

SEPTEMBER 2022 | ISSUE 21

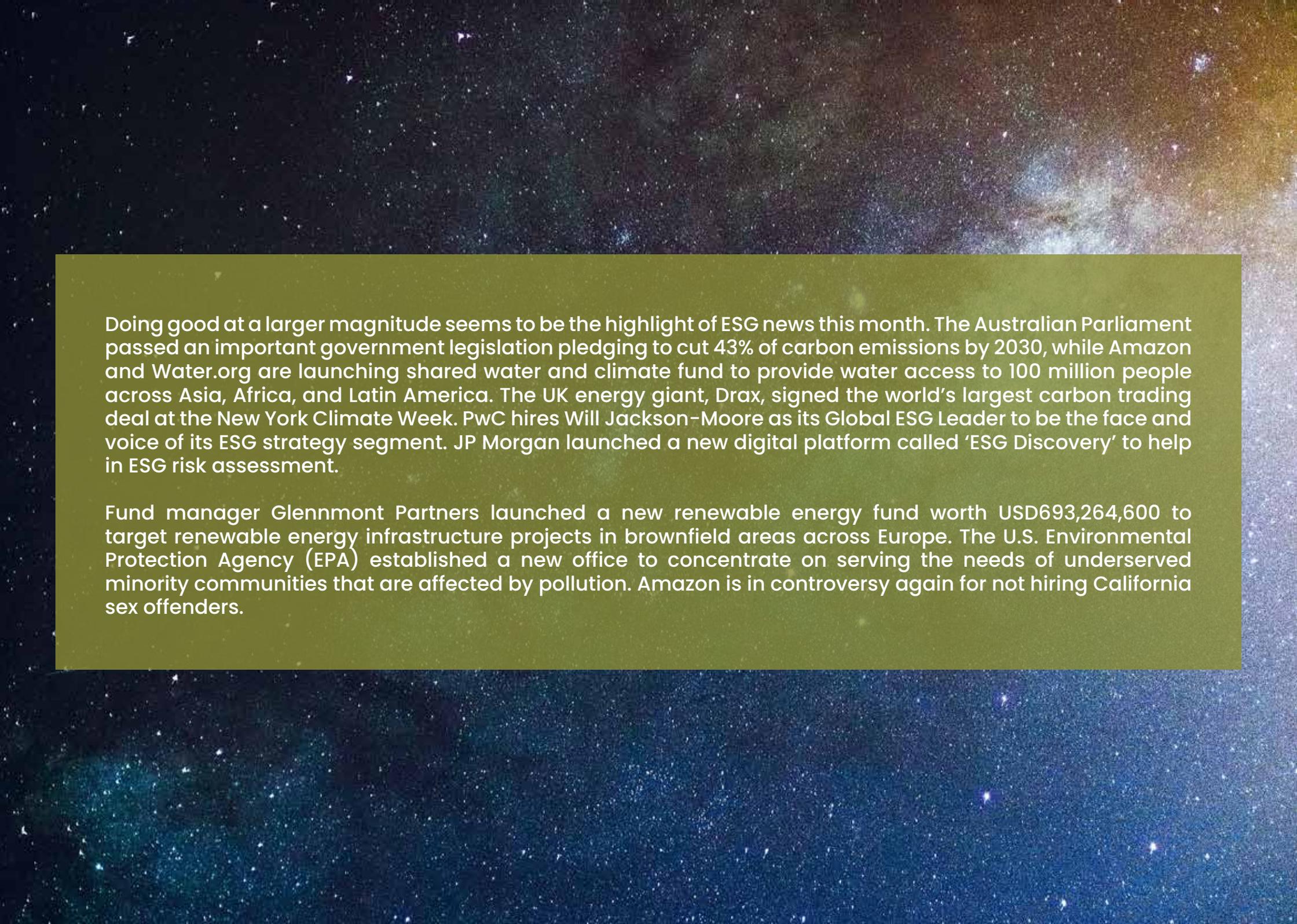
[www.sganalytics.com](http://www.sganalytics.com)

# TATTVA

## ESG Newsletter

2022 began with key framework providers for sustainability disclosure upgrading their frameworks to enable better ESG disclosure and many securities commissions making watertight norms to avoid greenwashing. The Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) has developed scope 3 target setting while EU's expert advisors openly opposed the inclusion of gas and nuclear energy into the EU Taxonomy guidelines.





