



IGNITING
IMPACT,
ACCELERATING
SUSTAIN-
ABILITY

A QUARTERLY VIEWPOINT
ON THE MOBILITY AND
FRAGILITY OF ESG TODAY

WEL CO ME

As we close the year with notable victories for populist, anti-establishment candidates like Geert Wilders in The Netherlands and Javier Milei in Argentina, we are reminded what an unpredictable and pivotal year 2024 could become. With upcoming elections in the USA, Mexico, India, The European Union, The United Kingdom (albeit unannounced) and Russia (whether contested or a formality), leadership on critical issues hangs in the balance, making it hard for business and citizens alike to know which way the wind will blow.

Alongside the continuing climate emergency and ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and The Middle East, political candidates will need to strategise and prioritise myriad issues such as economic slowdown, geopolitical tensions, growing healthcare burdens, urbanisation and migration, rising costs of living, generational divides and the impacts of Generative AI on work and education. Meanwhile, outgoing leaders will be keen to prove their legacy and cement the outcomes of their time in office.

With so much unknowable, except the certainty of further change, the theme of this final report of the year is legacy. What lasting impact can we, as organisations and individuals, make with the time and platforms we have at our disposal - and how will we stand firm in our commitments as the political noise around us intensifies?

We wish you a peaceful and restorative holiday season,

Your Porter Novelli Team

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BIG CONVERSATIONS



COP28: is the world ready to ditch fossil fuels?



The decision to host this year's COP in the UAE, a major fossil fuel producing country, faced fierce criticism from environmental campaigners, as did the appointment of COP28 President, Sultan Al Jaber, the CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC). Concerns heightened after leaked documents seen by the BBC showed that the UAE planned to use the summit to discuss oil and gas deals with at least 27 foreign governments. While Al Jaber denied the accusations, the controversy was indicative of widespread fears that little meaningful change and progress would be achieved at the summit.

Ahead of the conference, the UN also issued a stark warning in its annual Emissions Gap Report, stating that the world is on track to see temperature rises of nearly 3°C this century. This raised the stakes on the negotiations, with countries put under growing pressure to come to an agreement on the future of fossil fuels in the energy mix and expanding renewable energy capacity.

SO, WHAT WAS DISCUSSED?

A two-year "global stocktake" to assess progress in line with the Paris Agreement reached its conclusion, with officials discussing how it should inform future climate action. The hope was that the stocktake would accelerate global climate action by requiring countries to submit more ambitious targets to curb emissions.



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KEY AGREEMENTS

Loss and damage fund: On the first day of the summit, delegates established a 'loss and damage' fund which will encourage the wealthiest countries most responsible for climate change to contribute to a fund that will support countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Countries have so far pledged a combined total of just over \$700m (£556m) to the fund, including \$245.39 million from the EU (\$100 million of which is from Germany), \$100 million from the UAE, at least \$51 million from the UK, \$17.5 million from the US, and \$10 million from Japan.

Transitioning away from fossil fuels: After negotiations over the final text were extended, early in the morning on the 13th December, countries approved a deal which committed them to "transition away" from fossil fuels. This is the first time oil and gas had been included in a COP agreement.

While this is significant, many countries and environmental campaigners criticised the deal for not going far enough. The deal only "calls on" countries to "transition away" from fossil fuels. The final text also avoided the words "phase out" and "phase down" of fossil fuels, which was the source of fierce debate between oil producers, like the UAE and Saudia Arabia, and countries who wanted the deal to go further like the EU and Alliance of Small Island States.

Expanding renewable energy capacity: In addition to the language on fossil fuels, the deal called on countries to triple renewable energy capacity and double the global average annual rate of energy efficiency by 2030. Ahead of the summit, the EU, US and UAE rallied governments to join a deal, saying tripling capacity - equating to 11,000 gigawatts being installed by 2030 - is the most important thing they can do to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

➤ Negotiations on the global stocktake language were extended on the final day of the summit amidst fierce debate around the proposed language in the draft agreement. On the 11th December, the draft agreement omitted language around a "phase out" of fossil fuels. This was criticised by countries including the EU, who described the draft as "unacceptable". Eventually, after negotiations were extended, countries reached a unanimous agreement on the final text.



WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS YEAR'S SUMMIT?

The agreement on the loss and damage fund on the first day of the summit marked a significant step forward in helping the world's poorest countries deal with the impacts of climate change. However, the agreed contributions will likely fall far short of the money needed to support countries which are experiencing the worst impacts of the climate crisis, with some estimates suggesting that this will total \$400 billion a year.

While countries were able to reach an agreement on language to “transition away” from fossil fuels, this was not universally popular amongst all member states. While COP28 President Sultan Al Jaber described the deal as “a comprehensive response to the global stocktake” and a “robust action plan to keep 1.5C (2.7F) in reach”, others were far more critical.

The Alliance of Small Island States said that the deal was agreed when they weren't in the room, adding that “the text does not provide the necessary balance to strengthen global action for course correction on climate change ... it is incremental and not transformational.” Wopke Hoekstra, the EU's Climate Commissioner, was muted about the significance of the deal saying “this is a day of solemn satisfaction.” The EU had called for a “phase out” of fossil fuels earlier in the conference.

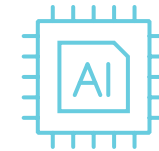
Environmental campaigners, advocates, and think tanks were similarly critical of the deal. The WWF, for example, wrote on X that while the deal “signals the beginning of the end for the fossil fuel era” it has “fallen short of consensus on the full phase out of coal, oil and gas.”



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU:

This year's deal marks the first time fossil fuels were mentioned in a COP agreement since the summits began in 1995 – a significant sign that transitioning away from fossil fuels is firmly on the global political agenda. More importantly, the sheer size of the event (over 85,000 business, government and influencers) along with its news and social coverage makes climate action part of the cultural zeitgeist. The end of fossil fuels is on the world stage. Now, more than ever, businesses should set ambitious science-based targets to transition away from fossil fuels and invest in full-scale decarbonization. While the deal is significant, more needs to be done to curb rising emissions and prevent catastrophic global temperature rises. The vague language used in the final agreement critically avoids committing countries to “phasing out” fossil fuels. Organisations who want to stay ahead of the curve and play an active role in the transition to a clean economy, need to think about how they can go above and beyond the COP28 agreement to drive real climate action and keep 1.5 alive. Words are one thing; their implementation is where true progress happens. But words will continue to matter as companies will need to consistently and transparently communicate how they are decarbonising and what business impact their actions are having. Multiple stakeholders will be looking for details about progress, including the very real challenges involved.

There's growing cynicism about whether COPs can deliver real and immediate progress on climate action. In particular, the oil and gas industry's large presence at COP28 came under fire, with The Guardian reporting that 2,456 industry-affiliated lobbyists were in attendance – almost four times higher than the number registered at COP27. With next year's summit set to take place in Azerbaijan, another major oil producing state, COP29 will likely face similar criticisms. There is a growing recognition that business must step in when governments fail to deliver real progress.



Bletchley Declaration addressing AI concerns, alongside a multilateral agreement for tested advanced AI models. The US displayed its power in the AI space by issuing an executive order, which requires tech companies to provide test findings for advanced AI systems ahead of public availability, and establishing an AI safety institution, in a similar vein to Sunak's announcement previously made for the UK. The weight of AI's existential threat was divisive, but short-term risks such as influencing elections through disinformation, were agreed upon.

Overall, approaches to AI legislation diverged across countries, with the EU moving closer to passing its 'AI Act', whilst the UK emphasised the need to define and address AI-related concerns through international collaboration. Sunak's initiative will continue next year in South Korea and France, where the next fully-developed AI safety summits will take place.

