



FINPUBLICA

ESG NEWS YOU CAN USE

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Environmental

[Morgan Stanley's Institute for Sustainable Investing and Stanford University's Natural Capital Project announced the development of a new open-source tool that allows companies and investors to calculate the impact of human-built structures on ecosystems](#) based on their physical footprint in the landscape. The tool can help companies choosing new locations

to evaluate and compare impacts like exposure to coastal flooding or loss of biodiversity.

[**The International Coral Reef Initiative \(ICRI\), a network composed of 45 countries that represent over 75% of the world's coral reefs, launched the Coral Reef Breakthrough.**](#) Its goal is to save at least 125,000 square kilometers of shallow-water tropical coral reefs through \$12 billion in investments, supporting more than 500 million people who rely on the reefs for their livelihoods.

Social

[**The New York State Bar Association recently published a report from its Task Force on Advancing Diversity,**](#) which provides extensive and actionable information for corporations interested in promoting DEI initiatives in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision striking down Harvard and University of North Carolina's affirmative action programs. The report discusses, among other things: (1) the tangible benefits of DEI for corporations (pp. 14-18); (2) the legal risks posed by backing away from DEI commitments (pp. 52-56); and (3) recommendations for private employers on how to continue fostering DEI in the current legal environment (pp. 56-75).

[**Reuters compiled a timeline starting in 1862 highlighting the policies and practices that have disadvantaged Black Americans over the course of generations**](#) to help explain the racial wealth gap. A study examining the long-term wealth disparity between Black and white Americans showed Black Americans held 17 cents for every \$1 of per-capita wealth held by white Americans in 2019 (the same level as in 1968).

Regulation and Reporting

[**The European Union has launched the first phase of the Carbon Adjustment Mechanism, the world's first carbon border tariff.**](#) The tariff is designed to put fair prices on the carbon emitted to produce carbon-intensive goods entering the EU. It will initially apply to such carbon intensive resources as cement, iron and steel, aluminum, fertilizers, electricity, and hydrogen. At first, importers will only have to report greenhouse gas emissions, without making tariff payments (which will begin in January 2026).

[According to Politico, supporters of sustainable investing are feeling good as anti-ESG efforts have gained lukewarm support from lawmakers and failed to engage voters.](#) Sustainable investing supporters, such as Ceres, For the Long Term, and US SIF are communicating better – focusing on information sharing (rather than advertising and lobbying). Moreover, according to the article, anti-ESG legislation in the U.S. House is unlikely to succeed and state banking groups have been able to water down some of the most extreme Red State anti-ESG proposals.

[An Austrian court found Austrian Airlines AG guilty of misleading their customers with published ads offering carbon-neutral flights that used 100% sustainable aviation fuel \(SAF\) between Vienna and Venice.](#) The Court found that the Airline charged consumers more than 50% of the ticket price for the carbon-neutral option, despite the fact that the maximum proportion of SAF was 5% and it is not currently possible to offer 100% SAF flights.

Investing

[BlackRock has designated the transition to a low-carbon economy as one of its key “mega forces” that will result in significant profitability shifts and reallocation of capital across economies and sectors.](#) According to a recent survey by the firm, 98% of investors have set a transition investment goal for their portfolios and 75% of institutional investors have set net zero objectives.

Resources & Membership

A video replay of Finpublica’s September 2023 Climate Week event (co-hosted with K&L Gates) is now live! **[Click here to learn about Reducing Risk While Navigating Pro and Anti-ESG Regulatory Actions,](#)** with a panel of highly regarded attorneys including **[Linda Kleftodimou Smith](#)** (Nuveen), **[Ed Burbach](#)** (Foley), **[Lance Dial](#)** (K&L Gates), **[Howard Fischer](#)** (Moses Singer), and **[Chul Pak](#)** (Wilson Sonsini).

Opportunity Finance Network (OFN), the leading national network of CDFIs, is looking to hire a Chief Investment Officer to lead its investment services business units and help build new partnerships, products, and investment approaches. To learn more click **[here](#)**.

Finpublica’s **[membership portal](#)** is live. If you are interested in joining a community more than 200 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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