

## RECORD HEAT PUTS CLIMATE CHANGE BACK IN THE HEADLINES AHEAD OF CLIMATE TALKS

President Obama hopes to make progress with China; India says it won't pay

The National Centers for Environmental Information reported this month that global temperatures from January through August this year were 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit (0.8 Celsius) above the 20th-century average for the **warmest first 8 months** of any year on record. This inevitably sets the stage for the climate talks in Paris in a few months.

President Barack Obama will meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the White House next week and **told reporters** this week that he expects to make progress on climate and investment issues.

Meanwhile, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi's has **sent mixed messages** about its plans for addressing climate change, adopting "aggressive targets for adopting renewable energy while at the same time pointing the finger of blame at richer nations for causing global warming."

Ahead of December's climate talks, Indian climate policy officials have met with their U.S. and Chinese counterparts to discuss the December talks in Paris. India – the world's fourth largest emitter of GHG emissions – has said it will make a pledge in the near future.

Will **Australia** change course with a new prime minister? The new PM, Malcolm Turnbull, hopes to create a market mechanism to tackle climate change.

## WITHOUT ANY ACTION, AIR POLLUTION COULD KILL 6.6M PEOPLE BY 2050

Deaths caused by air pollution are rising. A recent **study** published in the journal *Nature* found that air pollutants, such as ozone and tiny particles, already kills about 3.3 million people worldwide and could cause the **premature death** of about 6.6 million people a year by 2050 unless clean-up measures are taken. The majority of those dying today from outdoor air pollution are in Asia where residential energy emissions are having a major impact. The U.S. comes in at **number seven** of the

15 countries with the most deaths from outdoor air pollution.

Air pollution-related deaths are most commonly from strokes, heart disease, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), a lung disease. Air pollution is also linked to deaths from lung cancer and acute respiratory infections.

[READ THE REPORT IN NATURE](#)

### THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS...

**90.3**

million dollars is the amount raised by the first Indian corporate green bond issued this week for CLP Wind Farms.

**75**

percent of New York's water treatment plants that contain the plastic microbeads from face wash.

**60**

percent is the rate that malaria deaths have fallen by globally.

**27**

percent is how much higher India's GDP would be if the country had as many of its women working as men.

**25**

percent of the EU electricity could be supplied by wind by 2030.

**9**

out of 10 new diesel cars exceed EU pollution limits.

**5.5**

billion dollars was the sales from organic U.S. farms last year according to the USDA.

**1**

in 12 adults worldwide now has Type 2 diabetes.

# SUSTAINABLE INSIGHTS

For the Mainstream Investor



Week ending September 18, 2015

Edition 110

## WILDFIRES IN CALIFORNIA COSTLIEST TO INSURERS IN OVER TWO DECADES

Battling its worst drought in recent history, California is no stranger to fires. However, the most recent fire, The Valley Fire, has done such serious damage that it may become the [largest wildfire event](#) since the Oakland Hills fire of 1991. The Valley Fire has destroyed almost 600 homes and hundreds of other structures and was only 30 percent contained as of Wednesday.

This has serious insurance implications. The Oakland fire cost more than USD2.6 billion in 2014 dollars, according to Property Claim Services data. Currently, California has about 306,000 properties at high or very high risk of wildfire damage, according to a report from [CoreLogic](#). The state's most vulnerable structures have a total reconstruction value estimated at more than USD105 billion.

### YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED...

[Shell leaves Climate Change Corporate Leaders Group](#)

[Royal Dutch Shell](#) is no longer a member of the Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group, a leading climate change advocacy group it helped start 10 years ago. Environmentalists are increasingly putting pressure on the oil company to halt its drilling operations in the Arctic Ocean.

[READ MORE](#)

## LINKING ISLAMIC FINANCE AND ESG

A new report by Thomson Reuters and the [Responsible Finance Institute](#) entitled "The Emerging Convergence of SRI, ESG and Islamic Finance" highlights a potential collaboration between [Islamic finance](#) and ESG that could significantly raise the profile of sustainable investing. It is estimated that a collaboration could raise an additional USD244bn by 2019 by attracting as many as 1.65 billion Muslims as sustainable product buyers.

The report notes that "the Koran depicts human beings as 'stewards' whose role in life is to preserve the earth that is loaned to them (known as Vicegerency or Khilafah). It says the concept of Vicegerency can be used to link both worlds. Similarly, it argues that the idea of shared values (maslahah), a strong component of Islam, can connect Islamic finance to other responsible finance sectors."

[READ MORE](#)

### BELIEVE IT OR NOT

What's the newest brainfood? If you guessed Jellyfish, you're right!

[READ MORE](#)

The above research materials are for informational purposes only. They are not an offer or solicitation for any security or investment product managed by SICM and should not be construed as investment advice. Investment strategies implemented by SICM on behalf of its clients may or may not trade or hold positions in the securities referred to above. Further, investment accounts managed by SICM may or may not employ strategies based on or related to the above research.