AI: how world leaders are grappling with

THE 'NEW CLIMATE CHANGE'

AI: the greatest gift to humanity or its biggest threat? The latter took centre stage in November as global leaders, tech executives, academics, and civil society groups attended a UK government-organised conference on AI safety, led by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at WWII heritage estate, Bletchley Park.

The summit culminated in a diplomatic breakthrough, with more than 25 countries and the EU adopting the international

AI SAFETY SUMMIT
HOSTED BY THE UK | 1-2 NOVEMBER 2023

IT'S THAT THE WORLD IS SAFER
WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU:

While it received some criticism for focusing too heavily on the more hypothetical aspects of AI's existential threats, the summit was generally welcomed for marking a real move forward in AI regulation with explicit consensus from nations and the tech industry to take on an international shared responsibility. The Bletchley Declaration will see the formation of a new international committee, which will monitor advances and risks in AI in a similar way to how the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been assessing climate science and risks for the last three decades.

The devil, however, is in the detail and structures will need to be put in place for how individual countries tackle AI and keep their citizens safe. Moving forward, one challenge will be how to manage the risks of AI without hampering innovation or its capacity to make people's lives better. Another challenge, as we have seen with the rise of social media, is how legislation will be able to keep up in such a fast-moving industry, particularly if more powerful AI models are introduced. Companies should continue to explore the tech with cautious and careful optimism and start preparing for how new legislation and tighter regulation will impact both new and current uses.

➤ **The weight of AI's existential threat was divisive, but short-term risks such as influencing elections through disinformation, were agreed upon.**



ANTHROPY23:

creating a blueprint for a better Britain

Anthropy's purpose is to delve into key areas of British business, industry and life that are currently being neglected. In a post-Brexit, post-pandemic UK, leaders have a crucial role to steer the country in the right direction. This year, Anthropy brought together over 2,000 leaders from across the UK to brainstorm, debate, and develop an agenda for the future of Britain.

Big themes and discussions included creating an equitable society, the role of business in tackling poverty, monetising fashion and circularity, rethinking the purpose of the ad industry, using AI to democratise learning, the benefits of biodiversity net gain, prioritising workplace mental health, and more. Given the polarisation that pervades much of the UK, Anthropy focused on bringing leaders together, without their silos or egos, to create an agenda to shape the next 30 years of the country.


After its first iteration, Anthropy 22, this year's gathering led to the creation of the Green Jobs Foundation, launched by PageGroup's Joanna Bonnett. Established to support the growth of hiring in the sustainability sector, the Foundation aims to provide opportunities to both businesses and employees. With over two millions green jobs expected to be required in 2030, and as many as seven million by 2050 (20% of the UK job market), the Foundation will open up opportunities to people across the country, supporting the levelling up agenda.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU:

The concept of business as a force for good is at the core of Anthropy's mission. As founder John O'Brien said in an interview with Raconteur, the future of the UK is "too important to be left to politicians" and "everybody who has a position of influence or leads an organisation should be thinking very carefully not just about how they create success and sustainability in their own area of influence, but also how they collaborate with others to make sure we have a society and economy that is better for everybody."

While only in its infancy, the second iteration of the Anthropy gathering received support from large British (and global) businesses, including John Lewis, The Economist, KPMG, Channel 4, EY, and Severn Trent. The gathering also received commendation from the leaders of all three leading political parties. With the next Anthropy gathering now set for March 2025, the community will use the next 18 months to work together to form and action the Anthropy Framework - designed to establish a blueprint for how business can impact the future of British society.

