

GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT REPORT # 2

INTRODUCTION

Climate Scorecard's 2nd Report in its Global Spotlight series highlights recent noteworthy activities in 20 leading greenhouse gas emitting countries to reduce their emissions. These activities reflect national efforts to mitigate or adapt to climate change. They provide a barometer on how well countries are doing to meet the commitments they made to help the Paris Climate Agreement reach its goals.

Climate Scorecard uses a four star rating system to assess the activities described in our monthly reports: 4 stars indicate an activity that will help the country **Move Forward**; 3 stars indicate an activity that is helping the country move in the **Right Direction** but more needs to be done; 2 stars indicate the country is **Standing Still**— the described activity neither moves the country forward nor backwards in its efforts to combat climate change; and 1 star indicates an activity that shows the country is **Falling Behind**.

Based on this rating system, recent activities reported show 3 countries **Moving Forward** with a 4-star rating (Australia, Canada, and France); 7 countries with activities that are headed in the **Right Direction** (China, EU, Germany, Japan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Thailand, and Turkey); 1 country that is **Standing Still** (the United Kingdom), and 7 countries **Falling Behind** (Brazil, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Mexico, Nigeria and the United States.) The Climate Scorecard website enables you to compare country ratings in this report with ratings from previous reports.

Australia

Spotlight Activity: South Australia and Tesla's Virtual Power Scheme

The South Australian government, partnering with Tesla, recently announced a major solar and storage plan to distribute free solar panels and batteries to 50,000 low-income households in the state. If this goes ahead, it would create the world's largest virtual power plant.

The project is part of the state government's plan to reach its 75% renewable energy target by 2025. It would result in households paying an estimated 30% less than current electricity rates. While public interest is high, some local businesses are concerned about the government partnering with an international, rather than a local, company. Furthermore, the project is reliant on a \$30 million loan from the Renewable Technology Fund, which some local competitors argue makes the project less economically sustainable than their proposals.

Activity Rating: ** Moving Forward**

While there are still details that need to be worked out, this project represents a big step towards clean energy infrastructure. In addition, Australian universities and businesses are currently running a project to test the viability of this scheme were it to be applied to 1.8 million rooftops across the country. If the results are positive, it could create one of the largest electricity networks in the world.

Take Action:

You can get involved by supporting the South Australian government's move to pursue clean energy and push other state governments to invest similarly. Please send the following message to the policymaker listed below:

I'm writing to lend my support to the partnership between South Australia and Tesla to create an innovative virtual solar power plant. It is a great step towards reducing carbon emissions, while providing a sustainable alternative to high emissions fuel sources. We encourage you to continue strengthening infrastructure in economically and ecologically thoughtful ways. We hope that in the future this network will be a model that the rest of Australia and the world can follow.

Contact: South Australia Premier Jay Weatherill

- **Web:** [Leave a message](#) (you can choose to send this anonymously)
- **Tel:** +61(08) 9463 3166
- **Mail:** Premier Jay Weatherill
GPO Box 2343
Adelaide SA 5001, Australia

For more information please contact Climate Scorecard Australia Country Manager Alex Wood: alex@climatescorecard.org

Brazil**Spotlight Activity: Land-use Practices in the Amazon**

In Brazil, the land use associated with deforestation and the size of the agricultural sector is responsible for the majority of the Brazilian Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. So, combating deforestation should be one the Brazilian major initiatives for COP-21. Unfortunately, the deforestation of the Amazon rainforest is about to reach a certain limit from which, it is believed, some regions of the rainforest can undergo irreversible changes. In other words, once reached, those irreversible changes would affect the Amazonian hydrological cycle, no longer able to support the existence of tropical forest ecosystems in some regions. The alert was made in an editorial published last February

21st, in the journal Science Advances. Among the authors, the article¹ is signed by Thomas Lovejoy, a professor at George Mason University in the United States and Carlos Nobre, coordinator of the National Institute of Science and Technology for Climate Change.

In order to prevent the Amazon from reaching an irreversible limit, the researchers suggest the need of both controlling the deforestation of the region and building a safety margin by reducing the deforested area to less than 20%. For this, deforestation in the Amazon will have to be zeroed and Brazil will have to fulfill the commitment made in the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement to reforest 12 million hectares of deforested areas in the country—50,000 km² in the Amazon.

Activity Rating: * Falling Behind

The authors do not know the exact inflection point, but they estimate that the Amazon is very close to reaching this irreversible limit. The Amazon has already 20% of deforested area, equivalent to 1 million square kilometers, although 15% of this area—150 thousand km²—is in recovery.

Take Action:

You can help combat the Amazon deforestation by alerting the Brazilian authorities listed below about this study. Please contact them with the following message:

We congratulate Brazil on its efforts to recover deforested areas of the Amazon rainforest. However, in order to prevent the Amazon rainforest from permanent ecosystem loss, researchers suggest that controlling the deforestation of the region is not enough. They also recommend building a safety margin by reducing the deforested area to less than 20% of total land in the Amazon basin.

Contact: Ministry of the Environment (MMA)

Secretariat of Climate Change and Forestry
Everton Frask Lucero

E-mail: gabinete.smcq@mma.gov.br

Tel: +55 (61) 2028-2025/2019/2250

SEPN 505 Bloco "B" Edifício Marie Prendi Cruz 2º andar Sala 202
70730-542- Brasília – DF – Brazil

For more information please contact Climate Scorecard Brazil Country Manager Rafael Nogueira Raphael@climatescorecard.org

Canada

Spotlight Activity: Canada's Carbon Pricing Law Moves Forward

¹ Land-use and climate change risks in the Amazon and the need of a novel sustainable development paradigm (<http://www.pnas.org/content/113/39/10759>).

In 2016, the federal government tabled a national price on carbon, expected to start with a \$10 per tonne fee in 2018, with increases to \$50 a tonne by 2022. Provinces and territories were given flexibility to develop their own programs by last September and show how these programs will reach the federal target. If not, Ottawa would top up or put into force their own plan held to a federal standard. On January 15, 2018, with four provincial strategies underway (British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec), Ottawa did just that with a draft policy, the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act, and the regulatory framework to implement it.

The Act supports Canada's international Paris Agreement target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GGE) by 30% below 2005 levels by 2030. The bill is expected to be introduced into Parliament this spring and passed in the fall. Provinces and territories planning to adopt the federal system are to confirm their use by March 30, 2018. The four provinces with existing systems have until September 1, 2018 to confirm how their systems meet federal standards. After reviewing each system, Ottawa will implement this legislation on January 1, 2019, where no carbon pricing system

To read more, visit the technical paper for the Act at - <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/technical-paper-federal-carbon-pricing-backstop.html>

Activity Rating: ** Moving Forward**

Canada's Pan-Canadian Framework commits to pricing carbon pollution by 2018. Pricing is based on a rate schedule for different global warming potentials based on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's standards. Applying carbon pricing to a broad set of emission sources shows national progress on adaptation and climate response to reach Canada's pledge to the Paris Agreement. It is an important strategy.

Take Action:

To help ensure the success of this draft Act, please contact Canada's Finance Minister with the following message:

We congratulate Canada on moving forward on carbon pricing for the Pan-Canadian Framework implementation. We ask that timelines keep on track for the January 1, 2019 start date of the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act, and that the public and all relevant stakeholders have adequate input into the final draft of the Act.

Contact:

Comments on the regulatory framework are welcome until April 9, 2018, at

Web: ec.tarificationducARBONE-carbonpricing.ec@canada.ca.

This legislation is published by both

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P., Minister of Environment and Climate Change and The Honourable William Francis Morneau, P.C., M.P. Minister of Finance

Email: bill.morneau@canada.ca

Tel: 613-992-1377

Mail: The Honourable William Francis Morneau, Department of Finance Canada, 90 Elgin Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G5

For more information, please email Climate Scorecard Canadian Country Manager: Diane Szoller at Dszoller@climatesocecacard.org

China

Spotlight Activity: New Articles for Industry Capacity Reduction from Ministry of Environmental Protection

On January 29th, the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China officially released a new article that regulates the excess capacity allowance for the top fourteen influential heavy industries in China including steel, cement, coal, glass and aluminum. One of the central callings states that, "Any programs that apply for additional increase in industrial capacity should not be allowed."

Excess capacity describes the phenomenon that the demand for the product is less than the potential supply. Mamta Badkar, a writer for Business Insider, found that Chinese policy makers have been concerned about excess capacity since 2005 as the excess proportion of the products that are produced without utilization contributes to unnecessary production which result in an increase in resource consumption.

The environmental impact of the excess production includes unnecessary wastewater discharge and exhaust gas emission. As the top fourteen heavy industries contribute 75.8% of carbon emissions in China, we expect that shutting off their excess capacity, which is now required by the central Ministry of Environmental Protection of China, will definitely have an effect on halting additional carbon emission among the heavy industries. The effectiveness of the newly released articles, however, depends on the intensity of the local governments' efforts to put these regulations into force.

Activity Rating: * Right Direction**

The prohibition and halting of unnecessary industrial productions will certainly decrease unnecessary carbon emissions. The effectiveness of implementing this act depends on the efforts of local governments.

Take Action:

You can encourage the implementation of this regulation by sending the following message to the central environmental protection department asking them to support the application of this new act:

We're glad that the government has taken the lead on carbon emission reduction. Regulations that prohibit excess capacity production on heavy industries would definitely reduce unnecessary carbon emissions. However, we urge you, our local

government, to apply the regulations forcefully so that we move toward the fulfillment of the Paris Agreement.

