

Chapter 1 : Staying Ahead of the Curve: Four Environmental Trends to Watch

15 Surprising Environmental Trends to Watch in Genetically engineered coral, electronic wildlife sniffers, sand mines and more. As research advances in this area, questions are being.

Trends in environmental aid: However, these totals mask changing trends in the delivery of environmental aid. Analysis of the AidData database, which now contains more than one million project level records, uncovers two key trends in environmental aid. First, an increasing proportion of environmental aid is being allocated to projects designed to address global environmental issues. Second, environmental aid is increasingly being allocated bilaterally, through national aid agencies, rather than multilaterally, through the international organizations and channels created for this purpose. Brown projects are those designed to generate primarily local environmental benefits. Such projects include water sanitation, desalination and solid waste treatment. Green projects are those designed to generate benefits that are substantially external to the recipient country, and may include projects such as climate change mitigation, biodiversity preservation, and ozone preservation. As a proportion of all environmental aid, green aid grew from 20 per cent in the early s to 40 per cent in the late s. These trends likely reflect recent international commitments targeting climate change. Bilateral and multilateral aid Between and the amount of environmental aid channeled through multilateral institutions increased by roughly 16 per cent. In relative terms, 58 per cent of environmental aid was allocated through multilateral agencies from 1994. By 2008, this figure had dropped to 42 per cent Figure 2. This trend results in part to an increase in the proportion of green aid being delivered bilaterally. From 1994, donors split their allocation of green aid roughly evenly between multilateral and bilateral channels. By 2008, 70 per cent of green aid was being allocated though bilateral agencies. Why are donors opting for bilateral aid? Multilateral institutions reduce transaction costs for the donors and diminish political uncertainty, potentially dampening the sort of free rider problems that often plague global environmental governance. Thus, it is surprising to see an increased emphasis on bilateral aid channels at the same time that donors are increasingly emphasizing global environmental issues. It is important to question why this is occurring. There are a number of cost considerations when it comes to delivering aid through multilateral institutions, which may explain the trend towards delivering environmental aid bilaterally. Delivering aid multilaterally can lead to agency slack, which occurs when agency behavior departs from donor preferences. There are costs involved in donors monitoring the work of multilateral institutions. Weak or stalling multilateral projects may lead donors to believe that their aid would be more effective if delivered bilaterally. A future for multilateral climate aid? Multilateral co-operation is essential for climate governance. Fortunately, given the establishment of major new multilateral funds for climate mitigation and adaptation, it is no longer plausible to argue that donors lack multilateral vehicles through which to channel climate finance, or environmental aid more broadly. While the creation of new multilateral funds under the UN umbrella has been much celebrated, donors have been reluctant actually to use them; the most active multilateral funds remain those managed by the World Bank. Giving donors more control over UN-managed multilateral channels may encourage their greater use. However, this will have the inevitable consequence of lessening the already weak voice of recipient countries, and is likely to exacerbate the questions of legitimacy and fairness plaguing climate governance that motivated the very creation of new, UN-managed funds. Timmons Roberts, and Michael J.

Chapter 2 : Are We Becoming Greener? Trends in Environmental Desire | Resources for the Future

Table of Contents: Preface Chapter 1. Environmental Governance and Policy Making in Developing Countries; pp. By Chung-Chiang Chen (Graduate Inst. of Environmental Management, Nan Hua Univ.).

