

INSIGHTS

For the Mainstream Investor

WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 29, 2017 EDITION 213



SEA CHANGE FOR ESG?

Perhaps...

[Greenwich Associates](#) interviewed 150 institutional investors in North America about ESG investing. Interviewees included pension funds, endowments, foundations and investment consultants. It [found](#) that 27% of them use environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards in their investment portfolios. Greenwich state in their press release that, 'The relatively widespread adoption of ESG among institutional investors is a recent development in North America'.

It notes that about half of the current users started using ESG in the last three years, with endowments and foundations the earliest adopters. The report also indicates that 60% of institutions which have not yet used ESG in their portfolios, are open to doing so in the future.

RISING SEA LEVELS

Sue the oil companies

A number of US cities, which include San Francisco, Oakland and San Diego as well as the counties of Marin and San Mateo, have [sued major oil companies](#) for damages over sea level changes.

The latest suit claims that oil, gas and coal producers emitted heat-trapping gases, causing sea levels to rise and did so knowingly. Oil majors BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil and Shell. In the past, attempts to tie particular companies to the problem have been ineffective. Will improving scientific data change the legal balance?

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

815

undernourished people in the world in 2016, up from 777 million in the previous year, states the FAO

85

billion US\$ of insured losses caused by Hurricane Maria estimates [AIR Worldwide](#)

80

percent of 2016 total primary energy supply is sourced from fossil fuels according to the IEA

75

companies in the S&P 500 have issued negative EPS guidance and 43 positive guidance for the third quarter

41

million children globally are estimated to be overweight according to WHO

29

billion US\$ has been mobilized by the [Green Bank Network](#) for public and private capital by clean energy projects

25

percent of India's final energy demand in 2030 could be met by renewables says IRENA

11

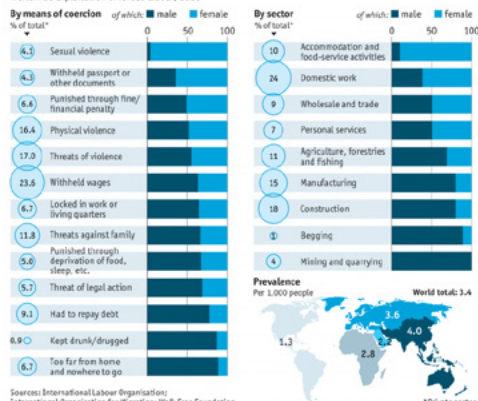
US\$ is promised by Target (TGT US) this year as its minimum hourly wage, rising to \$15 by 2020

INFOGRAPHICS OF THE WEEK

Modern slavery is disturbingly common

Not free to choose

Worldwide exploitation of forced labour, 2016



Source: [The Economist](#)

Electric car adoption by CleanTechnica

S-Curve of Consumer Adoption

Electric Car Adoption Overlay, via CleanTechnica / Zach Shahan



Source: [Dent Research](#)

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Sustainable Insight
CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

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SCIENCE NEWS

What and who to believe

So where do US citizens go to learn the latest scientific facts and how concerned are they about 'fake science'? The [Pew Research Center](#) has released an interesting [blog](#) looking into these issues. It finds that most people rely on general news outlets for science news but the public believe they only get their science facts correct 28% of the time.

However, the 12% of the public who rely on science and technology centers and museums, believe they get their science facts right 54% of the time. In terms of trusting the source, next in line are documentaries (trusting them 52% of the time) followed by science magazines (47%). Government agencies are believed to get their scientific facts correct only 29% of the time while advocacy organizations are at 22% and are only used by 6% of the US public.

WE'RE WATCHING

The popularity of sugar taxes has been slowly increasing, but not in [Australia](#). A suggestion by health officials that the tax would help tackle the obesity issue, was dismissed by the Prime Minister. He prefers labeling as the solution.

UK CONSULTANTS ADVISE ON ESG

Publicizing the regulator's guidance

At the end of March, The Pensions Regulator (TPR) in the UK, issued investment [guidance](#) for defined benefit (DB) pension schemes. This followed on from earlier guidance for defined contribution (DC) pension funds, in mid-2016.

Now twelve investment [consultants](#) – including Aon Hewitt, Mercer & Willis Towers Watson – have decided to raise the awareness of TPR's guidance in relation to ESG issues by joining forces with the Association of Member Nominated Trustees ([AMNT](#)) and the UK's Sustainable Investment and Finance Association ([UKSIF](#)).

DID YOU SEE?

Facebook has decided that it will not [reclassify](#) its shares. The plan was that Facebook would create a new class of shares, allowing its chairman, Mark Zuckerberg to retain control of the company while giving away more of his wealth.

GOOD NEWS

A research [study](#) on sea turtles has found a meaningful increase in their numbers. All seven sea turtle species were measured over an average of 16 years. Areas off Australia, Africa, the Americas and Asia were included in the analysis.

READING LIST



Key World Energy Statistics 2017 by the International Energy Agency



Floating Foundations: A game changer for offshore wind by IRENA



FINANCIAL TIMES

The future of coal in seven charts by the financial Times

LISTENING LIST



Health Check
How much does gender affect teens' health?

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

A 250m 'fatberg' (congealed mass of fat and wipes) found in London's sewage network, is being broken down and used as biodiesel, all 130 tonnes! [READ MORE](#)

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