

# INSIGHTS

## For the Mainstream Investor

WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 10, 2017 EDITION 219



### THE 250 GLOBAL GIANTS

*Disappointing progress on emissions*

The Global 250 (G250) is a diverse group of publicly traded companies that consists of the world's largest emitters. Together they represent about one-third of annual anthropogenic emissions, when their value chains are included. So says a [report](#) by Thomson Reuters. The top 5 of G250 will surprise few – Coal India, Gazprom, Exxon Mobil, Thyssenkrupp & China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation – but what is worrying is the poor progress on emissions being made. As the G250 is so important, if they fail to make progress, climate change targets will not be met. In the past three years emissions from this group were flat while they should be declining about 3% per annum. One of the co-authors [comments](#) 'that only about 30% of the 250 firms had set strong goals to curb them'.

### HOW US CONSUMERS THINK

*Nearly 70% want more detail on corporate sustainability*

In a [report](#) by the consultancy company, The Hartman Group, of the 1,500 US consumers surveyed, 69% would like to see more transparency from companies about their sustainability practices. The information requested covers a company's values, policies and practices, and openness between the company and its customers. The Hartman Group's CEO [stated](#), 'Consumers associate transparency with how authentically committed a company is to ethical action'. The top ten US companies identified by consumers as the most transparent were: Amazon, Apple, Chick-fil-A, Coca-Cola, Google, Microsoft, Starbucks, Target, Walmart and Whole Foods Market.

### THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

930

journalists have been killed in the past 11 years

100

billion in sustainable financing and investment is promised by HSBC, by 2025

75

percent of listed French companies have or have had one person as Chairman and CEO

16

European coal plants have been retired since January 2016 while a further 9 have announced a planned retirement

6.5

percent of global GDP is the equivalent to fossil fuel subsidies in 2015, coal being the largest part

17

November is the final day of the COP 23 to the UN Convention on climate Change, in Bonn Germany

3

million people were able to obtain treatment for hepatitis C in the last two years, according to WHO

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

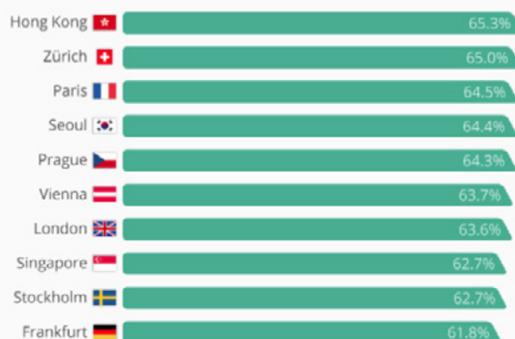
"2017 is going to be among the three warmest years on record"

- Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (November 6, 2017)

### INFOGRAPHIC OF THE WEEK

#### The World's Top Cities For Sustainable Public Transport

Cities ranked by quality of sustainable mobility in 2017\*



\* (index scores - 100% = highest quality, 0% = lowest quality)  
100 cities examined across 23 indicators to give a ranking of each city's mobility and how sustainable their system is.



Source: 2017 Arcadis Sustainable Cities Mobility Index



Source: Statista

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### WHO IS TO BLAME FOR CLIMATE CHANGE?

*Europe and the US*

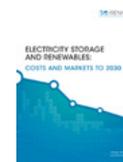
What if we were able to review [extreme](#) climate events and historical emissions and then associate these events to particular countries? New [research](#) suggests that you can. Scientists at Oxford's Environmental Change Institute (ECI) and the Center for International Climate Research (CICERO) in Oslo found that it was scientifically possible 'to quantify historical responsibility of individual countries/regions for specific extreme climate events'. This leads to questions as to whether science will be playing a much larger role in [climate justice](#). However, the scientists admit that value-based judgments are also needed; the definition of an extreme event and the time period over which historical emissions are based are important requirements.

### LESSONS FROM NEW DELHI

*Pollution nightmare*

If any cities need a wake-up call about pollution levels and their effects, New [Delhi](#) provides a worrying example. The National Capital Region (NCR), which has a population of 45 million people, has a 'severe' dense [smog](#) which has triggered a number of effects. Dangerous air particles (PM 2.5) have reached more than 700 micrograms per cubic meter, which is the equivalent of smoking more than two packs of cigarettes per day. There are delays to flights and train services. Schools have been shut until Sunday. Car access is limited, using an odd-even number plate system. Trucks are banned from the city until further notice. All construction and industrial activity is to stop until 14th November. Helicopters are being used to sprinkle water. The judiciary has asked the government to consider cloud seeding. Neighbouring states have been asked to control the stubble burning. Only air filter manufacturers seem to be having a good time.

### READING LIST



[Electricity storage and renewables: Costs and Markets to 2030](#)



[How to nudge dispensable directors out of the door](#)

### LISTENING LIST



[America's Climate Resistance - Costing the Earth \(BBC\)](#)

### GOOD NEWS

The Canadian Government has increased the protection of its [seas](#) to just over 5%, having just added further coastal areas of British Columbia and the Gulf of St. Lawrence in Quebec. At the end of last year, the Government [announced](#) a C\$1.5 billion Oceans Protection Plan.

### DID YOU SEE?

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is to [ban](#) researchers who receive agency grants from serving on EPA advisory boards. EPA advisory panels received \$77 million in grants over the last three years. EPA administrator, Scot Pruitt, stated, 'When you receive that much money, there's a question that arises about independence'.

### BAD NEWS

An analysis by [Bloomberg](#) New Energy Finance suggests that developed countries are failing to keep promises to help the developing world reduce emissions, via clean energy investment. In 2009, developed countries pledged \$100 billion annually to help poorer nations tackle rising greenhouse gases.

### WE'RE WATCHING

The Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) is discussing with [signatories](#) its draft 'serious violation' policy, which would remove members from the PRI. The organization comments that delisting is a 'last resort measure'.

### BELIEVE IT OR NOT

To get a solid guidance on future earnings listen carefully to the management's language on investor calls. Using polysyllabic words and more words per sentence are vital clues [READ MORE](#)

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