

## PLEDGES FOR ACTION AT CLIMATE WEEK NYC

Institutional investors, countries, and companies agree to take action to address climate change through disclosure and divestment

New York City's climate week began with a major show of advocacy and support with an unprecedented 300,000 people marching in the streets of New York City for climate change awareness. Following the march, more than [100 world leaders gathered](#) Tuesday at the United Nations in New York, along with over 800 leaders from business, finance and civil society, to address the threat of climate change and to consider the opportunities in addressing the challenges it presents.

The week saw pledges from [many countries](#). The French promised a billion dollars for the Green Climate Fund. More than 150 countries signed a declaration that would end emissions from

deforestation by 2030, though Brazil refused to join this coalition.

Meanwhile, a coalition of institutional investors has committed to decarbonize \$100 billion in institutional equity investments before the end of 2015, and to [measure and disclose](#) the carbon footprint of investments worth at least \$500 billion more. In addition, more than 50 foundations, institutions and wealthy individuals who control at least \$50 billion in assets will pledge to begin pulling their investments from fossil fuels, particularly coal and oil. Notably, The Rockefeller Brothers Foundation—heirs to the John D. Rockefeller oil fortune—announced they will divest the foundation's endowment from fossil fuels. A group of over 700 [companies have also agreed](#) to take action on carbon disclosure through the CDP.

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## UNITED NATIONS: CLIMATE CHANGE WILL DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECT WOMEN

UN addresses impact of climate change on women globally

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, the executive director of the United Nations (UN) agency dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women spoke to the UN last week. "Women are on the frontlines, bearing the brunt of climate change," she said. Women

and children are 14 times more vulnerable than men in climate change-related natural disasters, such as the floods and droughts. In addition, women also disproportionately feel the negative effects of climate change in the agriculture sector in which they represent 43 percent of the global workforce.

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Research Paper



### THE RISK AND RETURNS OF FOSSIL FUEL FREE INVESTING

SICM recently released its latest research paper this week: *The Risks and Returns of Fossil Fuel Free Investing*

Overview:

Participants in conventional financial markets are scrutinizing fossil fuel free investing with rising curiosity. In our research paper we highlight a number of important considerations. Firstly, the Asset Owner needs a clear definition of fossil fuel free. This can range from a bare minimum to the full carbon chain. Secondly, spending time choosing the correct benchmark is well advised. Thirdly, do not anticipate underperformance against well-known benchmarks like the S&P 500. The portfolios in this paper outperformed the US market over different time periods. Finally, an analysis of the portfolios' returns and embedded risks, both intentional and unintentional, may not be as many investors expect.

[LINK TO REPORT](#)

## LOW VACCINATION RATES MAY BE CONTRIBUTING TO INCREASE OF PREVENTABLE DISEASES

The conflict of immunization: First, too many antibiotics, now too few vaccinations

In [Sustainable Insights Edition 50](#) we wrote about how the increasing resistance to antibiotics threatens the effective treatment of infections from bacteria and viruses. Now it appears the spread of infectious diseases is also increasing due in part because fewer children are being vaccinated

An opinion piece in the Wall Street Journal last week examined the increase of vaccine-

prevented diseases in part because of low vaccination rates. In the piece, author Dr. Paul Offit criticizes parents who chose not to have their kids vaccinated. And the number of them is increasing. "A 2006 study in the Journal of the American Medical Association showed that between 1991 and 2004, the percentage of children whose parents had chosen to opt out of vaccines increased by 6% a year, resulting in a more than twofold increase."

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### STAT OF THE WEEK

President Barack Obama is designating the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument—a vast area of the Pacific Ocean—as the largest marine preserve in the world. It will cover 490,000 square miles (that's roughly three times the size of California) and make the waters off-limits to drilling and most fishing.

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### BELIEVE IT OR NOT

A 750 mile canal that recently opened in China cost the country tens of billions of dollars and displaced 300,000 people. It will improve China's water distribution but further projects appear inevitable.

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