Contact:

Web:

Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China
http://www.zhb.gov.cn/hdjl/bzxxzs_1/

For more information please contact Climate Scorecard China Country Manager Sichen Wan Sichen@climatescorecard.org

Note: I moved this Country Manager name & email from below the French report. Please check that Sichen Wan is our Country Manager for China

阶段二 简报编号:1 国家:中国 聚焦事件:中国全国碳排放交易系统正式启动

于 2017 年 12 月 19 日，中国国家发改委正式宣布中国全国碳排放交易系统将正式启动。于此之前，国家发改委曾印发过关于全国碳排放交易市场的建设方案，试以占全国碳排放量 1/3 的发电行业为突破口逐渐减少全国碳排放量。此次全国碳排放交易体系的正式启动意味着中国将逐渐将除发电部门以外的其他行业加入此体系。若此系统彻底运行，中国全国碳排放交易系统将成为全球范围内最大的碳排放交易系统，也意味着中国朝着减排目标迈出一大步。

碳排放交易系统的成效及影响很大程度上取决于碳排放量数据的透明度。

中国国家发改委目前已将碳排放数据的真实流露作为《碳排放权交易管理条例》的重要篇章之一，而披露的具体信息仍未被立法实施。

据中国公众环境研究中心人员报道，缺乏信息透明度的碳排放交易体系将限制以市场主导型为主的碳排放价格预测系统，换句话说，讲可能准确的碳定价和不公平的碳排放分配指标。

碳排放信息披露平台的建立将会帮助有关部门记录与监测工业碳排放量。以中国气候变化政策为主要研究方向的专家 Jeremy Schreifels 预测到：“由欧盟碳排放量交易系统施行的经验可以推测，中国碳排放信息披露系统的规范建立将加强降低中国减排的实施力度。”

状态:正确方向

小评:全国碳排放交易系统的成功落成将有望将中国二氧化碳量排放降低 27.5%，将使得中国向巴黎气候变化对话上作出的承诺的完成更近一步。此系统所带来的具体帮助大小却取决于碳排放量信息的透明度。

一起行动:

读者朋友们，复制以下信息并传递至以下负责人将有助于促进有关政策的建立:

“祝贺中国全国碳排放交易系统的正式启动，此举将是我国在完成巴黎气候协定之诺的成功之路上迈出的一大步，同时也是中国处于国际领导地位的体现!但希望您可以推动碳排放信息披露平台的建立，以实现对企业碳排放的有效监测，成立一个真正有效全国碳排放交易系统!”

联系方式:

信箱留言渠道:

<http://xf.ndrc.gov.cn/xf/addmail.jsp>

有关负责人:

何立峰 现任中国共产党第十九届中央委员会委员，国家发展和改革委员会主任、党组书记

European Union

Spotlight Activity: EU Strategy on Sustainable Finance

On March 8th, the European Commission published an Action Plan delineating a roadmap to sustainable finance. The Plan builds on the report published in January of 2018 by the High-Level Expert Group (HLEG) on sustainable finance, a group formed at the end of 2016 to develop an overarching strategy in this area.

Finance is a key aspect to the success of the Paris Agreement, and it was calculated that additional investments of €180 billion per year are needed to achieve the EU's climate and energy targets agreed in Paris. For this reason, the Commission's Action Plan on sustainable finance provides direction on how to integrate sustainability

considerations into its financial policy framework in order to mobilize finance for sustainable growth.

The plan provides solutions for the following challenges:

- No common definition of 'sustainable investment'
- Risk of 'greenwashing' of investment products
- Banks and insurers often give insufficient consideration to climate and environmental risks
- Investors often disregard sustainability factors or underestimate their impact
- Too little information on corporate sustainability-related activities

Legislative proposals for the adoption of new regulation is expected by the fall of 2019.

This is the first known attempt of the integration of sustainability into a financial system. To the author's knowledge there are no similar initiatives at the World Bank or other development banks. Thus, to set an example it is in the European Commission's interest to design an effective scheme in prioritizing financing to low-carbon projects. If successful, the model can be replicated in other national and international settings with the potential for enormous impact.

Activity rating: Three stars * Moving Forward**

The integration of sustainability in the EU financial framework is a crucial step to prioritize funding for projects that will help achieve commitments under the Paris Agreement. The ultimate impact of the sustainable finance strategy will depend on its final design, which will be developed over the next year and a half. However, this activity deserves attention as other countries and financial institution explore new mechanisms to finance projects with a climate mitigation component.

Take Action:

Please send the following message to the policymaker below:

We congratulate the President of the European Commission Jean Claude Juncker for taking bold steps to integrate sustainability into the European financial system. We encourage the Commission to pursue the Action Plan and make it a priority to effectively finance projects that contribute to the achievement of climate emissions under the Paris Agreement.

Contact: Jean Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission

Email: president.juncker@ec.europa.eu

Sources

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-18-1424_en.htm

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/180308-action-plan-sustainable-growth-factsheet_en.pdf

France

Spotlight Activity: Exit Coal Now Petition

In 2016, the international Exit Coal Now petition featured on [ExitCoalNow.org](https://exitcoalnow.org) was launched by the Paris-based NGO [Saving Our Planet](https://savingourplanet.org), with the support of a few partner organizations. This petition calls for a coal power plant ban by 2040, because coal power plants are the climate and health hazards which are easiest to replace in the electric power mix of most countries. In fact, without that measure, countries like France would not be able to meet the greenhouse gas emissions reduction target set forth its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in the Paris Agreement.

But there is another twist: some countries cannot reduce their carbon footprint because they have not decided to exit coal any time soon. From the global warming point of view, pledging to shut down coal power plants after 2040 amounts to treating the patients after their deaths. This is exactly what has motivated some countries listed in the Exit Coal Now Country page: <https://exitcoalnow.org/ECNlist.html>

At COP22, professional CO2 Capture scientists admitted that, while there are solutions to store CO2 from industrial processes, there would never be enough for power plants: it just does not make sense to even try. All CO2 storage capacity should be reserved for industrial CO2-intensive processes, which are hard to replace. If those countries which still rely on coal power do not change course before 2020, the Paris Agreement objectives will be impossible to reach. So, now is the time to realize that the simplest, most effective climate action is to shut down power plants before 2040.

Activity Rating: ** Moving Forward**

This is a must to reach the Paris agreement. This single class of public policies can reduce CO2 emissions by 20%. Conversely, most NDCs will not be met without this specific policy.

Take Action:

To sign the petition follow the link to it on the ExitCoalNow.org page or go to the Change.org petition page: <https://www.change.org/p/high-level-climate-champion-cop23>
Then try to get 10 people you know, colleagues, family and friends to sign and do likewise.

Send This Action Alert Message to your elected representatives, education organizations, NGOs, and community services in your city, state, and country.

For more information, email Climate Scorecard French Country Manager: Stephan Savarese at stephan@climatescorecard.org

Germany

Spotlight Issue: Urban Diesel Ban

A court case in Leipzig originally filed by German environmental aid and ClientEarth resulted in a **diesel ban across cities in Germany becoming legal**. The ClientEarth Ugo Taddei referred to the court decision “**as a remarkable outcome for the citizen’s health**”. The restriction on the use of most polluting vehicles across cities in Germany is meant to prevent air pollution. **However, thousands of commuters in the cities eg. Stuttgart, use diesel cars because they are cost-effective given the fuel subsidy from the German state.**

Yet, the use of diesel leads to the release of nitrogen oxide which is a greenhouse gas. Nitrogen oxide causes respiratory complications that lead to untimely deaths. Poor quality air has so far been blamed for about 400,000 untimely deaths per year in Europe. Thus, the EU standards require all member countries to ensure exhaust gas remain way below 40 micrograms per cubic meter of air. Some cities in Germany have exceeded this limit. For instance, the city of Stuttgart missed the target set for 2010 by allowing the figure to be double the set limit, a situation that can be avoided. The Minister of Environment Barbara Hendricks called for “**the enforcement of the court ruling, as it is a legal clarification of the law**”. This means that, if there are no plans put in place the court ruling will only be theoretical and nothing will change regarding the use of diesel cars.

Activity Rating: *** Right Direction

The court ruling on the diesel ban opens a door for clean air and better health across German cities. Although this is a major setback to German car manufacturers who make their sales from diesel cars, it is a win to environmentalists who advocate for the meeting of Paris agreement goals. Based on the diesel ban, Germany is moving in the right direction because the court ruling gave a legal basis upon which EU clean air standards can be enforced.

Take Action:

Please send the following message to hold government representatives accountable to meeting EU pollution targets as an effort towards meeting Paris Agreement goals:

We congratulate Germany for setting a strong precedent for similar diesel bans across other cities in Europe. The EU standards on pollution targets across cities in Europe are clear and require support to ensure that they are met. Therefore, clean air plans need to be put in place to enforce the diesel ban. More attention needs to be paid to the principle of proportionality by passing a national policy that ensures consistency across cities in Germany. Car producing companies such as VW-owned Porsche and Toyota should be encouraged to move away from diesel car technologies. Finally, air pollution tolls should be introduced to charge drivers according to their vehicle’s emissions. We hope that the Ministers of Environment and Transport will work together towards the successful enforcement of the diesel ban.

Contact: Dr. Barbara Hendricks - Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

- **Web:** <http://www.barbara-hendricks.de>
- **Email:** service@bmub.bund.de
- **Tel:** 030 183050
- **Mail:** Stresemannstraße 128 - 130

10117 Berlin

Christian Schmidt - Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture / Federal Minister of Transport and Digital Infrastructure

- **Web:** [Leave message](#) (you can send the message anonymously)
- **Tel:** +49 (0) 30 18300 – 3060
- **Mail:** Invalidenstraße 44, 10115 Berlin

For more information contact Climate Scorecard Germany Country Manager Mary Nthambi Mary@climatescorecard.org

India

Spotlight Activity: Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules 2018

To fulfil its Paris Goals, India has set ambitious mitigation strategies, including increase in the forest/tree cover by 5 million hectares (m ha) and improving the quality of forest cover in another 5 m ha of forest lands, thereby creating an additional carbon sink of 2 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent. India's INDC has been criticized, by local and tribal communities as well as civil society, of being overly commercial monoculture focused and ignoring community rights over forests. Latest initiatives by the Indian Government to dilute forest rights of communities raises fresh doubts over India's commitment to a socially just and sustainable pathway to achieve its Paris Climate Goals.