What next for **THE GREEN ECONOMY?**

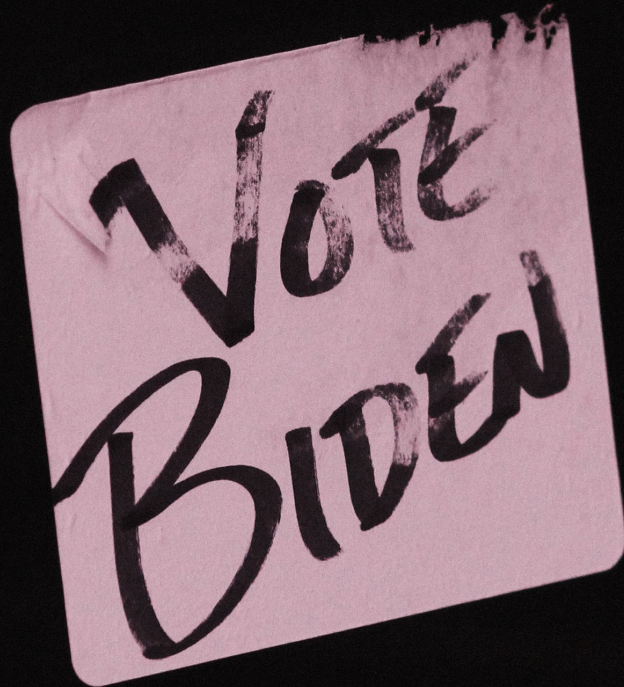


When it launched last year, Joe Biden's Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) was a surefire sign of his intent to confront the climate crisis while protecting US jobs and interests. The President said the law, which is intended to build a new clean energy economy powered by American business and innovation, was "not just about today, it's about tomorrow. It's about delivering progress and prosperity to American families."



The Act includes tax provisions designed to save families money on their energy bills and accelerate the deployment of clean energy, clean vehicles, clean buildings, and clean manufacturing. It also provides billions of dollars in grant and loan programmes and other investments for clean energy and climate action.

The Act has so far survived Republican-led attempts to repeal major parts of it, but with the 2024 US presidential election on the horizon, commentators are now wondering if Biden's landmark law could be in jeopardy. If Donald Trump wins the presidency for a second time, he has made no bones about scrapping the IRA, increasing investment in fossil fuels and rolling back regulations aimed at accelerating the transition to electric vehicles.



NOTE
BIDEN



With the 2024 US presidential election on the horizon, commentators are now wondering if Biden's landmark law could be in jeopardy



This is one of the very real reasons why the White House is racing to finalise the IRA's rules and guidance in a legally defensible way so companies can march ahead with investments in projects and hire people to build them.

Many experts agree that whatever the outcome of the 2024 election, the IRA will survive in one form or another. Not least because repealing the law would require an act of Congress and it has won widespread support from industry, with green energy developers hailing it as a transformative effort that will spur investment in new clean tech and renewable energy industries across the US.

What about **ELSEWHERE?**

Across the Atlantic, the European Parliament will be gearing up for its own election in June 2024. In September this year, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, delivered her final State of the Union Address of the term, emphasising the need to double down on the implementation of existing climate initiatives and to wrap up any proposed but yet-to-be-agreed regulations between now and the end of the current mandate.

The current mandate has delivered numerous milestones for European climate policy, most notably the EU Green Deal which set out its ambition to become the first climate-neutral continent. In response to the US Inflation Reduction Act, the EU has also been keen to emphasise its industrial competitiveness and investment in green jobs. The recently introduced EU Critical Raw Minerals Act and Net Zero Industry Act seek to reduce Europe's reliance on critical minerals imported from outside its borders and increase the manufacturing of green technologies.

But as the 2024 European election approaches, a notable shift is occurring across major countries in the EU as voters turn away from Green parties amid a rising tide of right-wing populism and anti-EU sentiment, partially fuelled by growing discontent for the EU's expanding list of climate policies and perceived overregulation. As the discord between the bloc's climate aspirations and the practical realities faced by member countries grows, Europe's green agenda stands at a crossroads, making next year's election a critical juncture for its success or failure.



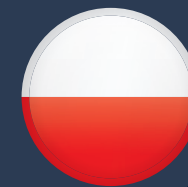
In the UK, Rishi Sunak has been rolling back net-zero policies in a bid for votes ahead of next year's general election. An example of this was last month's King's Speech, which laid out Conservative government plans for new oil and gas drilling licences in the North Sea. With Labour pledging to award no new licences if they are elected, climate policy is set to be a hotly-contested topic as we head into 2024.




