

RENEWABLES REPORT

Record investments and capacity, but fossil fuels still important

Last year saw record investments in renewable energy (USD 286B), and [record capacity](#) was added. Yet, despite that, the global share of fossil fuels is not shrinking as quickly as you may expect. A [new report](#) by [REN21](#) notes that the increase in installed capacity and was mainly driven by renewables becoming more cost-competitive

with oil, coal and gas. “The renewables train is barreling down the tracks, but it’s running on 20th century infrastructure - a system based on outdated thinking where conventional baseload is generated by fossil fuels and nuclear power,” said Arthouros Zervos, chair of REN21. Meanwhile, countries, such as Germany, have been [slow](#) to roll-out renewables. Recently, Chancellor Angela Merkel suggested imposing greater controls on the country’s roll-out of clean energy.

@SICMGMT TWEET OF THE WEEK

 “What can one person alone do about climate change? Don’t be one person alone” -Vincent Stanley, Patagonia #bcorp #Bthechange

SUSTAINABLE PROFILE



What are sustainability accounting standards? Why do they matter? And how could they shape investors’ decisions and corporate strategy? Find out in SICM’s first [Sustainable Profile](#) featuring the Sustainability Standards Accounting Board ([SASB](#)).

SO WHAT IS THE MAIN CONCERN: JOBS OR INCOME INEQUALITY?

We’ve written before about [inequality](#) and its relationship to economic health. Last summer the [OECD](#) measured [the effects](#) of inequality on short and long-term economic growth. Now the organization is saying it’s all about

jobs. “Countries should worry less about the gap between high and low wages and more about jobs” the [OECD said](#) this week. Policies that boost jobs and productivity should be prioritized, they said.

UPDATE

Singapore Exchange ([SGX](#)) [announced](#) this week that it will partner with [Sustainalytics](#) to launch the SGX Sustainability Indices. Read more about other partnerships in our paper on [ESG Rating Agencies](#).

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

90

percent of its polluted agricultural land “safely usable” within four years, is the target set by China

70

percent of sodium consumed is already in food before it reaches the table, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

37

Chilean salmon farms are forced to reveal antibiotic use by court after stating such information would pose a “competition and commercial risk”

28

EU states have agreed that European cities will benefit from greater involvement in EU legislation on issues such as air pollution, climate adaptation and energy transition under the new Amsterdam Pact

25

percent of the power required by a 20 inch modern flat panel TV is needed for a newly developed solar TV, announced The Clean Energy Ministerial

17

studies reviewed showed that short and long-term exposure to air pollution from vehicle exhaust or burning coal is associated with high blood pressure

13.5

million women and 3.4 million children collect water in sub-Saharan Africa daily

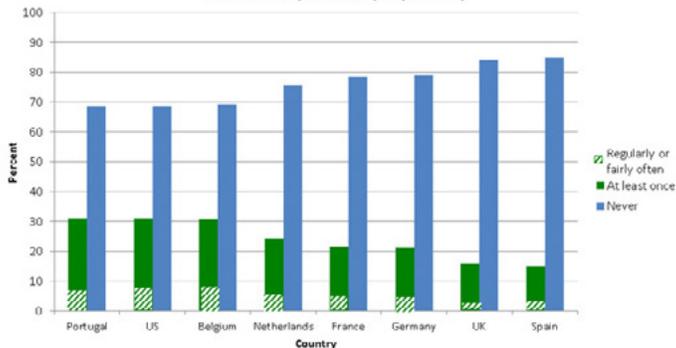
WORLD HERITAGE SITES UNDER THREAT; GREAT BARRIER REEF MISSING FROM REPORT!

A new [report](#) from the [UNESCO World Heritage Center](#) indicates that World Heritage icons are at risk from climate change. According to the report, many of the sites could be affected by [factors](#) including a rise in sea levels, intense storms and wildfires.

But wait, where is the Great Barrier Reef? It appears that the chapter describing damage to the Great Barrier Reef, is [missing](#). Turns out the Australian government requested that the section be cut fearing its impact on tourism.

CHART OF THE WEEK

Percent of those surveyed who had read or sent a text or email messages while driving regularly or fairly often, at least once, or never in the past 30 days by country



*Respondents were asked "In the past 30 days, how often have you read or sent a text message or email while you were driving?" Response choices were: "never," "just once," "rarely," "fairly often," and "regularly." Percentages of those who engaged "at least once" were defined as those who responded "regularly," "fairly often," "rarely," or "just once."
Data Sources: 2011 HealthStyles and 2011 EuroPHNVies

Source: CDC

INNOVATION OF THE WEEK

A small craft brewery in South Florida is doing their part to help oceanic pollution by creating biodegradable, edible packaging for beer six packs to reduce harm to birds and sea life. You don't want to miss this [video](#) about it.

WE'RE WATCHING...

The shift from salt to sugar. Beginning in July 2018 the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will require that packaged goods display how much sugar is added (as opposed to occurring naturally).

[READ MORE](#)

FOUR MORE COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS CARBON PRICING

Four North and South American nations—Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru—are set to start talks on ways to co-operate on carbon pricing, according to the [World Bank](#).

At the meetings at the end of this month in Chile, the four countries will discuss emission-reduction tools including markets and taxes.

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BELIEVE IT OR NOT

We've written quite a lot about the gender pay gap. Amongst adults. But now, it appears that a gender pay gap is emerging in the amount of pocket money UK parents give their children. Even at the tender age of under 15, it seems boys receive significantly more than girls.

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