Do you care more about the environment now than when you were a kid? Do you care more than your parents did? You may think that the answer to both is an obvious yes. After all, people used to litter, live with dirtier air and water, and not recycle. The strength of our environmental desires is of central importance to developing efficient and effective environmental policies. We think about our behavior and choices changing as environmental, technological, and economic conditions change. But economists operate as if our deeper environmental desires—our fundamental attitudes, beliefs, and values—are static. Might our hearts and minds be as changeable as those other conditions? The discussion matters because it goes to the core of basic questions: Are we over- or underprotecting the environment? Are we protecting the right things and doing so in the best ways? Our environmental behavior and choices have certainly changed a lot over the last few decades. We recycle, drive hybrid cars, and buy organic food. But behaviors and preferences can change for other reasons. The distinction between preferences and desires is important because it highlights that preferences and behavior can change—without a change in underlying desires. Consider people who buy hybrid cars. But others may prefer hybrids simply because they think gas prices will rise. Technological development is another confounding factor. We may buy hybrid cars, energy-efficient laundry machines, and renewable power for environmental reasons, but technological advancement is what makes those purchases possible. Similarly, people may increasingly buy those things simply because their incomes have risen. Changing desires can change behavior, but changing preferences, choices, and behavior do not necessarily imply a change in desires. What Makes Desires Change? What does it mean when our beliefs, psychology, values, and ethics do, in fact, change? To tackle that question, we introduce three related concepts: Taste formation describes how and why we like or dislike certain things. Half a trillion dollars is spent on marketing every year in the belief that tastes not only change, but that they can be changed deliberately. Several studies have shown that consistently and across cultures, people tend to aesthetically prefer open landscapes dotted with visible water and patches of forest to other types of landscapes. Open landscapes allow us to see predators and prey; water is fundamental to survival; and forests signal shelter and food. Experience and learning refers to the acquisition of new concepts, facts, and skills. Learning implies change, at least in our knowledge and understanding, but potentially also in our beliefs and values. Does learning about the environment strengthen or change our environmental desires? Does experiencing nature change our desire for it? However, our sense is that much more empirical work would have to be done to make strong causal predictions. They can be thought of loosely as the social version of individual tastes and, like tastes, can change over time. Changes in crowd knowledge and environmental norms can drive changes in our environmental desires. It seems obvious that desires and tastes change. Taste in art, food and drink, personal aesthetics, and political attitudes suggest that our deeper beliefs and attitudes can and do shift. Economic Measurement The focus of environmental economics is on the measurement of behavior and choices. Do they prefer clean air to cheap energy, or bald eagles to land development? Economists take this approach because it is relatively easy to get data on behavior and choices and because the goal of most environmental economic analyses is to reveal the trade-offs associated with those behaviors and choices as a guide to public policy. Studies must employ methods and data to control for changes over time in supply, scarcity, and substitutes. Illustrative exceptions that prove the rule are studies of changing food consumption patterns. For example, economists have empirically explored changes in US beef consumption and tried to isolate the effect of changes in the taste for beef from other factors affecting consumption, such as prices, household income, and demographic change. When these latter factors are controlled for, the residual change in consumption can be attributed to a change in taste in this case, perhaps arising from changed attitudes toward health. Could environmental economists conduct analogous studies to detect environmental taste changes? In practice, data limitations currently make it nearly impossible. Taste change studies of market commodities like beef can