On the 16th of February 2018, India's Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), notified the draft Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Rules, 2018, which—if passed as it is—would vest almost absolute power in the forest department and its officials to decide how \$6 billion² worth of funds from the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) Fund (referred to as CAMPA fund henceforth) will be utilized. The CAF rules don't respect the rights granted to nearly 200 million indigenous people and forest dwellers by the Forest Rights Act and will likely promote monoculture plantations by displacing forest dwellers.

² <http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/press-releases/revised%20PPT%20Press%20Conference%20INDC%20v5.pdf>

The www.landconflictwatch.org already documents dozens of conflicts where communities have been displaced by such plantations. Ignoring indigenous and local communities, who have been the best managers of India's natural forest resources³ and have helped preserve the majority of its high biodiversity forests, would also ensure that the afforestation and forest restoration through the \$6 billion CAMPA Fund would likely fail⁴. The Indian government therefore needs to relook at the draft rules and incorporate vital suggestions from the indigenous and forested communities, environmentalists and activists who have already given important suggestions to it on the draft Rules⁵.

Activity Rating: *

The Draft Rules for utilization of CAMPA Funds have ignored the forest rights of the Gram Sabhas (village assemblies) recognized under the historic law, the Forests Rights Act (FRA), and fails to work with communities to afforest and restore India's forests. It leans towards promotion of monoculture plantations rather than biodiversity rich natural forests. It also does away with the provision of 'free, prior and informed consent' of *Gram Sabhas* of forest communities while taking up the compensatory afforestation projects, creating significant risk of dispossession and displacement of some of the most vulnerable forest communities in the world. ***Climate Scorecard's Spotlight Project therefore gives this action of the Government of India only one Star!***

Take Action:

Please send the following message to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). Contact information below.

*We respectfully ask you to immediately organize dialogues with the indigenous and forested communities, activists, environmentalists and others concerned with this issue and not finalise the Rules without such wide scale consultations across the nation. "In response to protests by tribal organizations and forest rights groups, the then minister of MoEF&CC had assured the Rajya Sabha that the CAF Rules will ensure compliance with FRA and the decision-making authority of the relevant Gram Sabhas. The present draft rules renege on the assurance made by the minister and do not make clear provisions to incorporate FRA and the role of Gram Sabha in managing CA funds."⁶ **We therefore urge you to write to the Ministry to recognise the Gram Sabha as per the FRA and give communities the controlling say over utilisation of CAMFA funds. This will ensure better compliance with India's Paris Agreement Goals.***

Contact:

Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,

³ <https://www.cseindia.org/people-s-forests-8540>

⁴ <https://www.hindustantimes.com/nation-newspaper/plantation-projects-on-an-overdrive-but-green-cover-shows-little-increase/story-i518jYvwVPfrVjNiK3KuTO.html>

⁵ <http://orissadiary.com/csd-odisha-sends-comments-suggestions-moef-draft-cfa-rules2018/>

⁶ From the submission of the All India Forum for Forest Movements (AIFFM) and Community Forest Rights-Learning & Advocacy (CFR-LA) on the Draft Law to the MoEF&CC.

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi 110003
Or,
Inspector General of Forest (Forest Conservation), Ministry of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi-110003.
Email: igfc-mef@nic.in Twitter handle of the Ministry: [@moefcc](https://twitter.com/moefcc)

For more information contact Climate Scorecard India Country Manager Ranjan Panda
Ranjan@climatescorecard.org

Indonesia

Spotlight Activity: State-Owned Electricity Distribution Company Cancels New Energy Projects

Indonesia's state-owned electricity distribution company also generates a large portion of Indonesia's power. PLN is canceling 22 GW in new energy projects that would have been created through independent power producers (IPPs). The majority of these projects were in cycle gas turbines and renewables. This moves Indonesia further away from reducing its dependence on coal. The agency's plan for the next decade was to increase capacity by 88.5 GW, providing electricity to many communities with poor access to power and greening its energy mix. The new plan will cut PLN's new capacity; 10,000 MW in natural gas, 6,600 MW in renewables, and 5,000 MW in coal. PLN blames falling demand for axing 22 GW in new energy capacity. PLN claims that the national energy mix under the revised plan is still on target to reach 23% renewables by 2025.

Activity Rating: * Falling Behind

Although the agency still claims that this cut will keep Indonesia on track to achieve 23% renewables by 2025, slashing more renewables than coal is moving in the wrong direction. The agency must also decrease overall investment in coal. Coal under the PLN's plan through 2025 takes the largest percentage of the energy mix. The Indonesian government needs to ramp up its efforts to promote the generation of new renewable sources. 2025 is not far away, and this work needs to be done now. Indonesia must tap its great potential for renewable energy, especially geothermal which is currently much underutilized.

Take Action:

If you are concerned that the Indonesian government is continuing its dependence on fossil fuels and is therefore failing to meet its Paris Agreement pledge, please send the message below to PLN:

Indonesia is the world's 5th largest emitter of greenhouse gases. Slashing expansion of renewables over dirtier energy sources such as coal is the wrong way to go if the government is serious about reaching its Indonesia's Paris Agreement pledge and

targets for renewable energy development. PLN must invest in sources such as geothermal energy. Only 10% of Indonesia's geothermal capacity is used. PLN must work with and support EBTKE (Energi Baru Terbarukan dan Konservasi Energi) to expand geothermal and hydroelectric energy. PLN should be a leader in decarbonizing Indonesia's energy production. Cancelling renewable energy projects is not taking the lead in providing clean, pollution-free energy to Indonesia's communities.

Contact: PLN

Email: pln123@pln.co.id and infopublik@pln.co.id

Twitter: @pln_123

For more information contact Climate Scorecard Indonesia Country Manager Tristan Grupp: Tristan@climatescorecard.org

Iran

Spotlight Activity: Government Electricity Supply Plan

During a High Council for Environment's session last month presided over by President Hassan Rouhani, the borders of protected areas were revised and the alterations have drawn the ire of the environmental community.

The meeting had two items on the agenda: to study and approve the status of 11 protected zones and revise the borders of 28 others. The 11 zones had been designated as such during past administrations without the council's approval. The official website of the Department of Environment reported that following the request of the General Inspectorate Organization of Iran, the council reviewed the cases in last week's session and issued an official license.

Activity Rating: * Falling Behind

With regards to Aichi Biodiversity Targets for the 2011 – 2020:

Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.

Target 11

By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

Target 13

By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

Take Action:

You can get involved by making sure that these recommendations are being acted upon. Please contact the organizations and people listed below with the following message:

According to the Nagoya Biodiversity Convention in 2010, we have pledged to increase the size of our protected areas from 10% to 17% by 2020, but currently only 11% of Iranian soil is included in these areas.

Now, eight years have passed since the present pledge, and only two more years are left to reach this size. However, only 11% of the total area of the country is devoted to these areas, and yet 6% of these areas have not been realized. According to experts, about 6 % of the Zagros areas are still in these regions.

Referring to the environmental maps, it can be concluded that the largest share of these areas belongs to the desert areas, and in other areas such as Hirkani, Arasbaran and Zagros regions, which are among the best and most qualitative regions Biodiversity is not even close to 10%.

Now, with this situation, 77,000 hectares will be further reduced from these areas, and given the existing conditions, these reductions will certainly not be desert areas, and will include areas that are least protected. Now, if this issue, in the present circumstances, is a justification for public opinion, it will not guarantee the future of the land.

The recent approval, which does not have a technical and expert justification, has issued a license to invade the country's natural environment, and it is obvious that its implementation will lead to erosion of the soil, droughts and groundwater drain and lead to new environmental crises.

The recent approval of the environmental council would require further consideration, and we hope that at least the implementation of the law will take the necessary precautions to reach its environmental benefits.

بنا بر کنوانسیون تنوع زیستی «ناگویا» در سال 2010 ما تعهد داده ایم که وسعت مناطق حفاظت شده خود را از 10 درصد به 17 درصد تا سال 2020 افزایش دهیم؛ اما در حال حاضر این مناطق، تنها 11 درصد از خاک ایران را شامل می شود.

اکنون هشت سال از این تعهدنامه می گذرد و تنها دو سال دیگر فرصت باقی است تا به این وسعت برسیم. این در حالی است که تنها 11 درصد از کل مساحت کشور به این مناطق اختصاص دارد و هنوز 6 درصد از این مناطق

محقق نشده است. به گفته کارشناسان، هنوز حدود 6 درصد از مناطق زاگرس نشین جزو این مناطق به شمار می آید.

با رجوع به نقشه های مناطق محیط زیست، می توان به این نتیجه رسید که بیشترین سهم از این مناطق مربوط به منطقه های بیابانی است و در مناطق دیگری مانند منطقه های هیرکانی و منطقه ارسباران و منطقه زاگرس نشین که جزو بهترین و با کیفیت ترین مناطق زیستی به حساب می آید حتی به رقم 10 درصد هم نزدیک نشده اند.

اکنون با این وضعیت، قرار است 77 هزار هکتار دیگر نیز از این مناطق کاهش یابد و با توجه به شرایط موجود، قطعاً این کاهش ها از مناطق بیابانی نخواهد بود و شامل مناطقی می شود که کمترین سهم را از حفاظت دارند. اکنون اگر این موضوع در شرایط موجود، توجیهی برای افکار عمومی دارد، تضمینی برای رضایت آیندگان این سرزمین نخواهد بود.

