

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/8a64effc-8c6a-11e5-8be4-3506bf20cc2b.html#axzz3rs57LNhl>

To make true progress on climate change, we need new economic structures and new technology. That is why green finance should not be another form of aid that wealthy nations will provide to poorer countries. Nor can it be state-backed project financing in disguise. Instead, the focus should be on harnessing market principles to draw in private capital so that clean technologies can be commercialized and financing shifted away from polluting industries that rely on wreaking environmental destruction without paying for it. Simply put, incentives are needed to save the climate — not just an agreement.

Voice of Scepticism

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/gambling-the-world-economy-on-climate-1447719037>

The aim of the Paris talks is to change the economic development model that has been reigning for at least 150 years, since the industrial revolution, according to the U.N.'s climate chief. Thus, the agreements coming out of Paris are likely to see countries that have flourished with capitalism willingly compromising their future prosperity in the name of climate change. The emission-cut pledges then, will leave the global economy, in rough terms, \$1 trillion short every year for the rest of the century and avert warming of less than one degree by 2100, if the politicians do everything right.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/divisions-remain-in-climate-talks-ahead-of-g-20-summit-1447661915>

Only two weeks before almost 200 countries meet in Paris in an effort to seal a global climate deal, discussions among some of the world's leading nations point to deep divisions on how to tackle climate change. During talks on the final statement of this year's summit of the Group of 20 industrialized and developing countries, some negotiators questioned central elements of the planned agreement, including the two-degree target.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/experts/2015/11/16/why-closing-nuclear-power-plants-is-short-sighted/>

The early retirement of well-operated nuclear-energy facilities brings with it a huge cost to local economies as well as to the environment. In addition to that, a dangerous assumption is that nuclear-energy facilities can easily be replaced with solar or wind generation. However, this is not the case since a nuclear-energy facility is much more likely to be replaced by power plants fueled by natural gas. This scenario would still leave a state challenged to attain its Clean Power Plan goals. That is why even if states were able to replace lost nuclear-energy capacity with renewables, it would take a great deal of time, resources and land to do so.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/10/business/energy-environment/shift-to-lower-carbon-energy-is-too-slow-report-warns.html>

The pressure on countries to reduce carbon emissions had driven adoption of renewable energy sources like solar and wind power, which represented almost half of the world's new electricity-generating capacity in 2014. However, according to a report by the International Energy Agency, the world shifts and changes toward lower-carbon forms of energy are happening too slowly to keep global temperatures from rising to dangerous levels in the coming decades. In addition to that, low oil prices could make the problem even worse by slowing the planet's transition to cleaner and more efficient means of transportation.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/19/world/asia/obama-apec-summit-south-china-sea-philippines.html?_r=0

At a two-day economic summit meeting President Obama and other Pacific Rim leaders also discussed trade and climate change. He also used the summit meeting to push for his climate change agenda, telling a group of chief executives that the world must face the urgent threat of climate change as well as said that the economic and social threats from climate change should be of particular concern to the people of Southeast Asia, where many low-lying islands could face disaster as sea levels rise.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/404faa04-8ca3-11e5-8be4-3506bf20cc2b.html#axzz3rs57LNhl>

The API, the influential oil and gas industry group, urged President Barack Obama to use the UN climate talks as an opportunity to showcase the success of the US in cutting emissions while sustaining economic growth.

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/freeexchange/2015/11/cutting-carbon-emissions>

Thomas Sterner (University of Gothenburg) argues that countries attending the Paris talks will need to be more ambitious than they have so far. As the climate change conference draws nearer, the goals being set for the conference are far too modest rather than too ambitious. Even though no one really expects COP21 in Paris to resolve the whole climate-change issue, Sterner is of the opinion that the aims are still too little.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/a-misguided-campaign-against-exxon-1447803164>

Recent accusations about Exxon's handling of its climate-change research claimed that the company found, ignored and then hid evidence that human activity causes climate change. However, the campaign is misguided since Exxon has always been transparent about its climate-change research, and has shared that research with the scientific community from the beginning. Further, it says that it has consistently stated the risks of climate change, and has long supported a carbon tax as the most effective and transparent way for government to reduce carbon emissions as well as has helped lead the development of clean-energy technology. These assertions are being challenged on court.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/18/us/politics/senate-blocks-obamas-climate-change-rules.html?_r=0

