

# INSIGHTS

## For the Mainstream Investor

WEEK ENDING MAY 26, 2017 EDITION 195



### EXXONMOBIL PUSHES BACK

*Responds to shareholders*

ExxonMobil pushes back against shareholder demands that the company take [account of the impact](#) that climate change could have on its businesses. The company sent a detailed response to proxy advisory firms ISS and Glass Lewis after they [came out in support of a shareholder resolution](#), saying they "fail to recognize" that it already does address a 2-degree Celsius scenario in its disclosures.

Meanwhile, a New York State Appeals Court ruled that the oil giant should turn over records in [an investigation](#) into "how much the company knew about global warming as it continued to publicly downplay the effects it was expected to have on the fossil fuel industry".

### DID YOU SEE?

The global seed vault will receive enhanced protection as permafrost melts. [READ MORE](#)

### FRANKFURT'S SUSTAINABLE PITCH

*Aiming to be sustainable hub*

The [Frankfurt Stock Exchange](#) wants to become a sustainable finance hub, encouraging participants to sign the Frankfurt Declaration to declare intent to build sustainable financial sector infrastructures. "The participants in the Frankfurt Sustainable Finance Initiative aim to actively work together on the basis of their own core business, towards implementing sustainable milestones," the exchange said in a statement.

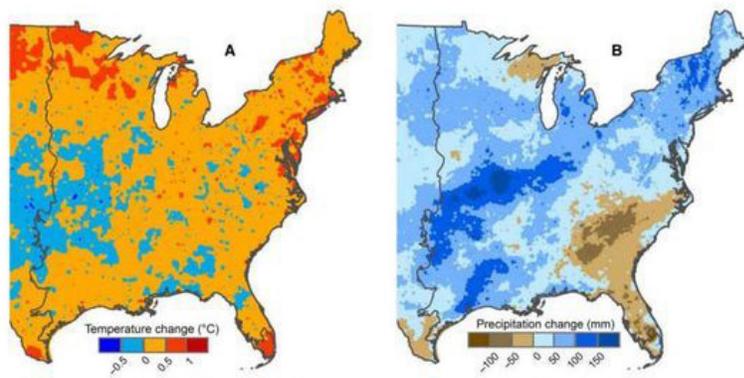
[READ MORE](#)

### WORTH A LOOK

According to researchers, a warmer, wetter climate may be pushing tree species into new ranges on the East Coast. For example, the Eastern white pine is going west, while the Eastern cottonwood is headed north. See images below.

### INFOGRAPHIC OF THE WEEK

*The warmer, wetter climate depicted below is leading to tree species moving into new ranges (see 'Worth a Look' above).*



Source: [Science Advances](#)

### THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

89

of the UK's local government pension funds are to discuss draft guidance on ESG

61

% of the general public in 8 countries consider the world more insecure today compared with 2 years ago

17.1

% was the return of the Church of England's GBP7.9bn (USD 9.2bn) portfolio, last year

16.6

bn AUD Adani coal mine project in Queensland, Australia has been stopped as the national and state governments wrangle

9.8

million people were employed in the renewable energy industry last year

6.3

% of Royal Dutch Shell shareholders supported a climate resolution

5

% boost to the G20 economies is possible by tackling climate change rather than continuing with present policies

4.7

% was the decline in Chinese coal consumption last year

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Sustainable Insight  
CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

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### SWISS WILL PHASE OUT NUCLEAR

*Vote approved gradual withdrawal*

This week Switzerland approved a revision to the country's energy policy that [promotes the use of renewable energy sources](#) and energy conservation. The revised plan also prohibits the construction of new nuclear power plants. However, while the plan expands use of renewables and hydro power, it "anticipates increased reliance on fossil fuels and electricity imports as an interim measure."

Nuclear power presently accounts for 40% of the electricity generated in Switzerland. See the country's current nuclear power plan [HERE](#).

### TIME TO SAY GOODBYE...?

...to the polar bear as an image of climate change? Adam Corner, research director at Climate Outreach, an Oxford-based think tank that aims to boost public engagement on climate change says the climate change movement should have a more people-centric image associated with it.

"There's nothing wrong with polar bears," he said. "But they're very distancing images. They identify climate change as something that happens far away where most people's lives aren't. They don't do justice to the richness of the human experience of climate change."

### TERM OF THE WEEK

#### 'Recycling gap'

While 75% of the waste stream in the US is recyclable, just 30% actually gets recycled. That 45% 'wasted opportunity' (pun intended) is the so-called 'recycling gap'. Nestlé Waters North America is trying to close this gap by investing in a 'closed loop fund' to support recycling infrastructure in the US.

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### AUSTRALIAN ETHICAL INVESTING

*62% growth in assets*

Ethical investing is on the rise in Australia. Ethical fund [assets grew 62 per cent in 2015 to \\$52 billion](#), shows the latest Responsible Investment Association Australasia (RIAA) Benchmark Report. The sector has doubled in two years as responsible investing redefines the investment landscape.

"We have always believed that ethical investing will come of age and be part of the mainstream rather than a fringe sector," says Australian Ethical Investment managing director, Phillip Vernon. "It's happening. People no longer believe the myth that they have to make sacrifices on portfolio returns when investing in ethical funds."

### WE'RE WATCHING

NATO warns on climate change in the Middle East. [READ MORE](#)

### CONGRATULATIONS!

The World Health Organization (WHO) has a new director: Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. He served as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ethiopia from 2012–2016 and as Minister of Health, Ethiopia from 2005–2012. Press release [HERE](#)

### WHAT WE'RE READING



IRENA

The Renewable Energy  
and Jobs Annual Review  
2017

### BELIEVE IT OR NOT

A UK firm has designed a solar-powered lamp that retails for USD 5.

[READ MORE](#)