این مصوبه که توجیه فنی و کارشناسی ندارد، مجوز تعرض به طبیعت روبه احتضار کشور را صادر کرده و بدیهی است که اجرای آن، به فرسایش خاک، ریزگردها و افت آبهای زیرزمینی دامن می زند و به بحرانهای جدید محیط زیستی منجر می شود
مصوبه اخیر شورای عالی محیط زیست نیازمند تامل بیشتر بود و امیدواریم حداقل در اجرای مصوبه دقت لازم صورت پذیرد تا منافع آن به محیط زیست هم برسد.

Contact:

Chairman of the Parliamentary Environment Fraction
Mohammad Reza Tabesh
Email: tabesh.mr@gmail.com

Head of Department of Environment
Dr. Isa Kalantari
Tel: +98 21 88233060-1

Deputy Minister for International Affairs
Alireza Da'emi
Email: daemi@moe.gov.ir

Legal Assistant, Parliament
Reza Anjom
Email: anjom@moe.gov.ir

For more information contact Climate Scorecard Indonesia Country xxxxx at xxxxxxxx

Italy

Spotlight Activity: New Air Pollution Regulations

Air quality in Italy becomes a hot topic every winter when many cities exceed the legal limit for air pollutants. Tens of thousands of deaths are directly correlated to poor air quality in Italy alone.

Although emissions of pollutants have been decreasing over the last few years, the concentration of particulate matter (PM 10), fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) and ozone (O₃) persists at alarmingly high levels throughout the country. This is possible because, other than emissions alone, factors such as chemical reactions of pollutants and weather effects play a fundamental role in determining concentration levels of pollutants such as PM₁₀, O₃, NO₂. Road transportation and wood combustion for residential heating are the top two sectors responsible for high emissions.

In 2010 the Italian government established that air quality management and monitoring falls in the competency of the country's Regions (d.lgs. 10-155). Many regions had already produced Local Action Plans with regard to air quality since 2000. In fact, 16 Regions out of 20 had air quality legislation by 2010.

Nonetheless, Italy received infringement procedures by the EU in 2009, 2012, 2014, and 2015 for systematically breaching dangerous concentration levels of PM₁₀ and NO₂. In 2013, Over 60% of the Italian population was exposed to PM₁₀ concentrations over the daily limit value (µg/m³ on more than 35 days in a year), with the most critical conditions being experienced in northern Italy.

After the menace of sanctions by the EU, on February 22nd the Italian government approved a legislative decree with the objective of improving air quality to protect human health. The legislation updates the legislative decree of 2004 by regulating additional pollutants such as PM 2.5 and ammonia, and coordinating efforts occurring at different levels. The law is a first step towards achieving the new 2020 and 2030 targets. However, it is unclear whether the latest policy will bring swift, effective, and coordinated measures.

Activity Rating: * Falling Behind

Clearly, Italy is lagging behind in terms of air quality issues for particulate matters and nitrogen oxide pollutants. Without coordinated and effective action, the country won't be able to stay below the mandated levels of concentration.

Take Action:

Please send the following message to the policy makers below:

Dear Ministers,

Please ensure that the legislative decree passed on February 22, 2018 to improve air quality in response to the European Directive 2016/2284 is fully implemented. This will reduce emissions AND concentrations of dangerous pollutants such as fine particulate matter and ozone in a way that protects human health. It is essential to curb emissions from road transportation and wood combustion for residential heating.

Contact: The Ministry of the Environment, Division for Pollution

Email: DGRIN@pec.minambiente.it

The Ministry of Transportation

Email: segreteria.ministro@pec.mit.gov.it

The Ministry for Health

Email: seggen@postacert.sanita.it

Sources

To read more about historical concentrations of pollutants from 1990 to 2015 read ISPRA's report (English)

http://www.isprambiente.gov.it/files2017/pubblicazioni/rapporto/R_262_17_IIR.pdf

To learn more about the national plan to monitor and control air quality (Italian)

<http://www.minambiente.it/pagina/gestione-della-qualita-dellaria>

To learn more about the interplay of European, national, and local air quality legislation (Italian)

<http://www.regione.piemonte.it/ambiente/aria/dwd/PRQA.pdf>

European Commission report on Italy's state of the environment

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eir/pdf/report_it_en.pdf

*For more information please contact Climate Scorecard Italy Country Manager Marta Morello at **xxxx***

Japan

Spotlight Activity: Cabinet Approval of “Climate Change Adaptation Bill”

On February 20, 2018, the cabinet adopted a bill for boosting efforts to reduce the harm caused by climate change, the “climate change adaptation bill.” This measure puts emphasis on the effects that would not be diminished even if the emission of greenhouse gas (GHG) sharply drops. It also defines different roles of the central government, municipalities, and citizens in preventing the hazardous effects such as disasters, infectious diseases, and poor harvests. It calls for the central government to develop a program of measures to protect agriculture and safety of the public. The cabinet hopes to enact the bill within the ongoing session of the Diet.

Activity Rating: * Right Direction**

The bill is a great initiative from the central government. Now local governments should recognize their responsibility as frontrunners and start planning how to take action. Since climate change effects like frequent rainfalls and poor harvests are already observed in many parts of Japan, adaptation is necessary and reduction of GHG emission will not meet the adaptation needs immediately. We hope various stakeholders will cooperate and take concrete action under the bill.

Take Action:

Ask members of the Diet to seek for further improvements to make the bill more effective. Please send the following message to the contact below:

We congratulate the current administration that is taking initiative to advance efforts to tackle climate change with the Climate Change Adaptation Bill. However, as some NGOs point out, the bill has room for further improvements such as establishing a third party for evaluation. Therefore, we urge you to have constructive discussion at the Diet and enhance the impacts of the bill.

Contact:
The Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan
Web: <https://cdp-japan.net/goiken/>

Japanese Communist Party
Mail: info@jcp.or.jp
Tel: 03-3403-6111

*For more information please contact Climate Scorecard Japan Country Manager **xxx** at **xxx***

Mexico (English)

Spotlight Activity: Consumer Report on Need to Improve Public Transportation and Sustainable Mobility

Road transport that relies on gasoline and diesel is the sector responsible for most of the greenhouse gas emissions in Mexico, which amounts to 152,821 Gg of CO₂e, or 23% of national emissions.

In this context, [many experts](#) and [organizations](#) have highlighted the lack of action and funding directed to improve public transportation and sustainable mobility, while support for car infrastructure continues by governments at all levels, even when it's not the main form of transport for most of the population.

The most recent example, a [report published last February by the social association *El Poder del Consumidor*](#) (The power of the consumer), points out that during the last five years, 81% of federal funds have been used to create and improve car infrastructure, while only 36% of the trips made in urban centers rely on this mode of transportation. This stems from the flawed idea that, in order to improve traffic problems, new roads should be built, which in turn attracts more cars.

Activity Rating: * Falling behind

The continuous development of car infrastructure, which disregards any effort to implement carbon efficient forms of mobility, encourages people to rely more on cars as their main mode of transportation, and leads to more emissions as well as other problems like air pollution and health issues. By actively directing most of the national funds for this activity, the Mexican government is falling behind in its Paris Agreement pledge of reducing 25% of greenhouse gas emissions and short-lived climate pollutants.

Take Action:

The funds used for car infrastructure should be allocated to public transportation improvement and the creation of better and more secure infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists. The [Transport Federal Fund Guide](#), made by the Institute of Transport And Development Policies Mexico (ITDP), shows the kind of funds that can be used in order to develop more sustainable types of mobility. You can get involved by contacting your state representatives and point out the importance of applying for these funds. Please send the following message using the link below:

The focus of the government on developing road infrastructure not only contributes greatly to our country's greenhouse gas emissions, but also has negative effects on our health and the air quality of our cities. We urge you redirect those funds, or apply funds destined to develop sustainable mobility in urban centers, in order to build more sustainable transport infrastructure that will help Mexico comply with our Paris Agreement pledge of reducing 25% of greenhouse gas and short-lived climate pollutants.

Contact:

Your state representative by accessing the corresponding link from this [list](#). Then, look for the contact section of the website and either call or write an email.

For further information contact Climate Scorecard Mexican Country Manager Raiza Pilatowsky-Gruner Raiza@climatescorecard.org

Mexico (Spanish)

Fase 2, Resumen 2: Mexico

Actividad Destacada: El continuo desarrollo de infraestructura de autotransporte contribuye a la mayoría de las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero de México

El autotransporte que depende de gasolina y diésel es el responsable de la mayoría de las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero en México, contribuyendo con 152,821 Gg de CO₂e, o 23% del total de las emisiones nacionales.

En este contexto, [expertos](#) y [organizaciones](#) han resaltado la falta de acción y fondos dirigidos a la mejora de transporte público y movilidad sustentable, mientras que el apoyo a la infraestructura para coches sigue siendo una prioridad en todos los niveles del gobierno, incluso cuando no es la forma principal de transporte para la mayoría de la población.

El ejemplo más reciente, un [reporte publicado en Febrero pasado por la asociación civil El Poder del Consumidor](#), indica que durante los últimos 5 años, 81% de los fondos federales se han utilizado para la creación y mantenimiento de infraestructura para coches, cuando solamente el 36% de los viajes realizados en centros urbanos se hacen a través de este medio de transporte. Esto surge de la idea errónea de que es necesario crear nuevas vialidades para mejorar los problemas de tráfico, cuando en realidad esto sólo atrae más vehículos.