Doing good at a larger magnitude seems to be the highlight of ESG news this month. The Australian Parliament passed an important government legislation pledging to cut 43% of carbon emissions by 2030, while Amazon and Water.org are launching shared water and climate fund to provide water access to 100 million people across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The UK energy giant, Drax, signed the world's largest carbon trading deal at the New York Climate Week. PwC hires Will Jackson-Moore as its Global ESG Leader to be the face and voice of its ESG strategy segment. JP Morgan launched a new digital platform called 'ESG Discovery' to help in ESG risk assessment.

Fund manager Glenmont Partners launched a new renewable energy fund worth USD693,264,600 to target renewable energy infrastructure projects in brownfield areas across Europe. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established a new office to concentrate on serving the needs of underserved minority communities that are affected by pollution. Amazon is in controversy again for not hiring California sex offenders.

# Index

MARKET TRENDS 04

---

COLLABORATION 06

---

PEOPLE MOVEMENTS 08

---

FINTECH 10

---

PRODUCTS & SERVICES 12

---

LAWS, POLICIES, AND REGULATIONS 15

---

CONTROVERSIES 18

---



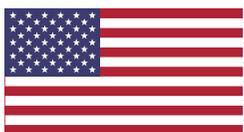
A red planet, likely Mars, is shown in the center of the frame against a dark blue and black starry background. A vertical band of reddish light or nebula runs through the center, passing behind the planet. The text "MARKET TRENDS" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font at the bottom left.

**MARKET TRENDS**

# Trends driving positive environmental and social change

Businesses, financial institutions, and regulatory bodies have realized the significance of addressing ESG risks and capitalizing on the underlying opportunities to adopt sustainability. Catch the latest developments in industries from government mandates to revolutionary initiatives in this section.

## Fed to launch a climate resilience pilot program for 6 US banks



Bank of America Corp., Citigroup Inc., Goldman Sachs Group Inc., JPMorgan Chase & Co., Morgan Stanley, and Wells Fargo & Co. will participate in a climate scenario-analysis program led by the US Federal Reserve Board. The program aims to assess the

resilience of financial institutions to various climate scenarios. Fed expects the exercise to begin in 2023 and be completed by the end of the year.

► Source: WSJ

## Companies of G7 countries fall short of meeting the Paris Climate Agreement goal



An analysis by Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), a non-profit disclosure platform, and Oliver Wyman, a global management consultancy firm, shows that the corporate emission targets of G7 economies

are overall on a 2.7°C trajectory vs the global goal of keeping the rise in temperature below 1.5°C. The study also stated that the companies had either not embraced the target setting or were required to have more ambitious plans to reduce emissions.

► Source: Reuters

## SBTi launches world's first climate targets for agriculture, forestry, and land-based sectors



Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi) provided a standard method for companies in agriculture, forestry, and land-based sectors to measure and reduce GHG emissions along with setting targets in line with the global climate goals. Companies must

pledge to end deforestation by 2025 and avoid using nature-based carbon removals as a substitute for reducing emissions.

► Source: TRIPLE PUNDIT

## Singapore signs aviation pacts with the US and the UK to make flights greener



Singapore signed agreements with the US and the UK to make its flights more environment-friendly. Singapore and the US will work together on the research and trials of making aviation fuels from bio-feeds, encourage travelers to select greener flight options, and evaluate the

commercial viability of a green lane between the two counties. Similarly, an MoU was signed with the UK to include environmental protection as a new area of collaboration.

► Source: The Strait Times

## Australia passes a law for carbon emission reduction targets



The Australian Parliament passes government legislation pledging to cut 43% of carbon emissions by 2030. With the support of the Greens party and the independents, Australia passed the law to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

► Source: Reuters

## Energy giant, Drax enters the world's largest carbon trading deal at the New York Climate Week



Drax, a biomass-focused renewable energy company, signed an MoU with Respira, a UK-based multinational carbon finance business, to remove up to 2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide over 5 years. Additionally, the MoU states to deploy bioenergy and capture and

store carbon in the US.