Italy's right-wing government is pushing back against various EU initiatives, arguing local businesses cannot afford the previously agreed-upon green targets.



In November, the hard-right candidate Geert Wilders and his Freedom Party (PVV) won the Dutch general election with a Eurosceptic, anti-immigration manifesto that also advocated for coal and gas power stations to remain open while halting the construction of solar parks and wind turbines. He also wants to withdraw the Netherlands from the Paris Climate Agreement.



Poland's former government had taken Brussels to court over several policies including the bloc's 2035 ban on combustion engine-vehicles. The appointment of Donald Tusk as the new Polish Prime Minister at the end of 2023, and his stated priority to "chase away the evil" and rebuild relationships with the EU is an encouraging sign. However EU-mandated reforms on green energy have been deemed unconstitutional by Poland's constitutional tribunal, making Tusk's job harder.

➤  With all this uncertainty, it's perhaps unsurprising that some businesses have been wondering if they should put a pause on talking publicly about sustainability issues.



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU:

With political parties laying out economic plans and climate policies at opposing ends of the spectrum, it can be hard to know what to plan for or where to turn your attention to. When you combine politicians who are only interested in the latest polls or short-term wins with a cost-of-living crisis, inflationary pressures and geopolitical tensions, the result is an alarming concoction of volatility and unpredictability.

Amidst this chaos of uncertainty, it's perhaps unsurprising that some businesses have been wondering if they should put a pause on talking publicly about sustainability issues. Sally Uren, Chief Executive at Forum for the Future, has some wise words: 'the closer you are to system change, the harder it pushes back.' She argues that it's 'critical to understand and engage with activating and resisting forces...and as the new goals of a system emerge, the resisting forces can often get stronger and stronger.' This is particularly true in election years.

If it's therefore too challenging to advocate externally, she recommends the 'Background' principle i.e., think about the legacy you want to leave and continue the work behind the scenes, quietly getting on with implementing ambitious strategies.

She also advises looking for new ways to blend narratives with messages if they're not cutting through with audiences: 'if climate change as a term is not resonating with people (be it your customers, your voters, your community), encourage action through a different message. Health and nature are two narratives that can deliver easier engagement and the same result.'

THE PRICE OF HEALTH:

How new regulations are putting accessibility front and centre

2023 has been a landmark year for the pharmaceutical industry both in the EU and the US, with major reform of the EU Pharmaceutical Legislation, and in the US, some of the Inflation Reduction Act's drug pricing changes have been coming into effect with the goal of increasing availability and lowering prescription drug costs.

NEXT YEAR IS SET TO BE NO DIFFERENT.

In the US, the first ten drugs to be subject to Medicare negotiation were announced at the end of the summer and the new prices will come into effect in January 2026, spearheading the way for the negotiation of another 50 drugs by 2030. In the EU, new regulations – set to be signed in post-elections – will attempt to reduce the number of years a manufacturer has market exclusivity on new products from ten to eight unless the manufacturer can supply new medicines across all EU states within two years from launch. While the reverberations of the EU reform will continue to play out, headwinds to improve patient engagement and access continue. For companies with oncology and advanced therapy medicinal products (ATMPs), the European Health Technology Assessment Regulation (HTAR) deadline nears (12 January 2025). This regulation requires a large-scale rethink of a company's HTA submission process, for example with the introduction of centralised EU-level Joint Clinical Assessments (JCA).



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU:

While uncertainty remains about how far these regulations will go, 2024 will be a pivotal year to prepare for what are expected to be seismic changes to the pharmaceutical sector. The pharmaceutical industry's legacy of scientific breakthroughs, life-saving innovations, and the relentless pursuit of well-being has been accompanied by challenges, controversies and debates over accessibility. The industry can't afford to stay within the confines of laboratories and boardrooms but needs to meaningfully engage with stakeholders in an honest debate on what is the true cost of pursuing a healthier and more resilient world.

