined their large-scale impact by looking a government program that has supported Alaska residents for the past 25 years. In a working paper released Feb. 12 by the National Bureau of Economic Research, Assoc. Prof. Damon Jones of Harris Public Policy and Asst.

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



Carbon Brief

Australian election 2022: What the manifestos say on energy and climate change

13 May 2022

As Australians head to the polls on 21 May, voters face a decision that could... The post Australian election 2022: What the manifestos say on energy and climate change appeared first on Carbon Brief .



Project Syndicate

Supplying the Green Transition Must Be Fast and Fair

12 May 2022

Achieving global climate goals will require a quantum leap in investments to secure sufficient supplies of key minerals needed for clean-energy technologies. But while these inputs can greatly accelerate emission-reduction efforts, protecting human rights when extracting them is an essential condition for climate justice.



World Economic Forum

First Movers Coalition: how to create demand for clean technology in hard-to-abate sectors

11 May 2022

The climate crisis demands urgent action across all sectors to meet the Paris Agreement targets. First Movers Coalition members understand that by investing now in clean technology they can accelerate and scale-up decarbonization efforts. President Biden's administration is committed to helping reach these ambitious technology goals through a whole-of-government strategy. The urgency of the climate crisis and its existential threat to the planet require an all-hands-on-deck approach. In concert with ambitious government policies, private sector leadership that recognizes and seizes the enormous opportunities in this transition is critical for the world to swiftly reach net-zero emissions.



Eco-Business

After Russian invasion, gas is no longer a viable 'bridge' fuel for energy transition: report

10 May 2022

As the cost of renewables plummets and the price volatility of fossil gas increases, gas can no longer be relied upon as a lower-emissions bridge fuel, a study finds. But subsidies are keeping gas artificially cheap in some Asian markets.

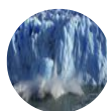


Harvard Kennedy School - Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs

Does Green Growth Foster Green Policies? Value Chain Upgrading and Feedback Mechanisms on Renewable Energy Policies

10 May 2022

The expansion of renewable energies not only lowers carbon emissions, it also redistributes resources among actors. This article argues that green industrialization – specifically, manufacturing and the development of renewable energy technologies – creates economic gains that impact political processes and increase renewable energy policy ambition. Building on a combined framework of policy feedback and global value chain literature, authors Laima Eicke and Silvia Weko see domestic value creation as a key determinant of coalition strength and learning effects for policymakers.

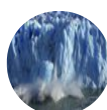


World Health Organization

Air pollution data portal

05 May 2022

WHO monitors the exposure of air pollution and its health impacts (deaths, DALYs) at the national, regional and global level from ambient (outdoor) and household air pollution. Such estimates are used for official reporting like the world health statistics, and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Air Pollution Data Portal includes Burden of Disease statistics, air quality databases and modelled exposure and estimates of both ambient and household air pollution.



Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Climatic Ep 4.2: Building a Green and Resilient Grid

04 May 2022

With countries stepping up their efforts to combat climate change, the need for an adaptable, greener, and more resilient energy supply has never been greater. In this episode of Climatic, Pradeep Perera from the Asian Development Bank and Anders Hove from the Oxford Institute of Energy Studies lay out the necessary conditions for a green and resilient grid. Climatic is ADB Ventures' series about the innovators decarbonizing Asia and the Pacific. It is produced by the Asian Development Bank and ADB Ventures with financial support from the Climate Investment Funds' Clean Technology Fund program.

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](#), [Workforce and Employment](#), [Air Pollution](#), [Small and Medium Sized Enterprises](#), [Banking and Capital Markets](#), [Corporate Governance](#), [Economic Progress](#), [Gender Inequality](#), [Institutional Investors](#), [Green New Deals](#)



World Economic Forum

Businesses are contributing to the Paris Agreement for nature. Here's how.

04 May 2022

The latest round of negotiations on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework was recently concluded in Geneva. For the first time at a United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) meeting, leading businesses turned out in force in support of more ambition. Leading businesses must step up and speak up to ensure a meaningful global agreement on nature is reached. It has been a tough start to 2022. The war in Ukraine has shaken global geopolitical order and brought immense grief while disrupting supply chains and global economic stability.



