

INSIGHTS

For the Mainstream Investor

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 2, 2016 EDITION 171



EU'S RENEWABLE FUTURE

EU renewable energy market reform may boost industry

In a 1,000-page reform, the European Commission outlined its plan to cut emissions and help Europe meet its renewable energy goals. EU regulators want to see [renewables powering half of Europe](#) by 2030. The reform includes plans to cut energy use, phase out subsidies for coal and enforce greater cross-border trade.

The EU may clash with governments that want to continue to subsidize conventional power and maintain control over the grid. For example, Poland objected to provisions that could threaten its coal-mining industry while Germany criticized a lack of support for wind and solar power.

UK SOCIAL INVESTMENTS

UK Law Commission to look at social investments

The UK Law Commission, the country's independent statutory body which reviews UK law, will look at social investment by pension funds, as requested by the government. The UK government hopes to encourage the country's pension funds to engage in social and impact investing.

The Minister for Civil Society, Rob Wilson said: "this is an important piece of work by the Law Commission which should contribute to mainstreaming social investment through investment of capital by pension schemes. The right social impact investments can fit the return profile needed by pensions as well as delivering positive outcomes for society." [READ MORE](#)

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

2018

is the proposed date for a new Swedish airline tax which varies by distance flown

411

billion US Dollars annually is the forecasted cost to the US economy caused by a lack of sleep among the working population

50.8

miles per gallon is the present target for average US fuel economy by 2025, up from the current 35.3

40

percent is the reduction in sugar content that Nestle can achieve naturally by altering crystal structure (subscription required)

1.3

million USD savings realized per emissions-reduction initiative as part of the CDP supply-chain program

1

Celsius (1.8F) increase in global temperatures is forecasted to release an additional 55 billion tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere

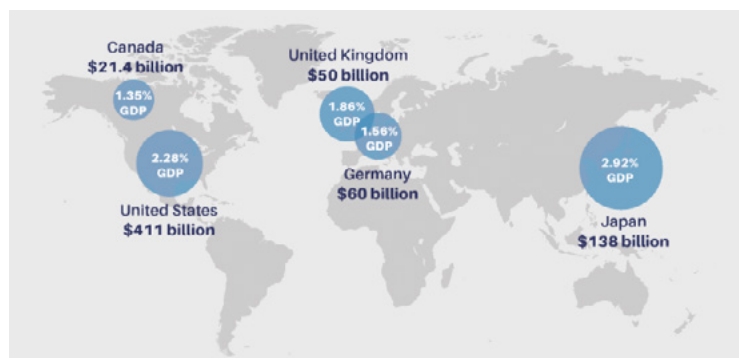
GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK

With coal use down across North America, mercury levels are declining in our air and our oceans and our fish!

[READ MORE](#)

INFOGRAPHIC OF THE WEEK

Map showing the economic costs of insufficient sleep expressed annually and as a % of GDP



Source: [RAND Corporation](#)

The above research materials are for informational purposes only. They are not an offer or solicitation for any security or investment product managed by SICM and should not be construed as investment advice. Investment strategies implemented by SICM on behalf of its clients may or may not trade or hold positions in the securities referred to above. Further, investment accounts managed by SICM may or may not employ strategies based on or related to the above research.

UK PENSION BATTLE

Pension refuses to disclose fossil fuel investments

British politicians are upset that their own pension scheme refuses to disclose how much of the £600m fund is [invested in potentially risky fossil fuel companies](#).

Two senior British politicians have "accused the trustees overseeing their pension scheme of behaving in an opaque and obstructive manner", and want greater transparency.

"Parliamentarians should be leading the way on tackling climate change, yet our pension fund is utterly untransparent" said Caroline Lucas, co-leader of the UK's Green Party.

COFFEE CUP RECYCLING

UK coffee chain to begin recycling cups

Costa Coffee, the UK's largest coffee chain, has launched a recycling scheme for its takeaway cups (AND the takeaway cups of its competitors). The 2,000+ store chain is rolling out 'recycling racks' in all stores at the end of January with a clear message that "we recycle any paper takeaway cup, no matter what brand".

The cups – up to 30 million per year the company estimates – will be taken to processing plants that have the capacity to recycle takeaway cups.

[READ MORE](#)

WHAT WE'RE READING



Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis

[The Dutch Coal Mistake: How Three Brand-New Power Plants in the Netherlands Are at Risk Already of Becoming Stranded Assets](#)

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This week [Amnesty International](#) published a "damning [new report](#)" into the practices of major consumer goods multinationals around forced labor, child employment and dangerous working conditions within the palm oil supply chain. [READ MORE](#)

THIS WEEK'S CHATTER

“

I think it's a good thing that I meet people all over the world who don't always share my opinion. The climate negotiations with President Barack Obama were a bit easier, but before that it wasn't very easy.

– German Chancellor Angela Merkel in a town-hall meeting in which she signalled that she will challenge President-elect Donald Trump on his skeptical views of climate change [READ MORE](#)

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Data center is the new power plant. At least that's what Amazon is hoping. The online retailer is in talks with an Italian energy company about converting old power stations into data centers.

[READ MORE](#)