Is the end to **PLASTIC POLLUTION IN SIGHT?**

In our Q3 report we posed the question of whether the UN Plastics Treaty would ever be ratified by its 2024 deadline. Sadly, this might be wishful thinking. A third round of talks ended last month without an agreement, due to a handful of nations, namely the world's biggest petrostates with strong petrochemical interests, stalling progress. The 'High Ambition Coalition' of 60 nations, chaired by Norway and Rwanda, are seeking a binding international treaty that would regulate cradle-to-grave plastic production with language that would go beyond recycling and would allow nations to set individual goals for plastic regulation.

However, at the November conference in Kenya, petrostates Russia, Saudi Arabia and Iran formed the Global Coalition for Plastics Sustainability which proposed greater focus on waste management issues rather than the source – plastic production. More than 140 lobbyists of 318 'observed organisations' at the conference represented the fossil fuel and petrochemical industries. Similar delaying and derailing tactics were used with considerable success to significantly weaken the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement.



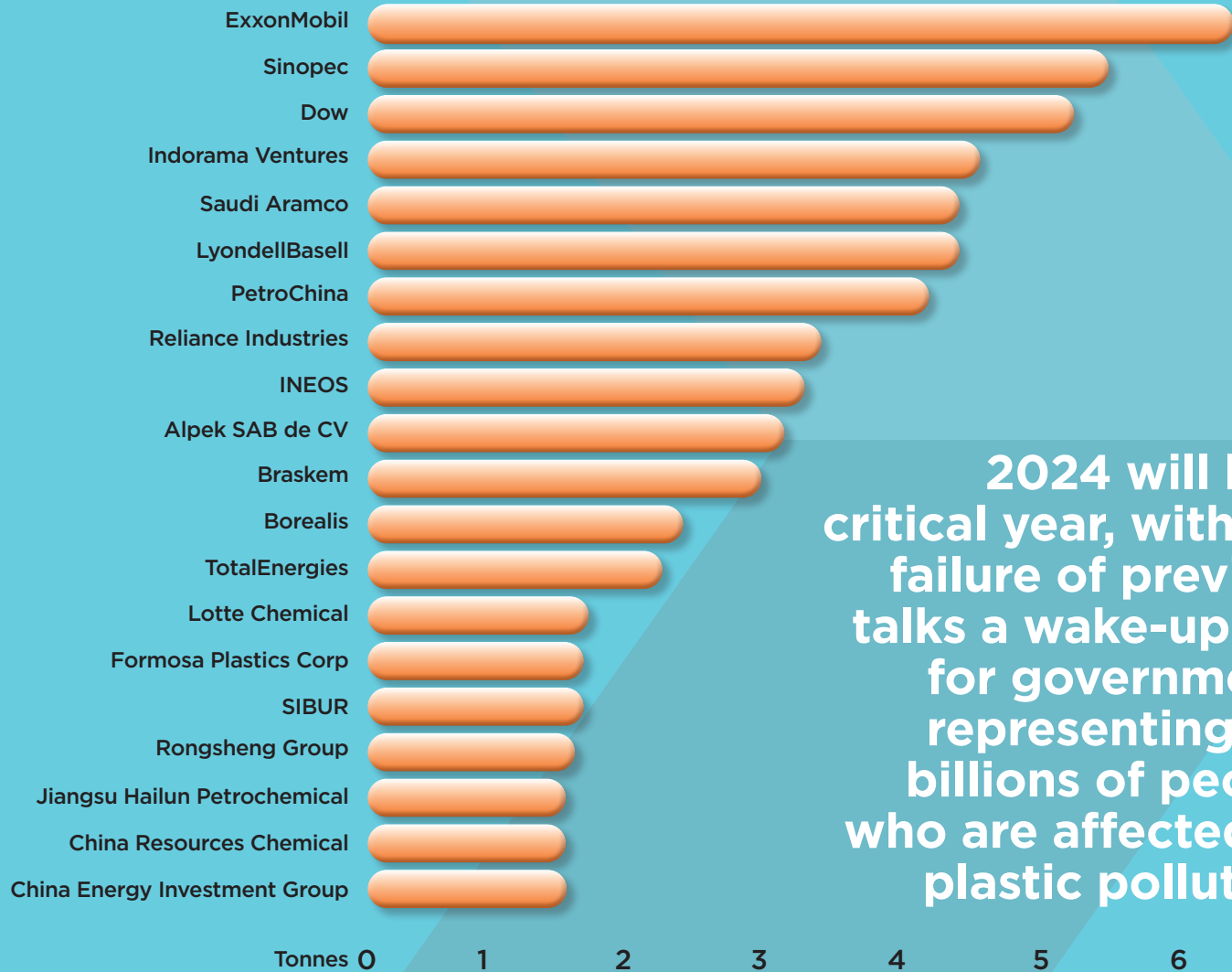
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WHAT NEXT?