make use of a variety of data on prices and consumption. These data are collected consistently at regular intervals over time allowing for time-series analysis. Such data are relatively abundant because the goods in question are market goods, and markets generate a great deal of routinely collected information on prices and consumption. Environmental goods and services, however, are usually not market goods and thus lack price and consumption data. But environmental goods lack the routine, consistent collection of data associated with market commodities. As a consequence, environmental economics has, to date, produced few, if any, studies of how virtual environmental prices or consumption change over time—let alone analyses designed to isolate taste change from supply, scarcity, and substitutes. One way to move forward which, to our knowledge, has not been attempted is to create and repeatedly administer over time a national or global environmental preference survey designed to detect environmental taste change. Any such study would require a long-term financial and institutional commitment. They involve the construction of realistic, plausible decision scenarios that ask respondents to make simulated choices. For example, would you rather have a new park or a lower property tax bill? To be clear, such an endeavor would involve more than simply conducting repeated experiments because, as noted earlier, detection of taste change requires careful attention to confounding factors, such as changes in supply, scarcity, and the availability of substitutes. Another approach would be to examine how environmental desires vary cross-sectionally in response to different conditions. For example, research has been undertaken in experimental economics to examine cross-country differences in variables such as trust and reciprocity. These studies have participants play economic games designed to examine certain types of behavior and compare how outcomes differ around the world. We could imagine something similar being done to compare environmental desires in different countries. Although it would be challenging to isolate the factors that are the underlying causes for differences, useful patterns could emerge showing correlations between variables such as income, education, or various institutional structures and environmental desires. Although opinion polling has its uses predicting near-term voting patterns, for example, it does a poor job of revealing our underlying beliefs, desires, and attitudes and how they change over time. Gallup polls are one exception; several extend back to the 1950s and almost no environmental polling existed prior to that time. Since 1950, Gallup has been asking Americans about whether they place higher priority on economic growth or environmental protection. The results and precise wording of the question are depicted in Figure 1. Through the 1950s and 1960s a significant majority of respondents favored environmental protection. The gap narrows beginning around 1970 and, in fact, in 1975 a majority prefers economic growth. No, for at least two reasons. First, legislation, regulation, and investment in environmental protection expanded significantly over the year period. In the 1970s, the major environmental laws in the United States were just beginning to be implemented, following a surge of legislation and regulatory change beginning in the 1960s. Rather than evidence of weaker environmental desires, the numbers may just reflect the increased satisfaction of our desires over those 30 years. Figure 3 shows why that matters to interpretation of the poll. This is yet another potential explanation for the decadal decline in the environment versus growth priority ranking. In fact, viewing the polls together, it is remarkable how strong the preference for environmental protection Figure 1 remains given the countervailing trends: Are We Becoming More Environmental? Given those headwinds, can we conclude that our underlying environmental attitudes have grown stronger over the last 30 years? Pertinent data are sparse and over a decadal scale limited to US opinion polling that suffers from a host of interpretive challenges. Although empirical measurement of our underlying environmental attitudes and tastes is possible, assessment of long-term, cross-cultural changes in environmental desires would require a fairly heroic commitment to new data and empirical methods. Our survey, as well as our own personal intuition, leads us to conclude that our desires change, and in some situations can be changed deliberately. The difficulty for prediction, however, is the variety of factors that drive our psychology and attitudes. Do our childhood experiences trump the norms of our adult community? Are our attitudes more affected by learning and social messaging or by institutions that govern the way we interact with one another? Consider the pronounced global trend toward urbanization and its effect on our environmental desires. But urbanization is also associated with educational opportunities and social interactions that could strengthen environmental desire. Given such countervailing winds, prediction requires deliberate strategies to empirically measure trends in our environmental desire. The

difficulty of doing so largely explains why the environmental social sciences have so far not provided adequate evidence one way or the other. If we predict stronger environmental desires in the future, then policy choices based on our current strength of desire will tend to underprotect the environment. And conversely, if we expect a weakening, current policy will tend to overstate the benefits of environmental improvement. This article is excerpted from a related blog series on Common Resources. Read the full series at www.AbouttheAuthors.com. About the Authors James W. Carolyn Kousky is an RFF fellow.

Chapter 3 : Environmental Trends

Examples are studies on the role of environmental economics in policy making, general discussions of the role of risk or the efficiency criterion, research trends in environmental economics, or general discussions of datasets.

