

INSIGHTS

For the Mainstream Investor

WEEK ENDING APRIL 28, 2017 EDITION 191



AMERICANS: ENVIRONMENTALISTS?

An Earth Day view

In honor of this past week's celebration of Earth Day, we're sharing some recent stats from the [Pew Research Center](#) on America's view towards the environment. Last year, the research organization found that about three-quarters of U.S. adults (74%) said "the country should do whatever it takes to protect the environment," compared with 23% who said "the country has gone too far in its efforts to protect the environment."

However, it is deeply divided on party lines. Democrats and Democratic leaners (72%) are about twice as likely as Republicans and Republican leaners (35%) to cite protecting the environment as a top priority for Congress and the president.

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COAL FREE BRITAIN

For a day at least

Last week, the UK celebrated a different kind of "Earth Day". Friday marked "the first **24-hour period** since the industrial revolution when no coal was burnt anywhere in Britain to generate electricity." The use of coal-fired power in the country is in decline as it makes a push towards renewables and natural gas.

Coal's share of the UK's power generation is down to 9.2 percent and is being **phased out** completely.

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DID YOU KNOW...?

...May is National Walking Month.

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THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

2040

is the estimated date by which the Arctic will be ice-free in the summer

74.2

million JPY (USD 666 thousand) is the highest price recorded for a Bluefin tuna

50

percent of agricultural soils cultivated for cereal production are potentially zinc deficient

48

percent of Fortune 5000 companies have at least one climate or clean energy target

31

percent of fish stocks are at biologically unsustainable levels

25

million people are unable to get to school because of military conflict

12

Directors at Wells Fargo, of the 15 on the Board, should be voted against according to Institutional Shareholder Services recommendation

4

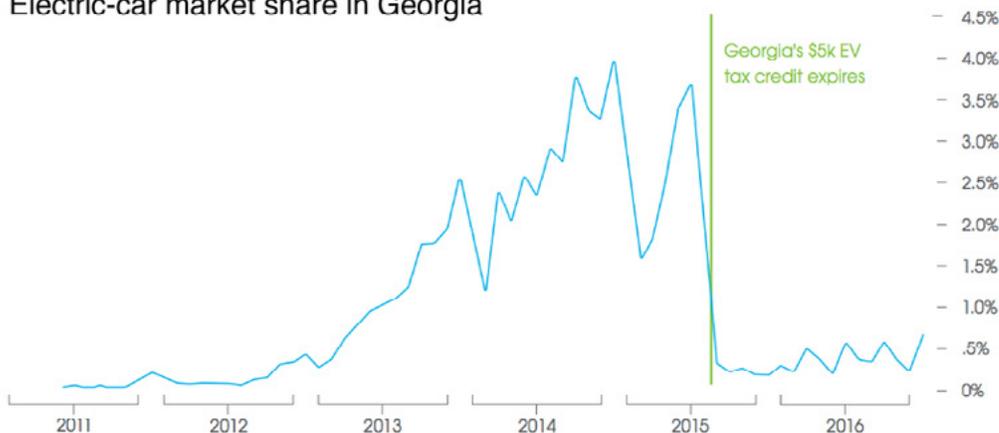
million people, from 40 ethnic groups, inhabit the Arctic region

INFOGRAPHIC OF THE WEEK

When tax credits expire on electric cars

An Experiment in Subsidies

Electric-car market share in Georgia



Source: [Bloomberg](#)

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FUTURE OF OIL-BASED PRODUCTS

Even oil companies are a 2030 peak

Are oil companies betting on peak oil? One of the world's largest oil producers, [Total SA](#), has gone on record saying that electric vehicles may constitute a third of new car sales by the end of the next decade. But what will happen when [subsidies](#) come to an end? Demand might tank (see Infographic on page 1).

Meanwhile, [Royal Dutch Shell Plc](#) Chief Executive Officer, Ben van Beurden, said in March that oil demand may peak in the late 2020s. The company has set up a business unit to identify [clean technologies](#).

DID YOU SEE?

The Economist briefing on '[The Arctic](#)'. TL;DR: With current trends, the Arctic will be ice-free by 2040.

GOOD NEWS

A bacterial sensor is now being used to help locate [landmines](#) remotely.

PENSIONS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Is there a worrying connection?

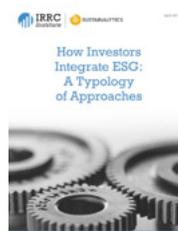
Retirement savings are vulnerable to climate change, says Liberal leader John Hewson of Australia. Dr. Hewson has said that mandatory disclosure of climate risks was needed to prevent an "Australian train wreck".

Asset Owners Disclosure Project ([AODP](#))'s new rankings show many of the world's 500 largest asset owners, including some of Australia's biggest superannuation funds, are taking a more active approach to protecting their portfolios from climate change risks. The survey by the [AODP](#) said there had been a 19 per cent increase in the number of pension funds, insurance companies and sovereign wealth funds that were taking action in response to climate change. [READ MORE](#)

BAD NEWS

12 million Colombians at risk from the effects of [climate change](#) including the risk of natural disasters, such as flooding and landslides.

WHAT WE'RE READING



IIRC Institute and Sustainalytics

[How Investors Integrate ESG: A Typology of Approaches](#)



WWF

[How American Companies are setting clean energy targets and capturing greater business value](#)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ The direction of travel is that both in the UK and globally we are already moving towards a low carbon economy. It is a clear message to any new government that they should prioritise making the UK a world leader in [clean, green, technology](#). ”

—Hannah Martin, head of energy at Greenpeace UK

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Does a caterpillar provide an answer to plastic pollution?
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