

SEC ENCOURAGED TO IMPROVE SUSTAINABILITY DISCLOSURES

Dozens of institutional investors have submitted letters to the SEC requesting that the agency require stronger reporting of 'material' sustainability risks such as climate change, water scarcity and global deforestation. One letter, signed by 45 investors, including USD 300bn CalPERS, read: "Based on our experience with these issues, we believe it is critical for

the SEC to improve reporting of material sustainability risks in issuers' SEC filings, both because such disclosure is mandated by current law and because we need it to make informed investment and proxy voting decisions." The letters were in response to the SEC's call for public comment on several disclosure topics.

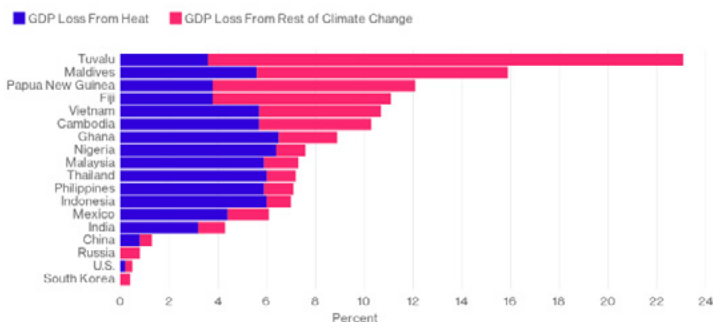
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@SICMGMT TWEET OF THE WEEK

Key message in Kevin Parker's opening remarks at #CSRInvesting: Markets are already pricing #ESG factors. That is true test of materiality

GRAPHIC OF THE WEEK

Too hot to work: Rising temperatures will restrict productivity



Source: Health and Environment International Trust; Bloomberg

ARE BOARD SEATS FOR ACTIVIST SHAREHOLDERS A THING OF THE PAST?

Several of the world's largest institutional investors are pushing back on an age old practice to give board seats to activists to avoid a "public fight". The investors, including Norges Bank, are instead encouraging companies to consult

them before responding to an activist, noting that giving seats to activists may jeopardize the company's long-term performance.

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THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

700,000

barrels per day of oil production has been lost in Nigeria from attacks by the Niger Delta Avengers

338

of China's largest cities have recorded more clean air days in the first half of 2016 compared to the same period last year said the Environment Ministry

280

million tons of coal is the expected decline in China's coal production per year according to the National Development and Reform Commission

49.3

million trees from 80 different species were planted in 24 hours in Uttar Pradesh, India

36.7

million people live with HIV

20

billion yuan of green bonds were issued by China's Industrial Bank

3

US states plan new lawsuits against Volkswagen

THE STATE OF SUSTAINABILITY IN EUROPE

A recent study conducted by [Union Investment](#) surveyed the landscape of European institutional investors, revealing that 63% of investors have integrated sustainability criteria into their investment process. When the numbers were further dissected into specific regions, they show that Scandinavia (Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway) is leading the pack while the Netherlands and UK are fighting for last.

However, when considering the proportion of total assets invested sustainably, the

Netherlands and UK rank among the top three European regions, indicating that once committed, they take it seriously.

The study went on to investigate why there were still hesitations for other European institutional investors to adopt similar sustainability criteria. It was discovered that the top two roadblocks were “the lack of demand from customers or stakeholders” and “concern about lower expected returns.”

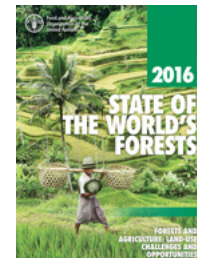
READ THE STUDY [HERE](#)

DID YOU SEE?

Lagos, Nigeria, Africa's largest city, joins [Chengdu, China](#) in cracking down on "noise pollution". The city is closing dozens of mosques, churches and nightclubs in hopes of reducing noise for its 20 million residents.

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WHAT WE'RE READING



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
[2016 State of the World's Forests](#)
July 2016

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...



Canada's Environment Minister Catherine McKenna said that by the end of this year the country will have a [national price](#) on carbon emissions.

AIR POLLUTION AND FRACKING: DOES FRACKING EXACERBATE ASTHMA?

A new study by [JAMA Internal Medicine](#) found an increased risk of mild, moderate, and severe asthma exacerbations associated with unconventional natural gas development

(UNGD), otherwise known as "fracking". Whether these associations are causal awaits further investigation, including more detailed exposure assessment. [READ MORE](#)

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

A group of scientists tested the blood lead levels of feral pigeons in New York City (825 of them!) to determine seasons and neighborhoods of the highest lead toxicity.

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