

## GROWING WATER SCARCITY PROBLEM INCITING CONFLICT BETWEEN NATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

### Rising temperatures putting water security at the center of regional and national conflicts

The head of the U.N. panel of climate scientists warned this week that the world is not yet fully aware that water scarcity—largely a result of climate change—will lead to serious conflicts between communities and countries.

“Unfortunately, the world has not really woken up to the reality of what we are going to face in terms of the crises as far as water is concerned,” IPCC Chair Rajendra Pachauri told

participants at a conference on water security.

Water security, a term [defined](#) by the U.N. as the “capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihood” is an increasing concern in the face of global temperature increases.

Countries such as India and China are expected to be hit the hardest by drought, which will impact food security and agricultural output.

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## CONTROVERSY OF THE WEEK: LINK BETWEEN BIRTH CONTROL AND CLIMATE CHANGE?

### Will contraception help developing countries meet climate goals?

Rising populations are putting pressure on resources—food, water, energy—and increasing climate-changing emissions around the globe. Some argue that limiting family sizes in developing countries will have an enormous effect on [curbing climate change](#). In Pakistan only about one-third of all married women use contraception. The result is that nearly half of all pregnancies are unintended.

Is it fair to make the connection between contraception and greenhouse gas emissions? At a UK Parliament event this week, Baroness Jenny Tonge, chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health said: “We’re not talking about population control. We’re talking about giving people the choice to limit their family size and all the good things that go on from that such as better health and education.”

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### THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

90%

of cities in China failed to meet air quality standards in 2014.

0.005

Degrees the oceans are warming per year down to a depth of 500 meters and 0.002 degrees between 500-2,000 meters. Warming oceans are swelling in volume, lifting sea levels, and also affecting ecosystems.

\$11.4B

is wasted by major brands every year due to discarding valuable materials due to inefficient packaging according to a study by As You Sow and the NRDC.

42%

of UK asset managers surveyed disclosed policies on how they include environmental and social factors in their investment decisions, despite many more signing on to codes of conduct on responsible investing.

## MEASLES AND ANTI-VACCINATION

Last month we wrote that despite the prohibitively high [cost of vaccinations](#) in developing countries, in the U.S. more and more parents are wary of vaccinating their children. Some are now turning their attention to a recent [measles outbreak](#) in the U.S., placing blame on growing communities

of unvaccinated people. The U.S. mostly eliminated measles by 2000, thanks to the vaccine. However, 2014 saw the most cases in 20 years. Some say that parents who don't vaccinate their kids put others at risk. But is shaming the answer?

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### WE'RE KEEPING OUR EYE ON...

#### NETs

Ever heard of NETs? You will. Research from Oxford University's Stranded Assets Programme has identified that Negative Emissions Technologies (NETs) have the potential to remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere.

#### Fair Tax Mark

The Fair Tax Mark, which launched this week, will use a set of metrics to assess companies on tax and transparency. This comes at a time when large multinationals are coming under intense scrutiny for taking advantage of tax loopholes.

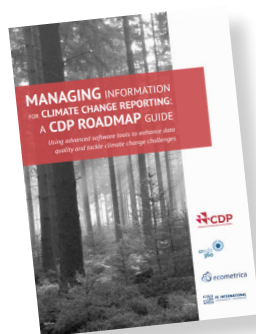
## NORWAY WILL DUMP RISKY ESG INVESTMENTS

The world's richest sovereign wealth fund, Norway's USD 85B Government Pension Fund Global released its first RI [report](#) this week. As part of its [risk management](#) approach it

revealed that it will analyze ESG risk, expect companies to protect children's rights, have a clear strategy for water management and analyze climate change exposure.

## WHAT WE'RE READING THIS WEEK

Ecometrica and CDP launched a paper this week that will serve as a roadmap for sustainability reporting. Already mandatory in many countries, the report hopes to provide best practices and offer practical guidance.



### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Selling a stock to someone else who doesn't care about climate change has zero impact on the climate agenda.”

- PGGM's Marcel Jeucken and PensionDanmark's Torben Moger Pedersen urging positive engagement and re-allocation of capital to sustainable finance.

## BELIEVE IT OR NOT

With exercise, more is... more, right? Maybe not. A new study Danish study found that high-intensity, high-mileage joggers die at the same rate as channel-surfing couch potatoes.

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