The US Senate voted to block President Obama's tough new Clean Power Plan, hoping to undermine his negotiating authority before the climate summit meeting in Paris. As a result, the resolution would impede efforts to reduce carbon pollution from existing power plants (the largest source of carbon pollution in the country) when the need to act, and to act quickly, to mitigate climate change impacts on American communities has never been more clear.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/will-solar-energy-plummet-if-the-investment-tax-credit-fades-away-1447643512>

At the end of next year, the 30% investment tax credit for solar and other renewable power in the US is set to expire for residential systems and plunge down to 10% for commercial installations. Many supporters say the abrupt end date of the credit represents a "cliff" for the industry. Without the current incentive, they argue, installation of solar-power systems will plummet, and thousands of jobs in the industry will be lost as a result. However, others say the credit's impact is overstated and solar will continue to grow.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/clintons-coal-reparations-1447459569>

Hillary Clinton has promised to continue the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan ruling, which is proving to be politically toxic in coal country since it will help finish off the industry.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/11/opinion/obama-should-let-fossil-fuels-lie.html>

Most climate debates have focused on cutting the use of fossil fuels. Aside from a few high-profile scuffles over fuel extraction in vulnerable wild places, political leaders have ignored fossil fuel production as a necessary piece of climate strategy. President Obama intends to keep some fossil fuels in the ground, rather than to exploit them and release more dangerous pollution into the sky. With the climate summit meeting near, and the Keystone decision fresh, the United States can truly take the lead on these fuels by stemming their production, not just their consumption, through not leasing public lands for fuel extraction.

<http://www.economist.com/news/business/21678219-some-oil-majors-are-still-ducking-issue-global-warming-nodding-donkeys>

Even though most oil-companies have responded to the risks of climate change, some of them are still ducking the issue of global warming. Thus, oil-companies often put their heads up and survey the future, only to bury them again. In the run-up to climate-change negotiations in Paris, the industry's willingness to stare the issue squarely in the eye is again under scrutiny. If commitments were to translate into significant moves to limit global warming, this would challenge a view still held by the industry that demand for fossil fuels will keep growing strongly for the foreseeable future.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/newfangled-energy-stocks-disappoint-1447038121>

When they were first launched, “yieldcos” lit up the stock market like fireworks with their impressive dividends and the prospect of even higher yields to come. But in the time-honored tradition of Wall Street, yieldcos sounded too good to be true precisely because they were. These new renewable-energy stocks flamed out as dramatically as they appeared, and it now looks as though many may fall short of the hopes of yield-seeking investors of renewable energy.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/12/world/asia/china-coal-power-energy-policy.html?_r=0

Renewable-energy supporters wonder if China is weaning itself from coal as quickly as it can, and if they will ever fulfill their promise of basing their economy on consumption rather than investment. A construction boom with new unnecessary plants in addition to the country’s existing plants, is a clear sign that China remains entrenched in investment-driven growth.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/11/business/economy/india-is-caught-in-a-climate-change-quandary.html>

The tension between economic development and the imperative to curb greenhouse gas emissions remains the central challenge of the diplomatic effort to muster a coalition of rich and poor countries to combat climate change. In India, the people are at risk and there is a lot of damage as a consequence of domestic emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/the-climate-agenda-behind-the-bacon-scare-1447115536>

Environmental activists have long sought to tie food to the fight against global warming. In advance of the Paris climate talks, the World Health Organization released a report linking climate pollutants and global health risks. Accordingly, a change towards diets based on careful adherence to public health recommendations -- including reduced consumption of red and processed meat and/or other animal-sourced foods in favor of healthier plant-based alternatives -- has the potential to both reduce GHG emissions and improve population health.