December 19, “ What should we be thinking about when we think about the future of biodiversity, conservation and the environment? An international team of experts in horizon scanning, science communication and conservation recently asked that question as participants in the eighth annual Horizon Scan of Emerging Issues for Global Conservation and Biological Diversity. Scientists are eyeing the option of replacing bacteria forced out by heat with other strains more tolerant of the new temperatures “ either naturally occurring or genetically engineered. Although the practice holds promise for rescuing or resurrecting damaged reefs, there are concerns about unintended consequences such as introduction of disease or disruption of ecosystems. Robots that can crawl across the seafloor dispatching invaders with poisons or electric shock are being investigated as a potential tool for combating such species. The technology is now being tested to control crown-of-thorns starfish, which have devastated Great Barrier Reef corals in recent years, and invasive lionfish , which are competing with native species in the Caribbean Sea. Electronic Noses The technology behind electronic sensors that detect odors has advanced markedly in recent years, leading biologists to ponder applications to conservation. Possibilities include using the devices to sniff out illegally traded wildlife at checkpoints along transportation routes and to detect the presence of DNA from rare species in the environment. Blight of the Bumblebees We tend to think of pollinating insects as our ecological friends , but in the wrong place nonnative bees can spell trouble instead by competing with native insects, promoting reproduction in nonnative plants and potentially spreading disease. Microbes Meet Agriculture Select bacteria and fungi are emerging as potential agricultural allies for their ability to help kick back pests or stimulate growth in crops. As research advances in this area, questions are being raised about potential implications for nontarget species, ecosystems, soils and more. Sand Trap Sand is mined for a wide range of uses, from making concrete, glass, asphalt and electronics to reclaiming land and aiding in the extraction of fossil fuels. And with sand mining comes disruption and loss of habitat in sand sources such as quarries, rivers, lakes and oceans. As demand for sand grows, efforts are underway to develop strategies for restoring areas from which sand has been removed and to advance the use of alternative materials such as mud or recycled construction material where possible to reduce stress on existing stocks. Trends in Fences Fences are notorious for challenging wildlife by restricting migrations and limiting contact among populations. As political leaders in the U. Downside of Cleanups Landfills have altered animal behavior, distribution and abundance around the world in a variety of ways, from increasing abundance of storks to fragmenting populations of bears. As changes in regulations cause landfills to be cleaned up, covered and closed, scientists expect the behavior of scavenging animals to change “ with potential consequences for other species, ecosystems and human-animal interactions. Ocean Air on Overdrive Things can be rough on the open ocean “ and they appear to be getting rougher, with increased average air speed, wave height, and frequency of strong winds and large waves over the past two decades. Implications for ecosystems and the species that inhabit them include disruptions to beaches, coastal vegetation and reefs; ocean-going birds and transoceanic migrants also could be affected. Possibilities include the creation of de facto marine reserves as fish cluster under the fields of floating turbines, loss of birds that fly into the turbines, entanglement of sea creatures in cables used to tether the turbines to the seafloor, and disruption of movement patterns of underwater animals. Bionic Leaves Plants have the renewable energy storage problem pretty well figured out: The technology opens the door to an exciting new approach to capturing, storing and using solar energy in locations remote from electrical grids. Lithium-Air Batteries The lack of dense energy storage systems is a big barrier to widespread adoption of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar, which are only intermittently available, as well as to the advancement of technologies such as electric vehicles. A new kid on the energy-storage block, lithium-air batteries, can theoretically hold 10 times as much energy per volume as its conventional lithium-ion counterparts. Although scientists expect the technology to take 10 years or more to mature, when it does it

could revolutionize renewable energy markets with cascading impacts for land use, water quality and more.

Better Biofuel Production A class of enzymes known as lytic polysaccharide monooxygenases is emerging as a potentially powerful tool for use in converting plant material to liquid fuel and industrial chemicals. By dramatically improving the speed and efficiency of conversion over conventional approaches, these enzymes could stimulate efforts to grow crops for fuel, with implications for biodiversity in the form of increased land use for this purpose, potential shifts away from fossil fuel use and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Socking Away CO₂ Researchers in Iceland have come up with a promising strategy for storing carbon dioxide underground: Dissolve it in water and inject it into basaltic rocks. Although the process is energy- and water-intensive, there is hope it could play a role in reducing the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and minimizing the impact of climate change on the rest of the world.

New Jobs for Blockchain Best known for enabling a Web-based currency known as bitcoin, blockchain technology in a more generalized sense offers the ability to track transactions without the need for a centralized record keeper. As the technology matures, potential applications with implications for conservation include tracking land claims, providing a system for buying and selling power generated by distributed renewable sources, ensuring the validity of sustainability claims for products such as seafood and lumber, and uncovering illegal wildlife trade. Check them out here.

Chapter 4 : Trends in Environmental Analytical Chemistry - Journal - Elsevier

This Research Brief is based on WIDER Working Paper / ' Environmental and climate finance in a new world: How past environmental aid allocation impacts future climate aid ' by Christopher Marcoux, Bradley C. Parks, Christian M. Peratsakis, J. Timmons Roberts, and Michael J. Tierney.

Staying Ahead of the Curve: Four Environmental Trends to Watch by Corporate Relations and Business Strategy Staff

In the hustle and bustle of daily life, it is often difficult to find time to step back and look at the bigger picture. To remain competitive and viable in the long run, psychologists need to monitor key developments that will influence the way services are provided in the future. This article introduces four trends that will have a significant effect on health service delivery in the years to come and some resulting opportunities and challenges for psychology.

