



FINPUBLICA

ESG NEWS YOU CAN USE

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Investing

In her article, [Yes, You Can Still Invest In Diverse Entrepreneurs: Here's How](#), Forbes Senior Contributor Morgan Simon explores approaches investors can consider to use their investments to advance racial justice even after the Supreme Court's university anti-affirmative action *SFFA* decision. The article discusses how: (1) race can be considered in remedying past, specific harms, (2) investors can continue to focus on entrepreneurs seeking strong returns while best serving diverse communities, and (3) investors can consider the individual experience of diverse investors in making investment decisions.

According to a new paper "Retail Investors and ESG News", written by experts at Wharton and other academic institutions, retail investors care strongly about ESG factors when they impact the value of their investments. The paper finds that retail investors treat and trade on ESG information like they do financial news and that their reactions to ESG news events are greater than their reactions to dividend announcements and analyst forecasts.

Regulation and Reporting

The Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) has released proposed sustainability reporting standards based on those issued by the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB). This action follows the Australian government's plan to mandate climate-related financial disclosure for companies and financial institutions, starting with large businesses in 2024, with smaller entities phased in through 2027. The AASB is welcoming feedback on the draft until March 1, 2024.

Brazil announced that it will require annual sustainability reporting for public companies, in line with ISSB standards. The new requirements will take effect in 2026 as part of Brazil's Ecological Transformation Plan to drive the country's transition to a green economy, which also includes \$350 billion in infrastructure investments.

Environmental

The International Energy Agency (IEA) expects carbon emissions to peak by 2025, with a tenfold increase in EV usage and the proliferation of solar power by 2030. It also predicts that renewables will make up half of the world's mix by 2030 (up from 30% today), and that solar power alone will generate more electricity than the entire US power system does today.

According to a World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) report, the water crisis threatens food security, sustainability, and \$58 trillion in economic value that is tied to water and freshwater ecosystems. This figure is expected to increase due to ongoing degradation of rivers, wetlands, and aquifers. The WWF estimates that, by 2050, 46% of global GDP will come from areas facing high-water risk, up from 10% today. To address this crisis, the WWF has called for governments, financial institutions, and businesses to increase investment in sustainable water infrastructure that reverses the ongoing loss of freshwater ecosystems. The WWF also urges governments to join the Freshwater Challenge, an initiative focused on restoring 350 million hectares of wetlands and 300,000 km of rivers by 2030.

[**A report by a coalition of environmental organizations revealed that the world is falling behind in its goal to end deforestation by 2030.**](#) Despite 140 countries' pledges at the 2021 UN climate summit, deforestation increased by 4% in 2022, putting the world 21% off track. While 50 countries – including Brazil, Indonesia, and Malaysia – are on track to halt forest loss by the end of the decade, the report emphasized that the annual \$2.2 billion in public funds allocated to forest protection falls far short of what is needed to stop deforestation.

Resources & Membership

[**On November 1, 2023 \(11am ET\) Finpublica and the Wall Street Block Chain Alliance will be hosting a virtual panel regarding the intersection of ESG and blockchain.**](#) You can register to attend by clicking [here](#).

In September 2023, [**the New York State Bar Association Task Force on Advancing Diversity issued a nearly 100-page report and recommendations**](#) addressing the implications of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision striking down Harvard and University of North Carolina's affirmative action policies. Click [here](#) for Finpublica's much shorter summary of the Report's guidance as it relates to businesses.

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

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