Calificación de la actividad: * Quedándose atrás

El desarrollo continuo de infraestructura enfocada al autotransporte, que a su vez descuida formas de movilidad bajas en carbono, provoca que las personas dependan más del coche como su forma principal de transporte, lo que lleva a más emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero, y otros problemas como contaminación del aire y efectos en la salud. Al dirigir activamente la mayoría de los fondos nacionales a esta actividad, el gobierno mexicano está quedándose atrás en su compromiso ante el Acuerdo de París de reducir 25% de sus emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero y contaminantes climáticos de vida corta.

Tomar Acción: Los fondos utilizados para infraestructura vehicular deberían ser asignados a la mejora del transporte público y la creación de infraestructura para peatones y ciclistas que sea mejor y más segura para ellos. Esta [Guía de Fondos Federales para financiar la movilidad y la accesibilidad](#), por el Instituto de Políticas para el Transporte y Desarrollo México (ITDP) señala el tipo de fondos que pueden ser utilizados para desarrollar una movilidad más sustentable en los centros urbanos mexicanos. Puedes apoyarnos al contactar a tu gobierno estatal y destacar la importancia de aplicar para estos fondos. Podrás encontrar la página oficial de tu

gobierno en esta [lista](#). Una vez en la página correspondiente, busca la sección de contacto y envía un correo o haz una llamada con el siguiente mensaje:

El enfoque que da el gobierno al desarrollo de infraestructura vehicular no sólo contribuye enormemente a las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero de nuestro país, sino que también está afectando nuestra salud y la calidad del aire de nuestras ciudades. Le instamos a redirigir esos fondos o aplicar a los fondos dedicados a movilidad sustentable, para que el desarrollo de esta última nos ayude a cumplir con nuestro compromiso ante el Acuerdo de París de reducir 25% de las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero y contaminantes climáticos de vida corta.

Nigeria

Spotlight Activity: #StopTheSoot Takes Over Twitter

The Nigerian city of Port Harcourt used to be known as “The Garden City” because of its soaring palm trees and green open spaces. But since late last year, black soot has been falling from the sky, scaring and angering residents of the oil hub who claim nothing is being done to protect their health.

The soot appeared in November last year, clouds became a hazy grey and more people were seen wearing protective face masks. “It (the soot) is mostly pronounced in the morning hours, especially when you run your hands across your car,” There’s no escape from the fine black dust. Toxic smog is a phenomenon that has more often been associated with populous developing economies such as India and China.

The federal environment ministry in the national capital Abuja declared the air pollution in Port Harcourt an “emergency situation” and warned residents to shut doors and windows. The hashtag #StopTheSoot has appeared on Twitter, people are sharing photographs of their hands and feet covered in the dust, and protest marches are being organized. Burning tires for scrap copper and illegal oil refineries have both been blamed for the residue. Oil revenue is central to Nigeria’s economy, accounting for some 70% of government earnings and 90% of foreign exchange. But decades of exploration and spills have polluted the farmlands and fish stocks in the maze of creeks around Port Harcourt and across the Niger Delta region. Theft of crude oil from pipelines sees raw fuel regularly diverted to illegal refineries set up in the bush for conversion into petrol and diesel. But the environment ministry suggested another cause after ordering the shutdown of an asphalt-processing plant, saying it was “belching out thick smoke from its operations”.

In 2015, the World Bank said 94% of Nigerians were exposed to air pollution levels that exceed World Health Organization guidelines. Air quality is worsened by the use of generators to make up for the gaps in supply from the national electricity grid, as well as petrol containing high levels of Sulphur. Toxic smoke also comes from the burning of rubbish—a legacy of the absence of municipal waste services. The city of Onitsha, nearly 200 kilometres (125 miles) north of Port Harcourt, was in May of last year named as having the world's worst levels of PM10 particles. PM10 are microscopic particles in the air measuring between 2.5 and 10 thousand of a millimeter or micrometers. They can come from smoke, dust, soot, vehicle exhausts and industries.

Doctors in Port Harcourt say they are seeing the health effects of the soot already, with an increase in consultations for breathing difficulties, including asthma. Children and the elderly are most at risk. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) estimates some 600,000 people die in Africa every year as a result of air pollution.

Environmentalists are also sounding the alarm, as the soot has been found to contain Sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide, which cause acid rain when combined with moisture. A non-profit organization, Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development, says it is unlikely any new regulations will be implemented. "Many environmental policies are not enforced. There is a lack of political will. "It's not too important as far as they (the government) are concerned. They don't understand the implications of the attack on the environment, so they don't take it seriously."

Activity Rating: * Falling Behind

The Activity as reported, takes the country backwards and needs to be reversed if the country is to move forward in honoring the Paris Agreement

Take Action:

Concerned citizens need to email the following Action Alert message to the contact people in the organizations listed below:

Something must be done about this soot thing, it is very dangerous to our health. The government should do more to protect the lives of those living in Port Harcourt and its metropolis.

"It's not too important as far as they (the government) are concerned. They don't understand the implications of the attack on the environment, so they don't take it seriously." We need this to be changed now to meet the Paris Agreement pledge of Nigeria.

The Paris Agreement is very important to the citizens and if we want to achieve this, then the Nigeria government and all agencies responsible for these pollutants should do something very fast before it kills many people in the communities.

Contact:

LASEPA BUILDING, GOVERNOR'S ROAD,
THE SECRETARIAT, ALAUSA, LAGOS STATE.

info@lasepa.gov.ng

National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA)

dg@nesrea.gov.ng, info@nesrea.gov.ng

Saudi Arabia

SPOTLIGHT ACTIVITY: First Utility-scale Renewable Project Awarded to ACWA Power

As part of Saudi Arabia's focus on including renewables in its energy mix, the government invited several energy companies to bid on building the first utility-scale renewable project in the country. ACWA Power announced on February 6th, 2018, that they had out-bid their competitors, and were awarded with the rights to build the 300 megawatt Skaka IPP PV solar project in Al Jouf region. The country's current biggest solar farm exists in Dhahran and covers the size of the Saudi Aramco parking lot. By comparison, this solar project would cover 6 square kilometers. This project would provide energy to Saudi Arabia at a record-breaking 2.34 US-cents per kilowatt-hour, which is below the cost of fossil fuel-generated electricity. This is a result of the ever-decreasing cost of solar energy, which should help ease Saudi Arabia's adoption of renewables. The project will cost \$300 million, create hundreds of jobs, and generate enough electricity to power roughly 40,000 homes. This is part of Saudi Arabia's larger objective of eventually investing \$7 billion to develop seven new solar plants and a wind farm by the end of the year. The larger goal is to generate 9.5 gigawatts and provide as much as 10% of its power generation from renewables by 2023, with oil being the current primary source of the country's energy.

Activity Ranking: * Right Direction**

By awarding ACWA Power the right to build the first ever utility-level solar energy project in the country, Saudi Arabia is moving forward in fulfilling its Paris Agreement pledge. For a scale up of this important project around the Kingdom, a series of follow-up bids and contracts will need to be launched and awarded to expand and accelerate the installation of power generation facilities from renewable resources, speed up Saudi

Arabia's adoption of renewables, and enhance the Kingdom's resilience and climate change adaptability.

Take Action:

Please send the following message to the policy makers below:

We praise Saudi Arabia for awarding the contract to ACWA Power to build the 300 megawatt Skaka IPP PV solar project in Al Jouf region. For this step to realize its potential, follow-up bids and contracting processes need to be launched. Environmental leaders, private construction companies, and advocacy organizations should build upon the momentum generated by the upcoming construction of the first utility-scale renewable project in the northwest region. They should follow up with the Ministry of Energy, Industry, Mineral Resources (MEIM), and National Renewable Energy Program officials to enquire about additional bids to construct more facilities for solar and renewable energy production to mitigate climate change in other regions of the country.

A link to ACWA Power contact information can be found at <http://www.acwapower.com/en/news/media-contact/>

Read more: <https://cleantechnica.com/2018/02/06/acwa-power-develop-first-ever-utility-scale-renewable-project-saudi-arabia-record-breaking-tariff/>

Contact:

Dr. Khaled AbdulKader

Senior Consultant within the Environmental Protection Department of Aramco/ National Renewable Energy Program

Dr. Pieter Smeets

Senior Sustainability Engineer at SABIC/ National Renewable Energy Program

Dr. Lain Mcculouch

Professor of chemical science at KAUST and is also the director of the university & Solar Center/ National Renewable Energy Program

at: COP23Media@meim.gov.sa or media@ksa-climate.com

For further information contact Climate Scorecard Country Managers for Saudi Arabi: Abeer Abdulkareem abeerabdulkareemm2003@gmail.com and Amgad Ellaboudy amgad.ellaboudy@gmail.com

كجزء من تركيز المملكة العربية السعودية على ادخال مصادر الطاقة المتجددة ، دعت الحكومة العديد من شركات الطاقة لتقديم عطاءات لبناء أول مشروع مرافق عامة للطاقة المتجددة في البلاد. وأعلنت شركة أكوا باور يوم الثلاثاء 6 فبراير،

2018 ، أنها كسبت المزايدة، وحصلت على حقوق بناء مشروع سكاكا IPP للطاقة الشمسية ، الذي تبلغ طاقته 300 ميجاوات في منطقة الجوف. وحالياً توجد أكبر مزرعة للطاقة الشمسية في البلاد في منطقة الظهران وتغطي مساحة موقف السيارات العائد إلى أرامكو السعودية. وبالمقارنة ، سيغطي هذا المشروع مساحة 6 كيلومترات مربعة ويوفر الطاقة للمملكة العربية السعودية بمعدل قياسي يبلغ 2.34 سنت أمريكي لكل كيلوواط في الساعة وهو ما يقل عن تكلفة الكهرباء المولدة من الوقود الأحفوري. وهذا ناتج عن الانخفاض المستمر في تكلفة الطاقة الشمسية، والتي من شأنها المساعدة في تخفيف اعتماد المملكة العربية السعودية على مصادر الطاقة المتجددة. وسيكلف المشروع 300 مليون دولار ويساعد في خلق مئات الوظائف وتوليد ما يكفي من الكهرباء لتشغيل ما يقرب من 40000 منزل. وهذا جزء من الهدف الأكبر للمملكة العربية السعودية في استثمار 7 مليارات دولار لتطوير سبع محطات جديدة للطاقة الشمسية ومزرعة للرياح بحلول نهاية العام. والهدف الأكبر هو توليد 9.5 غيغاوات وتوفير 10٪ من توليد الطاقة من مصادر الطاقة المتجددة بحلول عام 2023 ، مع كون النفط المصدر الأساسي الحالي للطاقة في البلاد.

