



FINPUBLICA

ESG NEWS YOU CAN USE

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Environmental

The G20 world leaders plan to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030 and enhance Paris Agreement efforts and resources. Noting that progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is off-track (with only 12% of targets on-track so far), the G20 leaders pledged to accelerate implementation of the SDGs and efforts to achieving the Paris Agreement's goals, pursue low-GHG and more sustainable development pathways, and scale up financing of these efforts.

Large companies are continuing to invest in Direct Air Capture (DAC) technologies as part of their net zero strategies. [Amazon announced its first investment in direct air capture technology](#), committing to purchase 250,000 tons of carbon removal credits over the next ten years. And, [Microsoft has signed a multi-year Direct Air Capture \(DAC\) agreement](#), to remove up to 315,000 metric tons of CO₂ from the atmosphere, in one of the largest carbon removal deals to date.

[The United States and Peru have agreed to a debt-for-nature swap, where Peru will receive a \\$20 million reduction in its debt in exchange for restoring certain areas of the Amazon rainforest](#). The deal involves a \$15 million contribution from the U.S. government through the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act (TFCCA) and a \$3 million donation from four international NGOs. This marks the third such agreement between the two countries, with previous swaps generating approximately \$36 million for tropical forest restoration and conservation efforts.

Regulation and Reporting

[The California legislature passed a landmark bill that would require more than 5,000 companies to publicly report their greenhouse gas emissions](#). The governor has until October 14 to decide whether he will sign the bill, which would require public and private businesses that operate in California and earn more than \$1 billion annually to disclose direct and indirect emissions.

Investing

[A new study by Kroll has found that companies with high ESG ratings have outperformed those with low ratings](#). The study of 13,000 companies found that globally, ESG leaders posted annual returns of 12.9%, compared to 8.6% for companies deemed ESG laggards.

[BlackRock, SGX, and MSCI have launched a joint Climate Action exchange-traded fund \(ETF\) in Singapore](#). The ETF tracks the MSCI AC Asia ex Japan Climate Action Index, which selects top-performing companies in each sector based on their carbon intensity and climate-related commitments. It is the largest equity ETF launched in Singapore, with \$426M in assets under management.

Resources & Membership

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.

Check out Finpublica's website for the latest information on ESG topics. Recently added include pages summarizing: (1) [Biodiversity](#); (2) [Carbon Capture Technology](#); (3) [Clean Hydrogen](#); and (4) [the first two standards recently released by the International Sustainability Standards Board \(ISSB\)](#).

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