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ESG NEWS YOU CAN USE

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Environmental

[COP28's Finance Day marked the launch of the Global Climate Finance Centre \(GCFC\), a think tank and knowledge hub aimed at accelerating the development of global climate finance and lifting barriers to investing in low-carbon projects.](#) Founded by ADQ, ADGM, BlackRock, CIFF, Ninety One, HSBC, GFANZ, and the World Bank, the GCFC will focus on driving research and sharing of best practices, providing advisory and stakeholder engagement, and establishing a Climate Finance Academy.

[Microsoft is entering Brazil's voluntary carbon market with one of its largest carbon removal deals to date.](#) Microsoft will purchase up to 1.5 million carbon removal credits through 2032 from Brazilian startup Mombak, which works to reforest deforested Amazon land. The deal is part of the company's plan to be carbon negative by 2030 and is part of a project to grow more than 30

million trees in Para state in the Amazon basin. While financial terms for the project were not disclosed, Microsoft spent two years conducting due diligence in advance of the deal.

[According to a Global Carbon Budget report, CO2 emissions from fossil fuels are set to hit a record high this year.](#) Fossil fuel emissions are expected to reach 36.8 billion metric tons by year-end – a 1.1% increase from 2022 – pulling the world further away from the Paris Agreement’s 1.5C target. According to the report, coal, gas, and oil emissions rose driven by the reopening of China’s economy post-Covid and India’s power demand growing faster than its renewable energy supply.

Regulation and Reporting

[The European Supervisory Authorities \(ESAs\) have proposed amendments to the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation’s \(SFDR\) draft Regulatory Technical Standards \(RTS\).](#) The amendments would add several social factors to the principal adverse impact (PAI) list, such as exposure to companies involved in tobacco production and that pay inadequate wages. They would also require products with emissions reductions as their objective to make additional disclosures in precontractual documents regarding, among other things, the kind of outcome the product is committed to achieving. Other revisions are aimed at improving disclosures on how sustainable investments “Do No Significant Harm” and simplifying templates for pre-contractual and periodic disclosures. The European Commission now has three months to consider whether to endorse the draft RTS.

[The US Commodity Futures Trading Commission \(CFTC\) has proposed guidance and requested public comment regarding the listing of voluntary carbon credit derivatives.](#) The guidance, coming after a two-year examination of the carbon markets, outlines factors a CFTC-regulated exchange should consider as part of the contract design and listing process. **[According to CFTC Chair Rostin Behnam](#)**, the CFTC hopes to improve transparency, risk management, liquidity, and pricing accuracy to assure that these derivatives are verifiable and represent permanent greenhouse gas emissions reductions and removals.

Investing

[The UAE announced the launch of ALTÉRRRA, a \\$30 billion investment platform focused on allocating private capital to climate investments and improving emerging markets' access to climate finance.](#) ALTÉRRRA, whose launch partners include BlackRock, Brookfield, and TPG, plans to mobilize \$250 billion by 2030. The platform comprises two components: (1) ALTÉRRRA ACCELERATION, a \$25 billion anchor/co-investor targeting climate investments at scale, and (2) ALTÉRRRA TRANSFORMATION, a \$5 billion vehicle providing risk capital to incentivize capital flows into the Global South and leveraging concessional finance to support climate investments in less developed countries and islands.

Resources & Membership

[Please join Finpublica, The Impact Capital Forum, and Harvard Alumni in Impact on December 12th \(at 11am ET\) for a virtual panel on How to Make an Impact in Impact Investing.](#) Learn ways that every person can invest with impact; strategies for aligning impact, wealth creation, and happiness; how to make an impact by investing in urban areas; and more. Panelists will include: (1) [Dr. Caroline Flammer](#), Professor of International and Public Affairs and of Climate at Columbia University; (2) [Karyn Polak](#), Founder of Shift the Prism Advisory and the former General Counsel of Transamerica; and (3) [Tami Kesselman](#), CEO of Next Gen Success LLC and President of Harvard Alumni in IMPACT. You can [register here](#).

[With COP28 underway in Dubai, learn more about ESG regulation in the United Arab Emirates \(UAE\).](#) Finpublica's website summarizes the UAE's country level initiatives, corporate disclosures, and fund disclosures.

Finpublica's [membership portal](#) is live. If you are interested in joining a community of 250 global leaders focused on sustainable finance and ways to implement environmental, social, and governance initiatives inside their organizations and across the industry, we invite you to apply.

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