ترتيب النشاط **** جيد من خلال منح أكوا باور الحق في بناء أول مشروع مرافق عامة للطاقة الشمسية في البلاد ، تتقدم المملكة العربية السعودية في الوفاء بتعهداتها في اتفاقية باريس. ومن أجل توسيع نطاق هذا المشروع الهام في جميع أنحاء المملكة ، يجب إطلاق سلسلة من عروض متتابعة ومنح عقود لتوسيع وتسريع نصب مرافق توليد الطاقة من الموارد المتجددة وتسريع تبني المملكة العربية السعودية لمصادر الطاقة المتجددة وتعزيز قدرتها على التكيف مع تغير المناخ.

تنبيه للعمل (المملكة العربية السعودية)

نثني على المملكة العربية السعودية لمنح العقد لشركة أكوا باور لبناء مشروع 300 ميجاوات سكاكا IPP للطاقة الشمسية في منطقة الجوف. ولتصل هذه الخطوة لتحقيق إمكاناتها ، يجب بدء عروض متوالية وعمليات التعاقد. ويجب أن يعزز القادة البيئيون وشركات البناء الخاصة والمنظمات الناشطة الزخم المتولد عن أول مشروع مرافق عامة للطاقة المتجددة في المنطقة الشمالية الغربية. وينبغي عليهم المتابعة مع وزارة الطاقة والصناعة والموارد المعدنية (MEIM) والمسؤولين في برنامج الطاقة المتجددة الوطني للاستفسار عن العروض الإضافية لبناء المزيد من المرافق لإنتاج الطاقة الشمسية والمتجددة للتخفيف من تغير المناخ في مناطق أخرى من البلاد. يمكن العثور على رابط إلى معلومات الاتصال بـ ACWA Power على

[/http://www.acwapower.com/en/news/media-contact](http://www.acwapower.com/en/news/media-contact)

اقرأ المزيد: <https://cleantechnica.com/2018/02/06/acwa-power-develop-first-ever-utility-scale-renewable-project-saudi-arabia-record-breaking-tariff>

إرسال رسالة تنبيه العمل إلى:

د. خالد عبد القادر

مستشار أول في إدارة حماية البيئة في أرامكو / البرنامج الوطني للطاقة المتجددة

الدكتور بيتر سميتس

مهندس استدامة أول في شركة سابك / البرنامج الوطني للطاقة المتجددة

دكتور لاين ماكلوش

أستاذ العلوم الكيميائية في جامعة الملك عبد الله للعلوم والتقنية ، وهو أيضاً مدير الجامعة ومركز بحوث الطاقة الشمسية / البرنامج الوطني للطاقة المتجددة

على: COP23Media@meim.gov.sa أو media@ksa-climate.com

للحصول على مزيد من المعلومات ، يرجى الاتصال بالمنظمة الشريكة لـ (Climate Scorecard) في المملكة العربية السعودية ----- أو المدراء القطريون في (Climate Scorecard) للمملكة العربية السعودية Abeer Amgad Ellaboudy و Abdulkareem abeerabdulkareemm2003@gmail.com amgad.ellaboudy@gmail.com

South Korea

Spotlight Activity: Shutdown of Five Aged Coal-fired Power Plants

According to the South Korean Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE), South Korea will suspend operation of five aged coal-fired power generation plants in Spring (March to June) as responses to the Governmental Comprehensive Countermeasures against Particulate Matter (published in September 2017 and the 8th Annual Government Electricity Supply Plan (December 2018). <South Korea's Aged Coal-fired Power Generation Plants>

Five plants in the red box below will be shut down starting in March.

Power Plants	Installed Capacity (MW)	Years of Operation (years)	Location	Schedule for Shut Down	Operator	
Youngdong	1	125	44	Gangreung, Ganwon Province	Already done (Jul. 2017)	Namdong
	2	200	38	Gangreung, Ganwon Province	Jan. 2019	
Boryeong	1	500	34	Boryeong, South Choongchung Province	May 2022	Chungbuk
	2	500	33	Boryeong, South Choongchung Province	May 2022	

Samchunp o	1	560	34	Gosung, South Kyungnam Province	Dec. 19	Namdo ng
	2	560	34	Gosung, South Kyungnam Province	Dec. 19	
Seochun	1	200	34	Seochun, South Choongchu ng Province	Already done (Jul. 2017)	Chungb u
	2	200	33	Seochun, South Choongchu ng Province	Already done (Jul. 2017)	
Honam	1	250	45	Yeosu, South Cheolla Province	Jan. 2021	Dongse o
	2	250	45	Yeosu, South Cheolla Province	Jan. 2021	

The amount of fine dust (PM2.5) will be reduced by the shutdown of the five old coal plants is expected to be 813 tons, corresponding to 8.6% of the 9,472 tons of coal power generation for four months of last year. Based on the measurement results, the South Korean Ministry of Environment will statistically analyze changes in emissions after shutdown and analyze air pollution changes through air quality models. Electricity demand will not be high compared to the winter and summer seasons in the shutdown period of March – June, and it is expected that stable energy supply and demand will be possible. However, in order to thoroughly prepare for an unexpected surge in demand and other generator failures, the South Korean government explained that it has secured additional supply capability through the adjustment of the generator maintenance schedule. Also, the government has said that in the event of an emergency, the stand-by generator will also be kept in a standby state for emergency operation and the necessary personnel will be deployed.

Source. Ministry of Environment, “Press Release: Old-age Coal Power Generations’ Shut Down” (Feb. 28, 2018.)

Activity Rating: *** Right Direction

Take Action:

Please send the following message to the policy makers listed below:

In South Korea PM 10 and PM 2.5 have been increasingly serious issues. Last year, the pilot shut-down was implemented for eight coal-fired power generation plants in June. Since then, Seochun 1, 2 and Youngdong 1 have been permanently shut down. The remaining five plants will be shut down for 4 months. However, this is only a temporary solution. We strongly recommend that South Korea adheres to reducing coal dependence and to increasing more low carbon energies.

Contact:

Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy

Office for Energy and Resources

Mail: Bldg. 12 5F, 402 Hannuri-daero, Sejong City, Republic of Korea (postal code. 30118)

Director: PARK Won-ju (Tel. [+82-44-203-5700](tel:+82-44-203-5700))

Action Officer: KO Eun-jung (Tel. [+82-44-203-5701](tel:+82-44-203-5701))

Ministry of Environment

Living Environment Policy Office

Air Quality Division

Director: LEE Ju-chang (Tel. +82-44-201-6880)

Clean Air Planning Division

Director: HONG Dong-gon (Tel. +82-44-201-6860)

Learn more by contacting Climate Scorecard South Korea Country Manager Eunjung Lim

Eunjung@climatescorecard.org

Thailand

Spotlight Activity: Thailand 4.0 Economic Development Model

The Thailand 4.0 economic development model, put forward by the government early this year, is intended to promote economic growth, innovation and environmental

protection in Thailand. In terms of environmental protection, the model seeks to create a livable society with an economic system that addresses climate change and supports a low carbon economy. The targets here are to transform at least 10 Thai cities into the world's most livable cities, and promote green energy growth and renewable energy sources. The model supports the shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources for power generation. Its goals will be achieved through environmentally friendly development policies like the 11th National and Social Development Plan, which places a strong emphasis upon the growth of green energy. Thailand's government also is playing an active role in generating investments in solar and wind power projects.

To know more about the Thailand 4.0 model:

Please see the report by Inter Ventures at <http://interventures.asia/2018/02/20/what-is-thailand-4-0/>

Please also see the ASEAN Post news report at <https://theaseanpost.com/article/thailands-renewable-energy-sector-heading-towards-positive-future>

Activity Rating * Right Direction**

By facilitating the “Thailand 4.0” model”, Thailand is moving in the right direction in terms of developing energy efficient sources for power generation and in strengthening Thailand's emission reduction standards. Therefore, the “Thailand 4.0” model is definitely ambitious. However, appropriate plans will be required for its successful implementation. The plans should include regular monitoring of the model's progress, effective stakeholder collaborations and allocation of adequate funding.

Take Action:

To help in the successful implementation of the “Thailand 4.0” model and for ensuring that well-formulated plans are included under this model, you can contact the members of Thailand's Energy Policy and Planning Office with the following Action Alert message:

We congratulate Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha and the government for proposing the “Thailand 4.0” model. The model is very ambitious and if successfully implemented, it will have great potentials to strengthen Thailand's climate change mitigation efforts. The increased measures that the Thailand government is taking towards renewable energy sources for power generation, especially solar and wind power projects, is commendable and proves that the country is already active in its efforts for tackling climate change. In this regard, as a prominent member of the Energy Policy and Planning Office, your role is critical for the enhancement of renewable energy projects in Thailand for power generation. Therefore, we kindly request you to implement policies for facilitating the growth of renewable energy projects and to develop well-formulated plans for the “Thailand 4.0” model. In these plans, you should incorporate the model's long-term strategies for promoting renewable energy projects, and the detailed steps for achieving those outlined strategies.