IISD Reporting Services

<http://climate-l.iisd.org/guest-articles/new-thinking-on-agriculture-and-fossil-fuel-subsidies/>

by: Jo Tyndall, Climate Change Ambassador, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

In order to grow more food without growing emissions, a concerted and collaborative international effort is needed. Removing subsidies to fossil fuels is one of the keys to opening the door on a low-carbon future. A group of countries promote this by underlining the importance of a fossil fuel subsidy reform as a key climate change mitigation policy with clear economic, social and environmental benefits.

Michael Hoexter

<http://neweconomicperspectives.org/2015/11/the-road-to-cop21-where-is-the-locus-of-control-of-effective-climate-action.html>

Climate policy discussions in the past have ignored the role of nation states and their fiscal capacities in transforming the world's energy and transport systems. In particular, in the US there has been an avoidance of a confrontation with national politics, in the hope that allowing the UN to be the moral and political conscience of the world would circumvent dealing with the special connection that Americans have with fossil fuels. However, the United Nations is long on good intentions, but is short on the actual power to enact substantive change in how the societies of the world use energy and effect the environment. The UN's efforts have functioned as a holding pattern rather than a decisive transition into a new energy and land-use regime. Thus, action must be happening through a new international framework that empowers i.e. by locating the locus of control at the local, regional, national level and at international institutions. The climate movement must recognize that the locus of control of our future lies in political action and strengthening the individuals in relationship to the management of our energy systems, in order to finally take effective steps towards an energy transition.

<http://www.economist.com/news/united-states/21677670-most-states-will-comply-new-rules-mitigating-carbon-emissions-mostly-over-bar>

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has given each state an emissions-reduction target to meet by 2030, and considerable leeway over how to achieve this. Some industries have filed suits against the Clean Power Plan (CPP), as opposed to this, a dozen, mostly-Democrat-run, states are expected to file petitions in support of the plan. However, despite the legal action, the number of outright rejectionist states is falling, and a quiet pragmatism spreading. That is why most states are expected to comply with the new rules on mitigating carbon emissions

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/8f9c3a5a-8703-11e5-9f8c-a8d619fa707c.html#axzz3r1DYuojj>

Peabody Energy, one of the largest global coal producers, will submit revised investor disclosures after the New York Attorney General's office found it misled the public and investors about the financial risks associated with climate change. This represents reaction to the state attorney-general's probe of oil and energy companies, and reflects a rare move forcing companies to make certain disclosures about climate change. Peabody did not admit or deny wrongdoing as part of the settlement, and will include disclosures reflecting the settlement starting in its third quarter filing.

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2015/11/economist-explains-5>

The world is set for another round of climate talks and countries have had nine months to come up with pledges of greenhouse-gas emission cuts ahead of the meeting (INDC). More than 150 countries have submitted their plans and pledges to cut back, which covers almost 90% of global emissions. If a deal is cobbled together in Paris, as seems most likely, it will be the most significant international step in reducing emissions to date. However, an agreement will not stave off climate change, but it will provide a signal to companies and investors of greener times

ahead.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/09/business/energy-environment/a-texas-utility-offers-a-nighttime-special-free-electricity.html>

TXU Energy customers are at the vanguard of a bold attempt by the utility to change how people consume energy. A free overnight plan, which is coupled with slightly higher daytime rates, is one of dozens that have been offered by more than 50 retail electricity companies in Texas over the last three years with a simple goal: for customers to turn down the dials when wholesale prices are highest and turn them back up when prices are lowest. This is possible, because wind farms are generating so much energy that some utilities are in a position to give power away.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/07/us/politics/michael-bloomberg-state-attorneys-general-carbon-emissions.html>

Former Mayor Bloomberg of New York City, who is the United Nations secretary general's special envoy for climate change and cities, wants to run millions of dollars in political television ads against four state attorneys general who are suing the Obama administration over regulations on power plant emissions. This would be a new venture for Bloomberg, who has already spent a lot of money to try to limit the number of coal-burning power plants nationally. His goal with this action is to explain how the issue of clean energy affects people in major cities living near power plants in order to help the White House over its Clean Power Plan.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/07/us/obama-expected-to-reject-construction-of-keystone-xl-oil-pipeline.html>

