

INSIGHTS

For the Mainstream Investor

WEEK ENDING MARCH 31, 2017 EDITION 187



CLEAN POWER PLAN REVERSAL

Trump to dismantle Obama's legacy?

Flanked by coal miners, President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Tuesday that eliminates several [restrictions](#) on fossil fuel production. Throughout his campaign, Trump accused former president Obama of waging "a war" against coal as he campaigned in economically depressed swaths of states like West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

He [stopped short](#) of withdrawing the U.S. from the landmark Paris accord on climate change negotiated by former president Obama.

DID YOU SEE...?

[AkzoNobel](#), the Dutch chemical and coatings company, aims to be carbon neutral by 2050. And [AB InBev](#) is going 100% renewables by 2025.

SUSTAINABLE ASSETS RISE

25% growth since 2014

The Global Sustainable Investment Alliance ([GSIA](#)) published its biennial Global Sustainable Investment Review. It found that global sustainable investment assets reached USD 22.89 trillion at the start of 2016, a 25% increase from 2014. The GSIA brings together the results from regional market studies by the sustainable investment forums from Europe, the United States, Canada, and Australia and New Zealand and Japan. [READ THE PRESS RELEASE](#)

WE'RE WATCHING

Bulgaria wants an exemption from the European Commission's proposed regulations on big thermal power plants, saying they would pose risks to the country's energy security and economic competitiveness. [READ MORE](#)

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

946

Assembly Bill would give CalPERS and CalSTRS 12 months to sell any holdings in companies working on the Trump border wall

423

million US Dollars has been received by the UN following its \$4.4billion famine appeal

300

drugs suspended by European Medicines Agency following unreliable test results

95

percent of the value of plastic packaging material is lost to the economy as it is used only once

92

percent of investors want companies to explicitly identify ESG factors that materially affect performance, says State Street

62.4

years is the average age of all S&P 500 board directors

60

percent more fuel than advertised is the finding from Australia's first major on-road vehicle emissions test

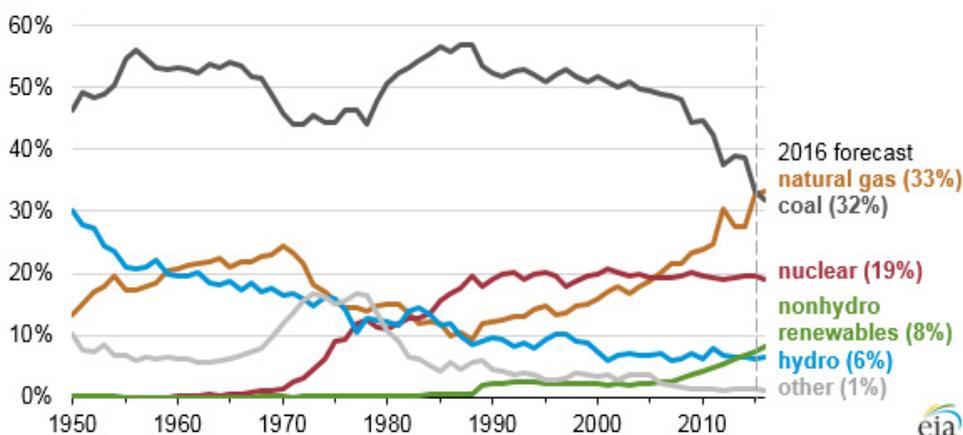
22.9

trillion US Dollars of assets globally are invested in sustainable strategies

INFOGRAPHIC OF THE WEEK

US electricity generation by source (1950-2016)

Annual share of total U.S. electricity generation by source (1950-2016)
percent of total



Source: [US EIA](#)

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FEDERAL VS STATE REGULATORS

California sticks with emission targets

After President Donald Trump's recent actions to dismantle climate regulations, California's clean-air agency voted unanimously for the state to push ahead with its [strict emissions standards](#) for cars and trucks, setting up a "potential legal battle with the Trump administration over the state's plan to reduce planet-warming gases."

The White House was not pleased. "We are disappointed that California has chosen to refuse our good-faith offer to work together with all relevant stakeholders on this important matter," [said a White House official](#).

California is hoping this could have a [national impact](#).

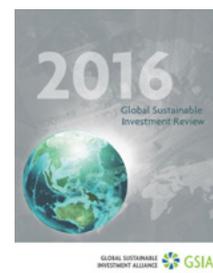
CORAL BLEACHING SHOCK

Reefs heat up more than the ocean

Coral bleaching is even worse than scientists have previously thought. Scientists have found that bleached coral reefs in the South China Sea have heated up substantially more than the surrounding ocean, making them more vulnerable to climate change.

"Ocean temperatures are already warming due to climate change," says Thomas DeCarlo, a researcher at the University of Western Australia. "But what we've shown is that on top of that, local weather anomalies or processes like reduced wind can drive reef temperatures even higher," he says. "That compounds the risk that corals are facing." [READ MORE](#)

WHAT WE'RE READING



Global Sustainable Investment Alliance
Trends Report



RepRisk
Most Controversial Projects 2016 Report

GOOD NEWS...

Will captured CO₂ provide an energy storage solution? Scientists in the US and China are researching whether captured carbon-dioxide pollution can be used in an energy-storage system that can back up clean sources like solar and wind. [READ MORE](#)

...BAD NEWS

Childhood exposure to lead affects the IQ and socioeconomic status for decades. A study from New Zealand has found that lead exposure in childhood was significantly associated with lower cognitive function and socioeconomic status at age 38 years. [READ MORE](#)

DID YOU KNOW

The UN [definition of famine?](#)

1. 20% of households face extreme food shortages
2. Acute malnutrition exceeds 30%
3. The death rate exceeds 2 persons per day per 10,000

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

This counts as (nearly) walking on water – women's flats made from plastic water bottles.

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

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