Contact:

Mrs. Pavinee Kosa
Director Energy Policy and Planning Division

Energy Policy and Planning Office, Ministry of Energy
Mail: 121/1-2 Phetchaburi Road, Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400, Thailand
Tel: +66 2612 1555 ext: 416,
Email: pavinee@eppo.go.th

Mr. Wattanapong Kurovat
Director Power Policy Bureau
Energy Policy and Planning Office, Ministry of Energy
Mail: 121/1-2 Phetchaburi Road, Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400, Thailand
Tel: +66 2612 1555 ext: 523
Email: wattanapong@eppo.go.th

*For more information please contact Climate Scorecard Thailand Country Manager
Neebir Banerjee: Neebir@climatescorecard.org*

Thailand: โพสต์ 2

กิจกรรมเด่น: รูปแบบการพัฒนาเศรษฐกิจไทย 4.0

รูปแบบการพัฒนาเศรษฐกิจไทย 4.0, นำโดยรัฐบาลก่อนปีนี้มีวัตถุประสงค์เพื่อส่งเสริมการเติบโตทางเศรษฐกิจ, นวัตกรรมและการคุ้มครองสิ่งแวดล้อมในประเทศไทย. ในแง่ของการคุ้มครองสิ่งแวดล้อม, โมเดลพยายามสร้างสังคมที่น่าอยู่ด้วยระบบเศรษฐกิจที่เกี่ยวกับการเปลี่ยนแปลงสภาพภูมิอากาศ และสนับสนุนเศรษฐกิจคาร์บอนต่ำ. เป้าหมายที่นี้คือการเปลี่ยนแปลงอย่างน้อย 10 เมืองไทยในเมืองที่น่าอยู่ที่สุดในโลก, และส่งเสริมการเติบโตของพลังงานสีเขียวและแหล่งพลังงานทดแทน. รุ่นนี้สนับสนุนการเปลี่ยนจากเชื้อเพลิงฟอสซิลไปยังแหล่งพลังงานทดแทนเพื่อผลิตกระแสไฟฟ้า. เป้าหมายของบริษัทจะบรรลุเป้าหมายด้วยความเป็นมิตรกับสิ่งแวดล้อมนโยบายการพัฒนาเช่นแผนพัฒนาแห่งชาติและสังคมแห่งชาติฉบับที่ 11, ซึ่งให้ความสำคัญกับการเติบโตของพลังงานสีเขียว. รัฐบาลไทยยังมีบทบาทอย่างแข็งขันในการลงทุนในโครงการพลังงานแสงอาทิตย์และพลังงานลม.

ต้องการทราบข้อมูลเพิ่มเติมเกี่ยวกับรุ่นประเทศไทย 4.0:

โปรดดูรายงานจาก Inter Ventures ได้ที่ <http://interventures.asia/2018/02/20/what-is-thailand-4-0/>

โปรดดูที่รายงานข่าวอาเซียนโพสต์ที่ <https://theaseanpost.com/article/thailands-renewable-energy-sector-heading-towards-positive-future>

การจัดอันดับกิจกรรม * ทิศทางที่ถูกต้อง.**

ด้วยการสนับสนุนรูปแบบ "ประเทศไทย 4.0", ประเทศไทยมีทิศทางที่ถูกต้องในแง่ของการพัฒนาแหล่งพลังงานที่มีประสิทธิภาพสำหรับการผลิตกระแสไฟฟ้าและในการเสริมสร้างมาตรฐานการลดการปล่อยก๊าซของประเทศไทย. ดังนั้น, โมเดล "ประเทศไทย 4.0" มีความทะเยอทะยาน. อย่างไรก็ตาม, ต้องมีแผนการที่เหมาะสมสำหรับการใช้งานที่ประสบความสำเร็จ. แผนควรรวมถึงการตรวจสอบความคืบหน้าของโมเดลอย่างสม่ำเสมอ, การมีส่วนร่วมของผู้มีส่วนได้เสียที่มีประสิทธิภาพ และการจัดสรรเงินทุนที่เพียงพอ.

เริ่มปฏิบัติ

เพื่อช่วยในการดำเนินงานที่ประสบความสำเร็จของโมเดล "ประเทศไทย 4.0" และเพื่อความมั่นใจแผนงานที่ดีมีการรวมอยู่ในรูปแบบนี้, คุณสามารถติดต่อสมาชิกของประเทศไทยสำนักงานนโยบายและแผนพลังงานกับ ติดตามข้อความแจ้งเตือนการกระทำ:

เราขอแสดงความยินดีกับนายกรัฐมนตรีไทย นายประยุทธ์ จันทร์ - โอ – ชะอำ และรัฐบาลเสนอ รุ่น "ประเทศไทย 4.0". แบบมีความทะเยอทะยานมากและถ้าสำเร็จจะมีศักยภาพในการเสริมสร้างความเข้มแข็ง ความพยายามบรรเทาภาวะโลกร้อนของไทย. มาตรการที่รัฐบาลไทยกำลังดำเนินการอยู่ แหล่งพลังงานทดแทนเพื่อการผลิตไฟฟ้าโดยเฉพาะโครงการพลังงานแสงอาทิตย์และพลังงานลม เป็นที่น่าพอใจและพิสูจน์ให้เห็นว่าประเทศมีความกระตือรือร้นอยู่แล้วสำหรับการแก้ปัญหาการเปลี่ยนแปลงสภาพภูมิอากาศ. ในเรื่องนี้ในฐานะสมาชิกคนสำคัญของสำนักงานนโยบายและแผนพลังงานบทบาทของคุณคือสำคัญสำหรับการเพิ่มประสิทธิภาพของโครงการพลังงานทดแทนเข้าประเทศไทยเพื่อผลิตกระแสไฟฟ้า. ดังนั้นเราขอให้คุณดำเนินการตามนโยบายที่จำเป็นเพื่ออำนวยความสะดวกในการเจริญเติบโตของโครงการพลังงานหมุนเวียนและพัฒนารูปแบบที่ดีสำหรับรูปแบบ "ประเทศไทย 4.0". ในแผนเหล่านี้คุณควรรวมโมเดลไว้ด้วยยุทธศาสตร์ระยะยาวในการส่งเสริมพลังงานหมุนเวียน โครงการและขั้นตอนโดยละเอียดเพื่อให้บรรลุกลยุทธ์ที่ระบุไว้.

ส่งการแจ้งเดือนการกระทำไปที่:

น.ส.ภาวิณี โภษา

ผู้อำนวยการกองนโยบายและแผนพลังงาน

สำนักงานนโยบายและแผนพลังงานกระทรวงพลังงาน

121 / 1-2 ถนนเพชรบุรี, เขตราชเทวีกรุงเทพฯ 10400, ประเทศไทย

โทรศัพท์: +66 2612 1555 ต่อ: 416, อีเมล: pavinee@eppo.go.th

นายวัฒนพงศ์ โครวาท

ผู้อำนวยการสำนักนโยบายพลังงาน

สำนักงานนโยบายและแผนพลังงานกระทรวงพลังงาน

121 / 1-2 ถนนเพชรบุรี, เขตราชเทวีกรุงเทพฯ 10400, ประเทศไทย

โทรศัพท์: +66 2612 1555 ต่อ: 523, อีเมล: wattanapong@eppo.go.th

สำหรับข้อมูลเพิ่มเติมกรุณาติดต่อ Climate Scorecard ประเทศไทยผู้จัดการประจำประเทศ Neebir Banerjee: Neebir@climatescorecard.org

Turkey (English)

Spotlight Activity: The Status of Available Data to Support Climate Change Adaptation in the Coastal Cities of Turkey

The "2017 Report on Turkey Sea" published by Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TÜDAV) describes the current status of the seas in Turkey indicating the impact of global climate change. It was stated that due to climate change, tropicalization and increased acidity has been observed in the Mediterranean Sea. As a result, Mediterranean-descended water and species have been entering the Black Sea which negatively affects the ecosystem. When the hydrogen sulphur layer in the Black Sea is taken into consideration, it underscores that this sea should not be polluted and be especially protected. Although, the Black Sea has the world's largest oxygen-free water mass, about 60% of Turkey's fishery comes from there.

According to the Climate News Network's research, Istanbul and Izmir, two of the most populated Turkish coastal cities, are among the cities which will be the most affected by climate change in Turkey. Historical data such as rainfall, evaporation, heavy rain, and extreme rainfall should exist in order to help these cities adapt to climate change. But Turkey does not have a sufficient historical data to carry out this work. Such systems have been recently established in Istanbul, Gökçeada, Iskenderun and Bodrum for the recording of the climate data. Hopefully, we will have enough data to work on statistical events and observe the changes in a couple of years. Antalya, another densely populated coastal city, also has been working on a project to establish a system for measuring the effects of climate change as there are many archeological remains which will be affected by sea level rise and increased acidity.

Activity Rating * Right Direction**

The initiatives of the coastal cities are good steps forward, but, national targets and protection programs are required to minimize the impacts of climate change in the coastal regions and in the seas. In order to be able to do this, sufficient data to be analyzed must be obtained.

Take Action:

You can get involved by informing the coastal municipalities. Contact the organization listed below with the following Action Alert message:

We would like to emphasize the need and importance of national level research to observe the effects of climate change on coastal cities. The report published by Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TÜDAV) can be used as an informative material. We urge you to act fast as conservation of seas and coastal areas as this is one of the main topics under sustainable development towards 2020.