2024 will be key to turning this around, with the failure of previous talks a wake-up call for governments representing the billions of people who are affected by plastic pollution. An upcoming fourth session in Ottawa in April 2024 will hope to develop the first draft of the Treaty. However, domestic policy debates in the US and other key countries undergoing government elections in 2024, will likely limit the ambition that these governments can bring to UN negotiations due to federal taxations on plastics and similar state-level policies. Trade groups such as the American Chemistry Council, which includes oil giants, have already lobbied against a proposed US-wide tax on plastics and this is likely to affect political party lobbying as the US election looms.

This sentiment means the new Business Coalition for a Global Plastic Treaty will become increasingly important as a forum to demonstrate an ambitious business and finance community committed to playing a constructive role in finding solutions. Plastic credits are emerging as innovative finance solutions, in a similar format to carbon credits, which will create opportunities for companies to invest in regional recycling infrastructures. However, this will require transparency and robust frameworks to ensure they don't become an avenue for greenwashing.

The top 20 list of petrochemical companies producing virgin polymers bound for single-use plastics remains effectively unchanged since 2019.



2024 will be a critical year, with the failure of previous talks a wake-up call for governments representing the billions of people who are affected by plastic pollution.




Contribution to single-use plastic waste generation in 2021

Source: The Plastic Waste Makers Index, Minderoo Foundation.



the design of products and packaging and the quantities they produce. Collaboration will be particularly important for items that are difficult to recycle, such as flexible plastics. The Consumer Goods Forum reiterated this in an interview with Edie, explaining that ‘working in partnership can make a profound, positive impact. The challenge is huge, but it’s shared. Over the past 15 years (we’ve seen) that companies are more and more relaxed on these topics. Before, they were competitors... now, we need to keep these topics pre-competitive, with appropriate guardrails.’ Innovation will continue to be the driving force behind solutions to the plastic problem, both in terms of replacing conventional plastic as a material and how it’s disposed of. The latter is where there is broad consensus amongst nations and industries, and where we’re likely to see greater and more concerted investment. One example of this type of innovation in action is LabCycle, a start-up in Bristol, UK, which has created the first-ever recycling facility for plastic lab equipment. The research industry has a problematic relationship with single-use plastics. To avoid contamination, millions of tiny plastic tubes, pipettes and other lab waste are used once and then binned. To counter this, LabCycle has developed machinery which first washes the plastic, then shreds it and decontaminates it. The end product is a small piece of plastic about the size of a grain of rice, which can be sent to a manufacturing company who can then form it back into plastic lab equipment.

