

US POWER SECTOR DELIVERS ON LOWER EMISSIONS – BACK TO 1990 LEVELS

A new analysis of power plant emissions shows that the largest electric producers in the US – including [Duke](#), [Southern](#), [NextERA](#), and [Exelon](#) – continue to reduce emissions of key air pollutants (nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and mercury emissions).

Since 2000, emissions of all four major pollutants have dropped while total electricity generation and the American economy has grown. In fact, emissions dropped 15 percent between 2005-2014, and now are close to 1990 levels, according to the data. [READ MORE](#)

@SICMGMT TWEET OF THE WEEK

 HBR: The fastest-growing cause for shareholders is sustainability <https://goo.gl/Fdqmh0>

TERM OF THE WEEK

Flexitarian. Meat-free diets are growing in popularity for health and environmental reasons. Sales are soaring for 'once-fringe' items such as veggie burgers and almond milk. But can't commit to being a full vegetarian? Crave the occasional hamburger? A 'flexitarian' consciously chooses meatless options most of the time. 'Flexitarian-ism', the part-time vegetarian diet, has developed broader appeal because it helps us "balance food cravings with health and global sustainability."



COAL RESURGENCE IN CHINA AND INDIA

China: China is now building 200 gigawatts of coal-fired power capacity. But will it be "wasted"? Yes, says [Greenpeace](#). Although China's capacity grew 7.8 percent last year, consumption only grew by 0.5 percent.

India: India is also ramping up coal production and that is displacing the Adivasi tribe. Increased coal production has resulted in "members of the Adivasi tribe being displaced from their ancestral lands and forced to wait years to be resettled".

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THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

90

percent of the world's stocks of fish are now fully or overfished says the UN's FAO

50

million trees planted in 24 hours was the aim of the state of Uttar Pradesh (India)

62

billion US dollars is the estimated costs of the BP Gulf of Mexico spill to the company

33

trillion US Dollars is the forecasted loss in revenue to the fossil fuel industry over the next 25 years, according to Barclays

24

million US citizens are at risk of high lead from corrosive water

8

more Chinese provinces are to receive inspection teams to determine how well they are complying with state environment rules

5.5

meters above mean sea level will be the height at which a new terminal at Changi Airport (Singapore) will be built to ward off climate change

2.5

billion US Dollars is committed by CalSTRS to low-carbon strategies

THE ECONOMICS OF CLEAN AIR

How much are people willing to pay for clean air in China? Based on weighing the drag on productivity from medical costs, factory closures and traffic restrictions, economists think they know now: \$213 over five years, according to [a study](#). "Having a barometer

for people's willingness to pay for clean air can help leaders determine which policies are most effective in improving welfare," Ito, an assistant professor at the Harris School of Public Policy, said in a research summary.

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DID YOU SEE....?

Clouds are very telling. Recently they've been showing increasing evidence of climate change. It appears climate change may be shifting the clouds towards the poles. [READ MORE](#)

PROGRESS REPORT: ENDING POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

According to a list published on Thursday, most of the world's wealthiest countries failed to make progress toward reaching the UN's goals to end poverty and inequality, with only

Germany and the United Kingdom in the top ten. The United States ranked 25th on the index of 149 countries.

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NUCLEAR SLOW DOWN; NO NEW BUILDS

The number of new nuclear reaction construction projects that started in 2016: zero. The nuclear sector is facing [high costs](#) and lengthy delays. The last time there were

no new reactors started over a full year was in 1995, according to the World Nuclear Industry [Status Report 2016](#).

GOOD NEWS CORNER

Australia declared this week the AIDS epidemic is "no longer a public health issue" there, a month after the UN adopted an ambitious target to eliminate the threat globally by 2030. Furthermore, top scientists said the number of people being diagnosed with AIDS in Australia was "now so small it was no longer reported". [READ MORE](#)

WHAT WE'RE READING



[UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017](#)
July 2016

Every five years the UK Government undertakes an assessment of current and future risk to the country from climate change

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Italy is looking to sell 22 old fossil-fuel power plants. Potential buyer? Amazon.

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