► Source: drax

# COLLABORATION



# Companies joining forces to shape sustainable solutions

ESG issues continue to grow in relevance, be it employee health & safety or climate change. The impact is multi-fold in current times. Investor groups and corporates are increasingly collaborating to address such issues and drive sustainability. Following are the major coalitions in the ESG space.

## Amazon and Water.org partner to provide water access to 100 million people



Amazon and Water.org announced the launch of shared water and climate fund to provide water access to 100 million people across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Amazon is providing an additional donation of USD10mn to facilitate clean water access of 3 billion liters to 1 million by 2025. The project will also aid several climate-resilient and sanitation projects in the target countries.

► Source: ESG Today

## PepsiCo and ADM collaborate to reduce GHG emissions from their supply chains



PepsiCo and ADM aim to eliminate 1.4 metric tons of GHG emissions from their food and beverage sectors through regenerative farming. For the next 7.5 years, this partnership will focus on shifting corn, soy, and wheat farmers in the US to regenerative agricultural practices, such as 'covering crops, reduced tillage, nutrient management, diverse rotations, and responsible pesticide use.'

► Source: TalkMarkets

## Germany and Denmark announce plans to build offshore wind farm islands



Germany and Denmark will build an offshore wind project to generate sufficient electricity for both countries to power 3 million homes annually. The project, called Bornholm Energy Island, will be located in the Baltic Sea and is set for commission in 2030. It will also reduce

GHG emissions by 3.5 million tons annually starting in 2030 in Germany.

► Source: ESGToday

## Novata and S&P Global partner to develop a holistic data solution for investors



Novata (a leading ESG data company) and S&P (a provider of financial information services and solutions) are building a platform to facilitate transparency in private market investing. It will help customers see financial and corresponding ESG data simultaneously and make informed decisions. S&P will make the platform available on iLEVEL software.

► Source: Businesswire

## Cority acquires Reporting21 to expand its ESG solutions and consultancy services



Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) software company Cority acquired Reporting21 to integrate the latter's ESG solutions and consultancy services. Reporting21 provides streamlined data collection and analysis for its client companies. With this acquisition, Cority will be able to expand the scope of its services to the financial sector as well.

► Source: Businesswire



# PEOPLE MOVEMENTS

# Thought leadership through key hires

Companies across the globe are demanding analysts, strategists, and knowledgeable professionals to understand and drive their ESG data, strategies, and solutions for a range of stakeholders. This section brings you the latest movements of such highly skilled professionals in the ESG sector.

## PwC hires Will Jackson-Moore as its new global ESG leader



PwC welcomed Will Jackson-Moore as the new global ESG leader. In his new role, he will focus on the company's ESG strategy called 'The New Equation' which is backed by USD12bn of investment. This strategy identified ESG as critical to answering the defining challenges for global business.

► Source: PwC

## Barclays welcomes Marie Freier as its Global Co-Head of Sustainable and Impact Investment Banking



Barclays appointed Marie Freier as the Global Co-Head of Sustainable and Impact Investment Banking. As the Global Co-Head, Ms. Freier will assist the team in collaborating with new clients and will add senior management resources in the EMEA region.

► Source: Barclays

## Amani Boros joins State Street International as the Head of ESG



State Street International appointed Amani Boros as the new head of State Street International GmbH (SSBI). Boros's responsibilities in her new position will include leading SSBI's ESG and sustainability efforts, developing and managing the company's ESG strategy, and overseeing 'relationships with clients, regulators, and other stakeholders.'

► Source: ESG Investing

## Putnam Investments recruits Jacquelyn S. VanderBrug as the Head of Sustainability Strategy



Putnam Investments hired Jacquelyn S. VanderBrug as the Head of Sustainability Strategy. VanderBrug will oversee several crucial ESG-focused business operations, including 'Stewardship, Engagement, Partnerships, and ESG Strategy and Integration,' to support the company's sustainability efforts.

► Source: BusinessWire

## Barclays names Daniel Hanna the Global Head of Sustainable Finance



Daniel Hanna joined Barclays as the Global Head of Sustainable Finance for the Corporate and Investment Bank. He is now in charge of establishing a market-leading center of excellence for sustainable finance.

