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Environment

[The Biden administration announced America's strongest pollution regulations for heavy duty vehicles, one week after promulgating the strictest tailpipe emissions for the country's cars.](#) The EPA's rule is technology neutral, will be phased in over time, and is expected to cut 1 billion tons of greenhouse gasses by 2055.

Regulation and Reporting

A recent survey by ICE, the We Mean Business Coalition, and Bain found that additional regulation of carbon markets could lead to increased investment. Key findings include that if barriers were addressed with better regulations, half of non-participating companies would enter these markets, existing participants would increase spending on credits by up to 10% within two years, and more companies would set near-term and long-term climate targets.

Nigeria has committed to implementing ISSB reporting standards.

Companies will have until 2028 to mandatorily adopt these eco-friendly reporting standards, with a voluntary adoption period leading up to that deadline. President Tinubu affirmed Nigeria's readiness to collaborate with the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) in this effort to enhance transparency and facilitate the decarbonization of the national economy.

Mississippi issued a cease-and-desist order against BlackRock, claiming that the asset management firm made supposedly fraudulent statements and misrepresentations about its ESG strategies.

This is the latest move by Republican-led states in their ongoing battle against BlackRock and ESG policies, which they argue run counter to maximizing shareholder value and indirectly "blacklist" certain industries like fossil fuels and firearms. BlackRock has denied the allegations, stating that several of the state's contentions are inaccurate and that its only agenda is maximizing risk-adjusted returns for its clients' investments.

Investing

The five biggest Dutch pension funds are interested in investing billions in expanding the country's heating and electricity networks for the energy transition.

In a letter to cabinet leaders, these funds expressed desire to invest more, but asked for conditions like long-term government partnerships, project guarantees, and a national investment institution to facilitate their involvement. This marks the funds' first proactive proposal for specific investment areas.

The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) has welcomed \$1 billion in new funding from the Australian Government to establish the Solar Sunshot program, aimed at growing domestic solar photovoltaic (PV) manufacturing across the supply chain.

The program will provide support for various aspects of the solar PV supply chain, including module manufacturing, polysilicon, ingots, wafers, cells, module assembly, and other components. The

government will consult with industry and other stakeholders to develop the final program design.

[The U.K's development lender, British International Investment, will provide a \\$100 million finance facility to the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank to boost food security in the region.](#) The investment will enhance trade finance, farming, and access to essential materials, and aims to address rising debt, inflation, and climate challenges in African economies.

Resources & Membership

[Are you interested in joining a community of sustainable finance leaders – if so, click here to apply to join Finpublica.](#) Benefits to membership, which is currently complimentary, include:

- Active participation in a community of more than 300 current and emerging global finance leaders interested in sustainability and impact investing;
- Invitations to a variety of exclusive expert panels on such topics as the Intersection of ESG and Blockchain, Making an Impact with Impact Investing, Navigating between Pro- and Anti- ESG Regulatory Actions, and Public-Private Clean Energy Partnerships;
- Admittance to members-only salons, discussions, and networking sessions;
- Access to the newest curated sustainability research and news; and
- The opportunity to participate in initiatives and working groups on environmental, social, governance, equity, impact of interest to members.

[Columbia Business School's 2024 Climate Business & Investment Conference -- Climate Tech for Net Zero --](#) will offer insights from investors, businesses, and researchers on emerging climate technologies and policies to efficiently drive decarbonization. Hear from the frontiers of economically strategic climate innovation. This strategic mix of experts has been curated to help navigate the climate tech landscape for smarter investment and business decisions toward an efficient net zero future. You can reserve your spot for this event live on April 19, 2024 in NYC (or register to receive a recording) **[here](#)**.

[You can join the Harvard U.S. – Asia Sustainable Development Summit on April 13th.](#) The summit, hosted by the U.S.-Asia Sustainable Development

Foundation, aims to foster cross-border collaboration between the U.S. and Asia for a sustainable future. Leaders across nations and sectors will explore sustainable development technologies, academic research, and youth empowerment to strengthen ties, share knowledge, and pioneer policy solutions. Sign up [here](#) to attend virtually or in person.

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