

INSIGHTS

For the Mainstream Investor

WEEK ENDING MARCH 17, 2017 EDITION 185



THE WORLD'S MOST ETHICAL CO'S

Companies focus on sustainability and 'long-termism'

The [Ethisphere Institute](#) released its list of 124 companies – spanning five continents, 19 countries and 52 industry sectors – which represent the [2017 World's Most Ethical Companies®](#).

The companies were [measured](#) on the impact of their actions on their employees, investors, customers and other key stakeholders.

"Over the last eleven years we have seen an impressive shift in societal expectations, aggressive emergence of new laws and regulation and geopolitical swings that can further disrupt the balance" said Ethisphere CEO, Timothy Erblich.

SHADES OF GREEN

Increasing green bond sophistication

What's the difference between a 'dark green bond' and a 'light green bond'? Investors spent the week at the green bond industry's largest annual event discussing this question. In short, dark green bonds adhere to the strictest environmental criteria, while ones described as having a lighter shade can be used to back a broader array of projects.

[Financial innovation](#) is creating new types of green bonds which is crucial to meet the growing demand. "We have to make [green investing] palatable to institutional investors. Green bonds are the best instrument to do this" said Michael Sheren, an adviser to the Bank of England.

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

80,000

Audi diesel cars are under investigation by German prosecutors over emission tests

1,172

mile Dakota Access pipeline won a further court case to progress with construction

400

to 800 million tons of prey annually are killed by spiders globally

90

percent of monkeys in 2 Brazilian States have died from yellow fever

31

percent reduction (US\$ 2.6bn) in the funding of the EPA is proposed in the recent White House budget proposal

24

March is World Tuberculosis (TB) day. Last year 10.4 million people were ill with TB.

17

million people are viewed as at emergency or crisis levels of food insecurity in Yemen

3

million plastic bottles are used by Americans every hour but less than 30% are recycled

2.8

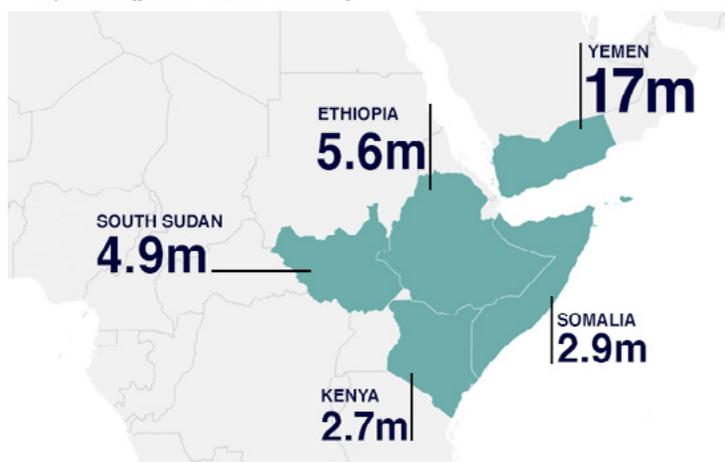
million people in the UK now have type 2 diabetes, treble the number 20 years ago

INFOGRAPHIC OF THE WEEK

The United Nations: "The world is facing its biggest humanitarian crisis since the end of World War II."

Food crisis

People facing severe food insecurity



Numbers show those facing "severe food insecurity" using the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification system.

Source: ReliefWeb, WFP



Source: [BBC](#)

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CITIES LEAD ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Mayors drive sustainability policies

Cities are out-pacing national governments in their efforts to curb climate change. More than [2,500 cities have issued plans](#) to cut carbon emissions to the United Nations since late 2014. In fact, many cities have set more ambitious goals than many of the countries which signed on to the Paris Accord in December 2015.

The [Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy](#) is a global initiative of local governments fighting climate change. [Women mayors](#) are also leading the way as evidenced in this New York City [event](#) this week.

Also see [Sustainable Insights 2017 predictions](#) for more on what may be next for cities.

PATENT LEADERSHIP

China leads on growth

Patent applications in China set new record in 2015. Innovators filed more than a million applications for the first time ever within a single year amid "rising worldwide demand for intellectual property rights."

In addition, trademark applications jumped by 15.3% to about 6 million in 2015, as worldwide industrial design applications grew by 2.3% to 872,800.

The U.S., Japan and Germany still hold the top three spots for most patent applications filed abroad.

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WHAT WE'RE READING



Mercer
[2017 Quality of living rankings](#)
Vienna remains in the top position



Harvard Business School
[Why and How Investors Use ESG Information: Evidence from a Global Survey](#)

WE'RE WATCHING

Is burning wood for energy good or bad for the environment? A recent report claiming that burning wood (biomass) is worse for the planet than burning coal sparked a disagreement amongst academics.

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DID YOU SEE...?

Machine learning may help to distribute renewable power in the UK. Google's artificial intelligence group, DeepMind, is in discussions with the UK's National Grid to use artificial intelligence to help balance energy supply and demand in Britain.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



I agree that the effects of a changing climate — such as increased maritime access to the Arctic, rising sea levels, desertification, among others — impact our security situation.

— US Defense Secretary James Mattis



BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Pouncer: The edible drone (yes, you read that correctly) that delivers medicine and other aid.

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