► Source: Barclays

## Eurosif appoints Aleksandra Palinska as its new Executive Director



Eurosif appointed Aleksandra Palinska as the new Executive Director. She will take charge of conducting Eurosif's long-term plan to expedite and steer the development and enforcement of the EU Sustainable Finance Agenda.

► Source: Eurosif

**FINTECH**



# Innovation in sustainable investing

The fintech section captures various innovations in the data analytics, software solutioning, and technology space that benefit both investors and data providers. Learn about the most groundbreaking technologies leading their way to ESG.

## Salesforce launches a net-zero marketplace



Salesforce launched a net-zero marketplace, a new carbon credit project aimed at connecting buyers with environment-focused entrepreneurs and making carbon credit purchases easier. The demand for carbon credits is expected to increase significantly in the coming years.

This coincides with the companies increasingly adopting net-zero ambitions and using offsets as a tool to achieve this.

► Source: ESG Today

## Digital start-up ServiceNow releases a new ESG platform



California digital services start-up ServiceNow launched a new platform called Now Platform Tokyo. Among its

various digital offerings are ESG-specific management features, such as carbon accounting, greenhouse gas emissions calculations, and a singular, end-to-end approach to ESG management. This platform will help its users to achieve new business goals related to ESG.

► Source: TechRepublic

## Assent Inc. launches a new cloud solution pertaining to supply chain reporting



The supply chain sustainability management firm Assent Inc. launched a new cloud-native solution called Assent ESG. This SaaS-based solution includes enhanced global supply chain reporting capabilities

across various critical topics. Apart from identifying the gaps in ESG performance, it also includes corrective action capabilities where deficiencies, issues, or non-conformance are identified.

► Source: Business Wire

## Moody's unveils a solution to integrate ESG factors into P&C insurance underwriting



Moody's launched its ESG insurance underwriting solution for general insurance providers, called Property & Casualty (P&C) Insurers in the US. With this solution, the company can integrate ESG factors into its portfolio management. Among other things, the solution helps to identify relationships between ESG factors and financial-risk metrics. This follows the recent acquisitions that have increased Moody's expertise in the ESG domain.

► Source: ESG Investing

## JP Morgan inaugurates new digital ESG platform for investors



JP Morgan launched a new digital platform called 'ESG Discovery' to help in ESG risk assessment. The platform intends to provide a 'double materiality' framework, presenting current ESG risks and opportunities, and providing insight into the impacts of companies across the value chain. This platform is powered by Datamaran.

► Source: Green Finance LAC

## Apex Group introduces 'EU Taxonomy Solution'



ESG services firm Apex Group launched an 'EU Taxonomy Solution' through which its clients' performance can be evaluated against the EU Taxonomy. This regulation will come into force in a staggered manner in 2022 and 2023. The solution provides four different services: eligibility assessment, alignment data request, alignment data review, and alignment calculation and actions.

► Source: FinanceFeeds Limited



**PRODUCTS & SERVICES**

# Industry demands met with sustainable investment products and ESG data & services

As businesses work toward getting ESG-compliant and investors channel their funds into ESG products, the market is gearing up to facilitate all forms of products and services. In this section, you will find news on key products and services including the launch of climate change-targeted funds as well as ESG data and services.

## Measurabl introduces ESG Advisory Services for real estate



Measurabl, a leading real estate-focused ESG data management solution provider, launched ESG Advisory Services. These services will focus on a company's ESG

strategies, target setting, and reporting. The ESG advisors will collaborate with the clients on areas like ESG reporting, strategy development, and action planning, which will be further supported by the data available on Measurabl's software.

► Source: ESG Today

## HSBC unveils the Global Circular Economy Fund



HSBC Asset Management launched the HSBC GIF Global Equity Circular Economy fund to invest in companies focused on empowering the transition to a circular global economy. The new fund will

be classified as the Article 9 under the EU's Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) and aims at delivering against all 17 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

► Source: ESG Today

## JPMorgan introduces 3 Socially Responsible ETFs



JPMorgan's Asset Management added three new ETFs to its current suite of sustainable and socially conscious investing options. The three new funds are

JPMorgan Sustainable Consumption ETF (CIRC), JPMorgan Social Advancement ETF (UPWD), and JPMorgan Sustainable Infrastructure ETF (BLLD). The funds will focus on companies that aim to help preserve natural resources, build sustainable infrastructure, and empower people in different socioeconomic spectrums.