GreenBiz

Data, integration and global alignment: Salesforce's approach to ESG

03 May 2022

This new series illuminates the diverse impact of ESG issues across industries and explores how leading companies are measuring, managing and disclosing these issues. I spoke with Sunya Norman, vice president of ESG strategy and engagement at Salesforce, about partnering with the finance team on disclosure, reaching net zero on residual emissions and the need for international alignment on ESG disclosure. We briefly discussed the Value Reporting Foundation (VRF) consolidation into the IFRS Foundation to help form the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB), which just issued its first two exposure draft standards for market feedback. Neil Stewart: Your title, VP of ESG strategy and engagement, seems to sum up Salesforce's approach to ESG.



Rocky Mountain Institute

How Australia is Decarbonizing Its Premium Commercial Buildings: A Story of Ambition Loops

02 May 2022

Currently, more than half of the largest commercial property management companies in Australia have climate goals that are fully or closely aligned with the country's net zero by 2050 target. .



RAND Corporation

Harmful Interpersonal Behaviors in the Department of the Air Force

14 April 2022

This Perspective describes and applies a conceptual model of prevention to such harmful behaviors as sexual harassment, sexual assault, racial/ethnic harassment and discrimination, hazing, and domestic abuse in the Department of the Air Force.



Chatham House

How countries can regulate investment screening

13 April 2022

To attract investment, certain regulations can help countries understand the size of the garden (where investors can play) and the height of fence (to keep out malign actors). Investment screening has become an important component of the policy toolbox of nations, with the objective of blocking inward investment by foreign actors over concerns of national security and retaining competitiveness.



GreenBiz

How blended finance could help combat climate change

30 March 2022

The global conversation around climate change has traditionally revolved around public decisions by public actors, with civil society playing a crucial role in making climate action count. At the cop26 summit in glasgow, new voices emerged in the push for climate solutions. A coalition of banks, pension funds, and asset managers committed \$130 trillion toward achieving net zero by 2050. Major car companies and corporate vehicle purchasers pledged to accelerate their transition to low-carbon vehicles. Across all sectors, companies are ramping up efforts to reduce their carbon footprint, including in the fashion industry, with a coalition of brands committing to halving their greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.



The Innovator

How One SME Is Combining Profitability And Sustainability

11 March 2022

As the world moves away from single use disposables, beverage makers are looking to optimize the process of reusing plastic bottles up to 25 times. To make this work companies like Coca-Cola needs to be able to measure the quality of the bottles, determine how many times they are returned, why they are rejected and [...] The post How One SME Is Combining Profitability And Sustainability appeared first on The Innovator .

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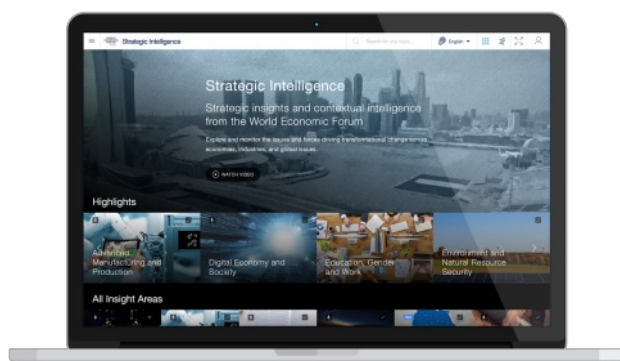
In today's world, individuals and organizations can find it difficult to keep up with the latest trends or to make sense of the countless transformations taking place around them.

How can you decipher the potential impact of rapidly unfolding changes when you're flooded with information—some of it misleading or unreliable? How do you continuously adapt your vision and strategy within a fast-evolving global context?

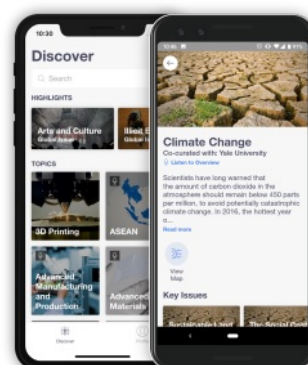
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