Ahead of the UN summit on climate change, President Obama announced that he had rejected the request from a Canadian company to build the Keystone XL oil pipeline, ending a seven-year review that had become a symbol of the debate over his climate policies. While the rejection of the pipeline is largely symbolic due to the fact that it will have little impact on efforts to reduce greenhouse gas pollution, Obama has sought to telegraph to other world leaders that the United States is serious about acting on climate change.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/07/science/more-oil-companies-could-join-exxon-mobil-as-focus-of-climate-investigations.html>

The opening of an investigation of Exxon Mobil by the New York attorney general's office into the company's record on climate change may well spur legal inquiries into other oil companies. Many oil companies have funded lobbying efforts and research on climate change, so prosecutors would most likely be able to search through vast amounts of material. For years environmental groups have tried to warn investors of the risks that stricter limits on carbon emissions could have on the fossil fuel industry.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/04/world/asia/china-burns-much-more-coal-than-reported-complicating-climate-talks.html>

China, the world's leading emitter of greenhouse gases from coal, has been burning up more coal a year (almost a billion more tons) than the government previously disclosed. The scale of the correction is immense and it could complicate the already difficult efforts to limit global warming.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/04/opinion/the-tough-realities-of-the-paris-climate-talks.html>

The climate summit in Paris will be tempered by two sobering scientific realities that will weaken the effectiveness of even the most ambitious emissions reduction plans that are being discussed. On the one hand emissions of carbon dioxide, the

greenhouse gas of greatest concern, accumulate in the atmosphere and remain there for centuries as they are slowly absorbed by plants and the oceans. This means modest reductions in emissions will only delay the concentration but will not prevent it. On the other hand warming influence of green house gas in the atmosphere changes less proportionately as the concentration grows. As a result, small reductions will have progressively less influence on the climate as the atmospheric concentration increases.

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/11/04/us/politics/04reuters-usa-election-sanders-climatechange.html>

U.S. Democratic presidential contender Bernie Sanders will roll out a series of environmental proposals to coincide with this month's United Nations climate-change conference in Paris that could put pressure on party front-runner Hillary Clinton and would be the senator's next step in presenting a comprehensive climate plan. He said he would soon unveil legislation that would protect fossil fuel industry workers as the country transitions to renewable fuel sources.

http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/11/05/us/politics/ap-us-trade-pacific-agreement.html?_r=0

A Pacific Rim trade deal set the stage for a harsh debate in the U.S. Congress but also may provide reassurances for those who worried the agreement could gut protections for the environment, public health and labor. Negotiators of the deal agreed to promote i.a. environmental sustainability and it also emphasizes the intention of the trading bloc to abide by earlier commitments made under the World Trade Organization and other international treaties.

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/11/04/science/ap-us-sci-climate-countdown-history.html>

This is an short overview about the long history of grappling with global warming. The history began with the discovery of the greenhouse effect in the 19th century and led eventually to the upcoming climate negotiations that begin later this month in Paris.

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/11/04/world/ap-un-united-nations-climate-countdown.html>

The climate summit in Paris, it is hopes will result in the biggest, strongest global agreement ever to fight global warming. However, key issues remaining ahead of the summit this month and have proven challenging for negotiators. Responsibility for its success now rests with world leaders. Developed countries have agreed to boost the flow of climate finance, but hesitate to make firm commitments beyond that.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/rich-poor-divide-over-paying-for-climate-change-measures-weighs-on-paris-talks-1446671532>

Many developing countries say highly industrialized nations have not yet promised enough to help them transition to lower-carbon energy or to prepare for the effects of for a more adverse climate. Thus, the split between richer and poorer countries persists in the area of finance. Furthermore the participation of many developing countries, including their decision on whether to sign on to the agreement in Paris, is based on richer countries following through with plans to mobilize money for solar and other forms of green energy, and to compensate poorer countries for their adjustments to a harsher climate.

<http://www.welt.de/debatte/article148363929/Die-Gier-nach-Reichtum-kann-unser-Klima-retten.html>

Ahead of the climate summit in Paris, a study provides a powerful argument by

pointing out that developed countries should try to emit less greenhouse gases not only to protect the environment but also to preserve their wealth. Concerning to US scientists, it is about the bottom line and not only about idealism.