► Source: Yahoo Finance

## Glennmont Partners launches a new renewable energy infrastructure fund



Fund manager Glennmont Partners launched a new renewable energy fund worth USD693,264,600. This fund will target renewable energy infrastructure projects in brownfield areas across Europe. Under

the fund, the strategy is to finance technologies such as offshore wind, onshore wind, solar PV, hydro, and storage.

► Source: Fund Europe

## BNY Mellon introduces a new sustainable EM fund for European investors



The BNY Mellon Sustainable Global Emerging Markets fund is now available across Europe. This fund was initially only available for the UK investors. Newton Investment Management, a thematic subsidiary of the company, will oversee the Article 9 strategy.

The fund will focus on companies that are proactively managing social and environmental aspects while still awarding sustainable returns.

► Source: City Wire



## Labor unveils USD9bn plan for green investments with the private sector

The Labor government plans to co-spend USD9bn on green energy projects with the private sector, such as battery factories, renewable-ready ports, wind

farms, steel plants, solar panels farms, hydrogen electrolyzer plant, and new nuclear power stations. It intends to set up a 'National Wealth Fund' that will rally interest from larger private sector entities, to make electricity in the UK fossil-fuel-free by 2030.

► Source: TechLive

## iShares introduces Water ETF with ESG criteria

**iShares**  
by BlackRock

The iShares MSCI Water Management Multisector ETF (IWTR) focuses on water sustainability essentially water supply activities and water usage. It will target companies with at least 10% of their revenues earned from sustainable

water activities. Apart from this, the fund will not invest in tobacco, weapons, thermal coal, or oil sand industries.

► Source: ETF.com



# LAWS, POLICIES, AND REGULATIONS



# Major policies that pave the way to disclosure in the industry

Policy reformation and amendments in the ESG reporting space are at an all-time high. What started as a voluntary disclosure is now making its way to becoming mandates. Be it sustainable investments standards or climate change reporting mandates and transparency in governance practices, we bring you the latest regulatory updates in this section.

## DOE announces \$178M in bioenergy research funding

### DOE invests USD178bn in bioenergy research

To improve sustainable technology, the Department of Energy (DOE) will invest USD178bn in bioenergy research. This investment will improve food and agricultural production, tackle climate change, enhance public health, and build more durable supply chains.

► Source: The Digest

## UAE Set to Launch the Region's First Independent Climate Change Accelerators

### UAE to launch the pioneer independent climate change accelerators

During New York Climate Week, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced the formation of the UAE Independent Climate Change Accelerators (UICCA). Sheikha Shamma bint Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan will serve as the UICCA's Head. By bringing together stakeholders from the public and business sectors, including academic institutions and non-governmental organizations, the UICCA will assist the UAE in achieving its net-zero emission goal by 2050.

► Source: ESG News



### EPA opens new office devoted to environmental justice and external civil rights

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established a new Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights. The newly established office will concentrate on serving the needs of the underserved minority communities affected by pollution and will manage the distribution of USD3bn in awards for environmental justice that were made possible by the recent enactment of new climate laws.

► Source: Engadget

### EU Lawmakers Vote for Tougher Rules to Ensure Deforestation-Free Products

### The EC votes for stricter rules to combat deforestation

The European Commission (EC) proposed to ensure that the goods sold in the EU comply with human rights laws and are not sourced from deforested or otherwise degraded land. The businesses would follow these above requirements to confirm the same about their products sold across the EU.

► Source: ESG Today



### The ECB to decarbonize USD387.004bn worth of corporate bond holdings

The European Central Bank (ECB) intends to decarbonize its holdings of corporate bonds totaling more than USD387.004bn, including the implementation of climate scores. All corporate bond purchases by the Eurosystem will consider the new climate scores, including those made through the corporate sector purchase program (CSPP) and the pandemic emergency purchase program (PEPP).