Contact: Ministry of Development

Development Research Center

Mail: Necatibey Caddesi No 110/A 06100 Yüce-tepe/ Ankara

Head of Development Research Center: Dr. Sema Bayazıt

Tel: 0090 312 294 50 00

Türkiye

Dikkat Çeken Aktivite: Sahil Kentlerinde İklim Değişikliği Uyumuna Yönelik Çalışmaları Destekleyebilecek Mevcut Verilerin Durumu

Türk Deniz Araştırmaları Vakfı (TÜDAV) tarafından yayınlanan “Türkiye Denizler 2017 Raporu”, Türkiye'deki denizlerin mevcut durumunu ve küresel iklim değişikliğinin etkilerini açıklamaktadır. Raporda, iklim değişikliği nedeniyle Akdeniz'in tropikalleşmesi ve asitliğin artışı gözlemlendiği belirtilmiştir. Akdeniz kökenli türlerin Karadeniz'e girmekte olduğu tespit edilmiş ve ekosistemi olumsuz etkilediği ifade edilmiştir. Karadeniz'in hidrojen sülfür gazıyla kaplı tabakası göz önüne alındığında, bu denizin kirlenmemesi ve özellikle korunmasının gerekliliği vurgulanmaktadır. Karadeniz dünyanın en büyük oksijensiz su kütlelerine sahip olmasına rağmen Türkiye'de balıkçılığının yaklaşık % 60'ı burada sağlanmaktadır.

Climate News Network araştırmasına göre, Türkiye'nin en kalabalık iki sahil kenti olan İstanbul ve İzmir, Türkiye'de iklim değişikliğinden en fazla etkilenen şehirler arasında yer almaktadır. Bu şehirlerin iklim değişikliğine uyum sağlamasına yönelik alınabilecek önlemlerin planlanmasına yardımcı olmak için yağış, buharlaşma, şiddetli yağmur, aşırı yağış gibi tarihsel veriler mevcut olmalıdır. Ancak, Türkiye bu işi yürütmek için yeterli tarihsel veriye sahip değildir. İklim verilerinin kaydedilmesi için kısa bir süre önce İstanbul, Gökçeada, İskenderun ve Bodrum'da bir sistem kurulmuştur. İstatistiksel olaylar üzerinde çalışmak ve değişiklikleri gözlemlemek için önümüzdeki birkaç yıl içinde bir miktar veriye sahip olunması beklenmektedir. Bir başka yoğun nüfuslu kıyı kenti olan Antalya, iklim değişikliğinin etkilerini ölçmek için bir sistem kurulması üzerine ayrı bir proje üzerinde çalışmaktadır. Çünkü Antalya'da yer alan çok sayıda arkeolojik kalıntı artan deniz seviyesi ve artan asitlikten direkt etkilenecektir.

Aktivite Puanlaması * Doğru Yön:** Kıyı kentlerinin girişimleri ileriye doğru yapılmış iyi adımlardır. Ancak kıyı ve denizlerdeki iklim değişikliğinin etkilerini en aza indirmek için ulusal hedefler ve koruma programları gerekmektedir. Bunu yapabilmek için de öncelikle analiz edilecek yeterli veri elde edilmelidir.

Harekete Geç

Kıyı belediyelerini bilgilendirerek ve aşağıdaki Eylem İkaz Mesajıyla beraber listelenen organizasyonla iletişime geçerek gerekli düzenlemelerin yapılmasında rol alabilirsiniz:

İklim değişikliğinin kıyı kentleri üzerindeki etkilerini gözlemlemek için ulusal düzeyde bir araştırmanın gerekliliğini ve önemini vurgulamak istiyoruz. Türk Deniz Araştırmaları Vakfı (TÜDAV) tarafından yayınlanan rapor, bilgilendirici bir materyal olarak kullanılabilir. 2020'ye doğru sürdürülebilir kalkınmanın ana unsurlarından biri olan denizlerin ve kıyıların korunması hedefini de göz önüne alarak hemen harekete geçilmesini tavsiye ediyoruz.

Eylem İkaz Mesajı İlgili Kişi:

Kalkınma Bakanlığı
Kalkınma Araştırmaları Merkezi
Adres: Necatibey Caddesi No 110/A 06100 Yücetepe/ Ankara
Kalkınma Araştırmaları Merkezi Başkanı: Dr. Sema Bayazıt
Tel. 0090 312 294 50 00

United Kingdom

Spotlight Activity: UK's 25 Year Environment Plan

The 25 Year Environment Plan, launched in January after [over a year's delay](#), lays out the government's long-term goals for preserving and improving the environment. Lacking ambition, funding, and legislative substance, [the plan](#) falls woefully short of bridging the [vast gap](#) between current UK climate policy and the commitments required if the UK is to meet its legally binding emissions reduction target of 57% by 2032.

The plan pledges to eliminate avoidable plastic waste by 2042, but stops short of calling for an end to single-use plastics, or the implementation of bottle deposit schemes, despite [vocal support](#) from environment secretary Michael Gove in October. What constitutes 'avoidable' waste is not clearly defined, leaving plenty of room to shirk responsibilities.

With transport now the [leading cause](#) of emissions in the UK, the promise to ban the sale of fossil fuel powered cars [by 2042](#) lacks urgency and detail, as does the commitment to plant more than [50 million trees](#) in a 'Northern Forest' between Liverpool and Hull in the same timeframe. Such grand numbers may seem impressive, but India has twice in the last few years planted this many trees in just [12 hours](#). These distant targets, placed far beyond the political careers of the politicians championing them, do not adequately address the scale of action required to reduce UK emissions and must be brought forward.

Both Gove and the Committee on Climate Change have hailed Brexit as an opportunity to improve on the EU's Common Agricultural Policy, which [does not directly target emissions reduction in agriculture](#). However, the 25 Year Environment Plan does not once mention methane produced by livestock, a key driver of UK emissions.

Also absent from the plan is an explanation of how government support for fracking is compatible with the plan's promise to protect and improve water quality. Fracking is finally set to commence in England at the Preston New Road site [next month](#). These key omissions reflect the government's unwillingness to take system-wide action to

reduce emissions, a point further evidenced by the UK's mere [1% reduction](#) in emissions since 2012 in all sectors except power and waste.

The 25 Year Environment Plan is bereft of short-term actionable policies on which the current government can be judged. The pledge to extend the highly effective 5p carrier bag charge to small retailers is a notable exception, but such legislation has [not yet materialised](#).

Nor have funding commitments. In the two months since the plan's publication, the government has set aside [only £15.7m](#) in extra funding – less than a penny per person per year. Meanwhile, budget cuts have forced a key agency tasked with tackling plastic waste to [cut 10%](#) of its staff. Combined with the government's [recent rejection](#) of a 'latte levy' on disposable cups, current indications suggest that the government is unlikely to back up its vague plans with meaningful immediate action.

Activity Rating: ** Standing Still

It may be unfair to criticise the government too harshly for what was always intended to be a long-term strategy. Yet, given that the plan fails to even provide any legal framework with which to hold the government's targets to account, it would be foolish to lavish praise prematurely. The government's environmental credentials will become clearer over the next year as shorter-term strategies concerning waste, air, the bioeconomy, and transport decarbonisation are published. Until then, the jury's out.

Take Action:

To make your voice heard on the future of UK agricultural policy, provide your views on [this government consultation](#). Please send the following message to the policy makers below:

The 25 Year Environment Plan's needs to be strengthened and its rhetoric backed up with actionable legislation and funding. In particular, methane from animal agriculture needs to be included in this plan as this source of methane is a key driver of global greenhouse gas emissions. I urge DEFRA to heed the Committee on Climate Change's advice to improve on the EU's Common Agricultural Policy by directly targeting the reduction of methane emissions from animal agriculture.

Contact:

Michael Gove

Email: michael.gove.mp@parliament.uk

or

Email: agricultureconsultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Creative commons image to be used with article:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/number10gov/39616441072>

YT video to embed in article

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uvhvDWTNLXM>

For more information contact Climate Scorecard UK Country Manager Jordan Raine,
Jordan@climatescorecard.org

United States

Spotlight Activity: President Trump Approves Tariffs on Solar Panels, Deals Blow to Renewable Energy in US

On January 22, 2018, President Trump approved tariffs on imported solar panels and other solar equipment made outside the US starting at 30% and dropping to 15% over the next four years. Claiming that he was protecting American jobs and promoting the growth of the American solar industry, President Trump touted the discrepancy between costs facing foreign and domestic producers as a strong reason in favor of instituting the tariffs.

The move came as a blow to the American solar industry and is already being blamed for the future loss of tens of thousands of jobs over the next year as well as a steep increase in solar prices facing American customers. However, a Chinese solar company announced one week after the approval of the tariffs that it would be building its new operations in the US, offering limited hope for the industry.

The American solar industry employed 250,271 American workers in 2017, and although the number declined 3.8% since 2016, the growth of the solar industry still outpaces the growth of the fossil fuel industry, with a large majority of these jobs in installation and sales rather than manufacturing. Before the announcement of the tariff, the industry was forecast to grow 5% in 2018.

Activity Rating: * Falling Behind

A high tariff on solar panels will make them less attractive to utilities, businesses, and homeowners. With less incentive to employ solar power, American emissions will likely stay the same or rise over the next decade. It is imperative that the federal government encourage investment in renewables rather than discouraging it with discriminatory tariffs.

Take Action:

Sign a petition to the US Trade Representative with the following message:

Solar power brings important jobs to the United States and is a crucial step in reducing our dependence on fossil fuels. Please repeal Trump's disastrous 30% tariffs.

<http://bit.ly/2GWCZYJ>

For more information contact Stephanie Gagnon, Climate Scorecard US Country Manager, stephanie@climatescorecard.org