

ROUND UP: COP21 WEEK ONE

Back story

More than 120 world leaders — including President Obama, German Chancellor Merkel, Chinese President Xi Jinping — [met this week](#) in Paris to sign a binding agreement to curb greenhouse gases in order to limit the global temperature increase to 2 degrees Celsius pre-industrial levels.



PARIS2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
COP21·CMP11

Here's what you need to know

Several topics took front and center during the first week.

Carbon Pricing and Climate Finance

Several global leaders — including the leaders of France, Germany and Mexico — and other organizations such as the World Bank and IMF are calling for [carbon pricing](#). Taxing carbon emissions or a cap-and-trade system is the best way to mitigate climate change they argue. President Obama chimed in, saying that the best way to drive innovation and reduce carbon emissions is “[to put a price on it](#)”. The [Call to Action on Climate Finance](#) has garnered quite a bit of attention as well this week, with backing from [PRI](#) and [CDP](#).

What's next for coal fire power plants?

Researchers said this week that construction of all planned coal plants would see [emissions](#) four times higher than the 2 degree target. They say the building plans are “in conflict with the carbon cutting agendas of countries like India and China.” Not building new plants is not the only solution. Emissions from the world's existing plants will be 150% higher than what is consistent with a 2 degree target, says the [report](#).

In case you missed it

Bill Gates announced [The Breakthrough Energy Coalition](#), which is a USD 2 billion fund he is [establishing](#) with other philanthropists as well as the University of California. It is aimed at “closing the cost premium between legacy energy sources and those that reduce carbon emissions.”

[Still want to know more?](#)

[The Climate Reality Project put together five videos on what you need to know about COP21.](#)

[And the NYTimes created a helpful primer: Short answers to hard questions on climate change](#)

@SICMGMT TWEET OF THE WEEK

 6 things to look for on finance at the #Paris2015 #climate negotiations #COP21

<http://ow.ly/MDzi>

COP21, BY THE NUMBERS

10,000

shoes belonging to famous people, such as Pope Francis, were displayed on the Place de la Republique in Paris as part of an installation replacing a march for climate change

2,400

coal fired power stations are planned around the world before 2030, according to [The Climate Action Tracker](#) analysis.

73

additional companies have joined the [American Business Act on Climate Pledge](#), bringing the total to 154 companies.

18.1

billion gallons of renewable biofuels need to be used in 2016 to get “back on track” after fuel companies are falling well short of a target of 22.25 billion gallons set by Congress in 2007.

8

multilateral development banks have committed to supporting countries implementing sustainable transport solutions.

6.5

gigatonnes of carbon dioxide is the amount that all coal fired power plants being planned would emit, if they were to be built.

1.2

billion people could lose food security in India given sea level rise, water security and agricultural impacts.

INSIGHTS

For the Mainstream Investor



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NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON EXXON'S CLIMATE DENIAL

Ahead of the Paris climate talks, more scrutiny is being paid to “climate deniers” – and their influence. New research has put a precise count on the people and groups working to “dispute the scientific consensus on climate change”. [Nature Climate Change](#) counted upwards of 164 organizations that are doing the most to [dispute climate change](#), with ExxonMobil and the family foundations controlled by Charles and David Koch emerging as the loudest and most significant funding sources.

The New York state prosecutors office has been probing Exxon Mobil over whether the firm [mislead](#) the public and shareholders on the perils of climate change, noting the gap between Exxon Mobil's public position and its internal planning on the issue of climate change. Columbia journalism students are at the center of the firestorm after publishing articles about the companies knowledge of the risks. The dean of the school [strongly disputes](#) the accusations that the articles were inaccurate.

FEEL GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK

Cloud-based computing is expected to do a lot of good for healthcare, and soon! According to a [MarketsandMarkets](#) study, in the near future doctors and nurses will use apps to access your health and medical information in real-time. The study noted that cloud services in the healthcare industry would grow from \$3.73 billion in 2015 to almost \$9.5 billion by 2020.

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HASHTAG OF THE WEEK: #GIVINGTUESDAY

[#GivingTuesday](#): On Tuesday, December 1, 2015, charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world celebrated generosity and giving in what the founding organization deemed “a global celebration of a new tradition of generosity”.

HERMES REPORT HIGHLIGHTS CARBON RISKS TO ASSET MANAGERS

Hermes Investment Management, the £29.5bn fund manager, published ‘[Turning Down the Heat](#)’ – focusing on the risks carbon poses to investment portfolios and outlining the four pillars of Hermes’ strategy to mitigate this risk. Saker Nusseibeh, Hermes’ Chief Executive, said: “It is crucial that we create the right outcomes

from our investment decisions – and the right outcomes on a 30-year time horizon are those that mitigate risk, including carbon risk. In just 20 years, if circumstances don't change, we will already be approaching dangerous levels of warming.”

WHAT WE'RE READING



Cambridge Associates
Risks and Opportunities From the Changing Climate: Playbook for the Truly Long-Term Investor

[\(link\)](#)

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Beginning this week diners at many chain restaurants in New York City will see warnings in the form of a black triangle with a salt shaker icon (see right) on menus next to items that are high in sodium.

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