► Source: Carbon Herald

### United States Announces \$94 Billion Of Global Public Funding To Accelerate Clean Energy Worldwide

#### The US announces Global Public Funding for clean energy

At the Global Clean Energy Action Forum, the US made several announcements to expedite the equitable transition to a cleaner and more reliable energy future. The US plans to invest USD94bn in clean energy technology demonstration projects and USD4.9bn in carbon management programs. Additionally, the US will launch the New Industrial Heat EarthShot and Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs (H2Hubs) Programs.

► Source: Energy Gov





**CONTROVERSIES**

# Global sustainability watchdogs chasing wrongdoers

Do companies follow their ESG commitments? Tracking corporate controversies helps in investment decisions and enables stakeholders to determine whether the companies are being fair to their commitments or merely greenwashing. We bring you the top controversies in this section.

## Volkswagen faces class action lawsuit filed against over emissions cheating in Israel



A class action lawsuit was filed against Volkswagen after a court ruled in favor of petitioners who demanded compensation from the automaker over diesel emissions cheating. The company was accused of hiding huge levels of toxic diesel emissions from its cars in 2015. Volkswagen commented that the software was fitted in 11 million cars globally which cheated diesel emissions tests.

► Source: Reuters



## Former executives of PG&E settle over California wildfires

The former Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) executives agreed to settle for USD117mn with the victims in connection with the 2017 North Bay fires and the 2018 Camp fire. The company was sued by victims of wildfire that was caused by the company's downed power lines.

► Source: Los Angeles Times



## SEC fines Deloitte's Chinese affiliate over auditing violations

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) imposed a fine of USD20mn on the Chinese affiliate of Deloitte for allowing its clients to conduct audit work on their own. SEC Chair Gary Gensler commented that the 'Deloitte-China fell woefully short of professional auditing requirements in numerous component audits of Chinese operations.'

► Source: Reuters

## Bjyu settles its dues with Blackstone regarding the Aakash deal



Bjyu paid USD234mn to Blackstone to settle its dues owed to the private-equity firm as part of a USD950mn deal to buy Aakash Educational. The company had paid all of Aakash's shareholders except Blackstone, as the firm had agreed on deferred payment.

► Source: Live Mint



### Barclays' shareholders sue the bank for duping them into buying debt

A lawsuit was filed against Barclays Plc by two pension funds accusing the bank of fraudulently duping them into buying debt worth USD17.6bn more than the authorities had approved. The plaintiffs accused Barclays is liable for the price drops in its American Depositary Receipts (ADR) as the risk of error increased.

► Source: Transcontinental Times



### Amazon faces lawsuit for not hiring California sex offenders

A proposed class action lawsuit was filed against Amazon.com Inc. accusing it of illegally using a California sex offenders' website to conduct background checks on job applicants. The plaintiff was convicted of rape around 10 years ago and alleged that Amazon used a background check service provider Accurate Background Inc. to screen applicants. As per the complaint, the plaintiff cleared the past year's check for seasonal work at the Amazon Fulfillment Center.

► Source: abc ACTION NEWS



# SGA BLOGS



“Aligning ESG with Corporate Strategy to Gain a Competitive Advantage” [Read More...](#)

“How is Multi-stakeholder Assessment Helping to Create Long-Term Sustainable Value?” [Read More...](#)



# SGA NEWSLETTER TEAM

- Shubhshree Pareek
- Smriti Baheti
- Preeti Kumar
- Amal Kumar
- Rahul Mudliar
- Sagar Khirade
- Namita Verma
- Mukta Joshi
- Ankita Bansal



## Disclaimer —

This document makes descriptive reference to trademarks that may be owned by others. All currencies are converted to USD for uniformity purposes. The rate used is as on the date of article published. The use of such trademarks herein is not an assertion of ownership of such trademarks by SG Analytics (SGA) and is not intended to represent or get commercially benefited from it or imply the existence of an association between SGA and the lawful owners of such trademarks. Information regarding third-party products, services, and organizations was obtained from publicly available sources, and SGA cannot confirm the accuracy or reliability of such sources or information. Its inclusion does not imply an endorsement by or of any third party.

Copyright © 2022 SG Analytics Pvt. Ltd.



[www.sganalytics.com](http://www.sganalytics.com)

