

# INSIGHTS

## For the Mainstream Investor

WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 10, 2017 EDITION 180



### ENGAGEMENT: THE GUIDE

*How a reference guide led to improved engagement on fracking*

PRI has launched a [guide](#) to help investors address fracking risks called Engaging with oil and gas companies on fracking: an investor guide. The purpose of the report is to address the fracking risks that may be of concern to investors, such as operational risks, reputational risk and social license to operate.

Moreover, the guide includes case studies from some of the 41 PRI signatories, with assets under management of USD 5.1 trillion, who engaged with around 30 companies on fracking.

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### DID YOU SEE...?

Scientists from the University of Exeter found that antibiotics can actually stimulate bacterial reproduction. [READ MORE](#)

### LOW CARBON DISRUPTION

*Are renewables set to displace fossil fuels sooner than many think?*

A new [report](#) by the Carbon Tracker Initiative asks this question: Can corporate strategies continue to be based on 'business as usual' scenarios? The study outlines the potential for continued cost reductions in solar photovoltaics (PV) and electric vehicle (EV) technologies to displace demand for currently dominant fossil fuels and mitigate CO2 emissions. [READ MORE](#)

### WE'RE WATCHING

Passive funds insist they care about corporate governance. Many critics say that passive investment strategies don't reward good governance of companies and point to a general "unease over a weakening of [corporate governance pressures](#) caused by the rapid growth of passive investing." However, some of the largest passive investors, including BlackRock, have significantly increased their corporate governance resources over the past three years.

### THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

2016

was the most active year for securities litigation outside North America, according to [ISS](#)

82

percent of US adults believe that healthy children should be required to be vaccinated

77.4

GW of PV capacity was installed in China at the end of 2016, making it the biggest producer of solar energy by capacity

46

percent reduction in carbon emissions since 1990 is claimed by the UK's Food and Drink Federation

25

percent increase in US solar jobs was recorded last year according to the [Solar Foundation](#)

12

billion US Dollars of repairs are required at US National Park sites, according to the Pew Charitable Trusts

3

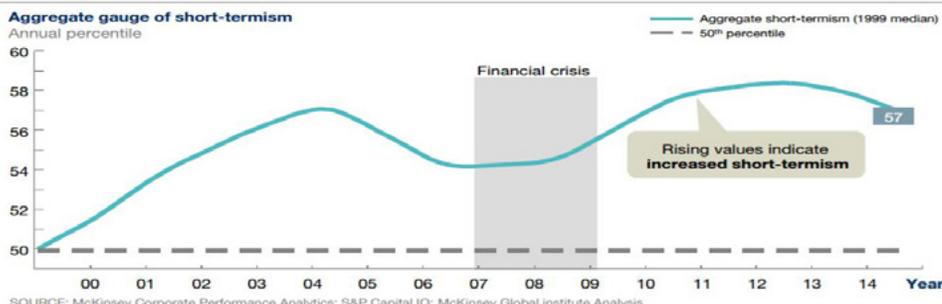
billion US\$ is the proposed investment in renewables announced by Iran

2.1

billion US\$ is the appeal by the UN to provide urgent assistance to those facing famine in Yemen

### INFOGRAPHIC OF THE WEEK

*Short-termism is on the rise*



Source: [McKinsey & Company](#)

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### GENDER DIVERSITY

*Insight into global gender diversity*

The [report card](#) is in: there is some progress getting women on boards, but it's slow.

While the rate of women being promoted to boards has slowed for the first time, the overall global ratio of male to female directors for new appointments remained on average at three males to one female. In Russia, the rate is nearly eight to one and in China it is 18 to one.

In the US, board diversity has stagnated, with women making up a fifth of boards, a 1 per cent increase since 2012. [READ MORE](#)

### MEASURING IMPACT

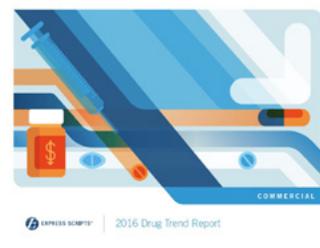
*Make the measurement of impact investing independent*

A new paper, commissioned by the European Commission's Directorate-General Environment and written by the Science Communication Unit at the University of the West of England, Bristol, says that it's vital that the measurement of impact investment is independent.

The paper, [Future Brief: Environmental impact investment](#) notes that the "assessment of investment impact will be more reliable if it has not been paid for by the organisation being assessed, as well as independent."

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### WHAT WE'RE READING



Express Scripts  
The US Drug Trend Report

### DINNER PARTY FODDER

The U.S. solar industry employs more than twice as many Americans as the entire coal industry and just as many Americans as the natural gas industry.

### IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

A shareholder resolution requesting that [Sanderson Farms](#), the third-largest U.S. poultry producer, phase out antibiotics failed to pass this week. The company says it is a "low-cost producer of quality, wholesome and safe poultry products, and that its customers are not demanding antibiotic-free chicken." But critics are concerned that use of antibiotics are linked to the increase in human infections and drug-resistant bacteria. [READ MORE](#)

## In 2016 . . .

- **260,077 solar workers, a 25% increase over 2015**
- **Solar jobs have increased at least 20% per year for the past four years**
- **One in 50 new U.S. jobs were in the solar industry**

### BELIEVE IT OR NOT

After taking power, the new government of Ghana is facing an unusual challenge. It appears that 200 cars are missing (yup, just gone) from the presidential fleet. That's one way to reduce your carbon footprint!

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