

SHAREHOLDER ACTIVISM SUPPORTS ENGAGEMENT OVER DIVESTMENT; NORDEA DROPS COAL ASSETS

Shareholders make demands of oil producers ahead of AGMs; Nordic fund manager excludes coal

More than 50 shareholder investors representing USD 237bn have [co-filed shareholder resolutions](#) for the annual meetings of BP and Shell. The resolutions ask a number of questions of the firms, including how they are addressing low-carbon research and development as well as emissions management.

The resolution—which is named “Strategic resilience for 2035 and beyond”—favors engagement over divestment. It calls for “routine annual reporting from 2016 to include further information about ongoing

operational emissions management; asset portfolio resilience to the International Energy Agency’s scenarios; low-carbon energy research and development and investment strategies; relevant strategic key performance indicators and executive incentives; and public policy positions relating to climate change.”

Meanwhile, Nordea, the largest Nordic fund manager with USD 228bn in assets, will identify companies to exclude from its investable universe that have “large and sustained exposure to thermal coal mining”, because coal is the “most environmentally compromising fossil-fuel resource,” said Sasja Beslik, head of corporate governance at the group.

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WATCH THIS SPACE

We anticipate that one of the next applications of *big data* in health will focus on the outcomes of food restaurants posting calorie count information. A growing body of data is demonstrating how calorie disclosures in restaurants are changing our behavior. Or not?

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CLIMATE CHANGE POLITICS IN INDIA AND AROUND THE GLOBE

Prime Minister Modi calls for more renewable energy

Following last week’s [news](#) that the U.S. is urging cooperation with India on climate change ahead of President Obama’s visit to India, the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has called for a “[paradigm shift](#)” in the global approach towards tackling climate change that will increase India’s efforts to bring down the cost of clean technologies.

Meanwhile, global leaders convened this week in Davos, Switzerland for the [World Economic Forum](#). The president of the World Bank, Jim Kim, called 2015 the year for action on climate change, urging the international community to help developing nations combat climate change. There is a lot of anticipation for the UN-based talks in December in Paris. “There is a huge challenge ahead for the rest of this year,” Kim said.

LATEST ON DISEASES, VACCINES AND ANTIBIOTICS

Vaccinations are prohibitively expensive in developing countries, yet those with access are choosing not to have kids immunized

A new [report](#) from international aid organization, Mediciens Sans Frontieres, says that costs for vaccinations are [prohibitively high](#) in developing countries. It appears that pharmaceutical companies are charging high prices (there has been a [68-fold increase](#) in prices between 2001 and 2014) and not being

transparent about pricing. The report calls for major pharmaceutical companies to reduce the price of the pneumococcal vaccine to USD 5.

Meanwhile in the U.S. more and more parents are wary of vaccinating their children. A study of over 150,000 children in Northern California found that [opposition to immunizations](#) often occurs in concentrations in certain communities.

Scientists are now hoping to find new sources for antibiotics in... the dirt? Visit their [website](#) to learn more, and even help the cause!

STAT OF THE WEEK

A new study released by Oxfam at this week's World Economic Forum found that the combined wealth of the richest 1 percent will be greater than that of the other 99 percent by 2016.

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SUSTAINABLE GOALS WILL STAY

UNDP won't cut number of goals despite pressure

The U.N. Development Program (UNDP) announced that it will not cut the number of [sustainable development goals](#), despite criticisms that it is too long and "unwieldy" to be effective.

The current sustainable development goals (SDGs) include 17 goals and 169 targets. The U.N. member states wants to keep them to not risk undoing years of talks and agreements. The goals range from ending hunger to combating climate change and conserving oceans. More on the economics of sustainability in our [2015 Predictions](#).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

June 18th: [Live Earth Climate Concert](#), a 24-hour event, will take place across six cities.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, discarded food worth nearly \$165 billion annually is rotting in municipal landfills.

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