HOW INDIVIDUAL NATIONS ARE TACKLING PLASTIC POLLUTION:

-  Rwanda led the charge back in 2008, when it became the world’s first ‘plastic-free’ nation, ten years after it banned plastic bags and plastic packaging, with the threat of jail time for anyone caught in possession of it.
-  Canada has declared plastic a “toxic” waste substance, which paved the way for its ban on single-use plastics by the end of 2023.
-  Germany’s plastic bottle deposit return scheme, introduced in 2003, has led to 99% of plastic bottles being returned for recycling, which in turn has helped to develop a societal norm whereby 82% of packaging is recycled. The country is now proposing that the cost of cleaning public spaces could be passed on to corporations rather than local councils with a levy charged to manufacturers for the cost of collection, cleaning and disposal of single-use plastics.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU:

There is growing conversation that world leaders cannot afford to leave their populations vulnerable to the effects of plastic pollution in favour of protecting the profits of fossil fuel companies. But conflicting priorities and political short-termism are getting in the way of substantial and serious progress, meaning it’s hard to know what the treaty, in its final form, would mean for businesses.

The corporate community is clearly just as much a part of the solution as it is the problem, and this is where companies can get ahead of the game. Businesses will need to design and implement plans that not only improve their waste management but properly consider

THINGS WE LOVE

MENTAL HEALTH & SUICIDE PREVENTION



Norwich City's viral video on World Mental Health Day

To mark World Mental Health Day in October, Norwich City football club were the (perhaps unlikely) source of a video entitled 'You Are Not Alone', watched millions of times about suicide prevention.

Hailed as "incredibly powerful" by UEFA, the video uses two football fans to highlight how mental health challenges are often hidden. Whilst one fan is consistently positive, his fellow fan sitting next to him overtly seems withdrawn and depressed. However, the video ends with it being the former who has taken his own life.

The video, undertaken in collaboration with the UK charity the Samaritans, is both poignant in its message and highly effective in the simplicity of its communications, leaving those who watch it with a call to action to check in on those around you, since no one knows what someone else might be going through inside, whatever their outward appearance.



PLASTIC FREE POPPIES

Remembrance Day poppies get a plastic-free makeover

Over 100 years after first being launched, The British Legion introduced the latest incarnation of its famous poppy, having undergone a sustainable makeover to make it plastic free and recyclable.

Not changed since the 1980s, the new versions have been created using renewable sources, including offcuts from the production of takeaway plastic cups. No longer does it have a green plastic stem and centre. Working with scientists at University College London to assess the environmental impact of the new poppy and ensure its sustainability, The British Legion's analysis revealed that the new poppy would reduce carbon emissions by 40% compared with the traditional poppy.





COFFEE POD RECYCLING

Corporate partnership to recycle coffee pods

The coffee industry has long faced criticism for its sustainability credentials – whether it be around production, single-use cups and pods or use of waste resources.

Nespresso, owned by Nestlé, and the Royal Mail are now partnering to tackle a challenging issue – coffee pod recycling. Coffee pods, whilst being convenient, are hard to recycle, especially at kerbside, as they contain plastic, aluminium and coffee grounds.

Royal Mail will collect coffee pods free from homes or users can drop off the capsules at various locations across the country, making the recycling process much more convenient for customers.



UPCOMING
EVENTS
TO HAVE
ON YOUR

RADAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

in Q1 2024



World Economic Forum Annual Meeting

**15th – 19th January,
Davos, Switzerland**

The 54th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum will primarily focus on exploring the opportunities enabled by new technologies and their implications on decision-making and global partnership. The meeting will convene over 100 governments, major international organisations, the 1000 most important global companies, relevant civil society and academic institutions, as well as global media.



UN Environment Assembly

**26th February – 1st March,
Nairobi, Kenya**

UNEA is the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment and includes all 193 Member States of the UN. It meets every two years to set the global environmental agenda, provide overarching policy guidance and define policy responses to address emerging environmental challenges. Next year's meeting, which will be the Assembly's sixth session, will seek to demonstrate the power of environmental multilateralism across climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.



Economist Impact Sustainability Week

**4th – 6th March,
London**

The 9th annual Sustainability Week will deliver vital information that businesses can use to move faster on reducing emissions and improving environmental impact in 2024. Topics covered will include decarbonising business and industry, financing net zero, and supply chains and circularity.

➤ UNEA is the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment and includes all 193 Member States of the UN.

PORTER NOVELLI



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