Information Technology With major implications for both administrative practices and the delivery of services, developments in information technology are changing the world on a scale not seen since the Industrial Revolution. Some psychologists are already reaping the benefits of using tools such as practice management software and electronic claims submission. Others continue to rely on non-automated processes. While such an approach may be effective in the short-run, it does not address the scope of change to come. Experts anticipate a complete shift to electronic client records within the next 10 years, with increasing use of "smart" technology and expert systems that provide enhanced decision support and clinical management. Additionally, as technology becomes more user-friendly and embedded in our everyday activities, the tools will become less intrusive. This development will allow for new ways to monitor health behaviors, track essential data elements, and document treatment and progress.

Opportunities More automatic and less burdensome record keeping Eventual cost savings and increased efficiency More knowledgeable, better-informed clients Access to more complete, accurate client records Clinical data and latest research at your fingertips Opportunities to design and implement new models for delivering services Ability to deliver services to remote and underserved areas Market shift that favors integrative, full-service providers Faced with high-tech health care solutions, clients will want corresponding "high-touch" i. Although most psychologists will not interact at the global level, the competitive nature of the evolving marketplace has significant implications for practice. Whether the United States ultimately moves towards a free-market or government-sponsored health care system, one thing is certain " all parties involved are increasingly adopting business-oriented approaches. Opportunities Ability to reach a broader target audience New models of technology-driven service delivery have the potential to remove geographic barriers Broader competition will allow for a greater variety of services Quick access to more information from any location The realization that helping others and earning a decent living are not mutually exclusive will lead to more effective and efficient business operations that help to advance practice Challenges The removal of geographic barriers will create licensing and mobility issues that need to be addressed Increased demand for demonstrable quality and high productivity More competition from nonpsychologists Psychologists who are not tech-savvy will find it increasingly difficult to compete Practitioners will increasingly need to work as part of a system and collaborate with multiple parties e. Practitioners are increasingly called upon to competently treat diverse populations. In the other major demographic shift, the first baby boomers will reach retirement age in and for the following 18 years, the largest segment of the population will begin to transition out of the workforce. Although many psychologists will continue to work well beyond age 65, many will transition out of full-time practice over the next two decades. Similar to the trend in the larger workforce, this will leave a much smaller group remaining to treat a population whose largest segment will increasingly require healthcare services. Opportunities Increasing demand for ethnically and culturally diverse practitioners Demand for culturally appropriate assessment, treatment and consultation Demand for services specifically targeted to the needs of older individuals e. The result is two-fold. First, the consumer is now taking the lead in terms of choosing what services to purchase and who to purchase them from. Second, in an effort to reduce healthcare costs, an emphasis is being placed on maintaining good health and preventing illness in the first place.

Chapter 5 : History and trends in Environmental Design Research (EDR) – NYU Scholars

The environment is considered the surroundings in which an organism operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans and their interrelation. It is this environment which is both so valuable, on the one hand, and so endangered on the other.

Wildlife Chapters March The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection DEP is charged with protecting the natural environment and those aspects of human health directly related to environmental factors. Historically this has meant controlling discharges to air, water and land, and working to both minimize and remedy the pollution of these media. Regulation of releases to the environment from point sources like waste discharge pipes and smokestacks, and the management of wastes themselves, have been particular focus areas. It has become increasingly clear that protection of the environment and human health requires a more comprehensive approach. Today, the DEP strives to protect and manage uses of land and other resources to ensure that not only future generations of people can thrive so to can wild plants, animals and their critical habitats. The DEP continues its efforts to preserve environmental resources including air, water, land, and healthy ecosystems. In monitoring and reporting on environmental conditions, it is useful to focus on measures, or indicators, of environmental health. Environmental indicators are quantitative measures of conditions and trends that are used to assess the state of the environment and natural resources and, where possible, to gauge progress towards specific goals. Indicators are necessary because the condition of an environmental factor, such as water or air quality, is often made up of many different components and it can be difficult or impossible to directly measure them all. The choice of measures is also limited to those environmental parameters for which there are accurate and appropriate data, preferably long-term data that can clarify and illustrate any trends that may exist. Each chapter describes a specific area in which the DEP has been working to improve conditions and presents a specific environmental measure or category of measurements meaningful in gauging the current status of the environment in New Jersey. Chapters are updated on a rolling basis. Some of these measures have been discussed in earlier DEP reports and the DEP believes it is important to continue tracking them. Reasonably good data exist for each of these measures. Where goals or end points are associated with a measure, these are presented. Some goals are expressed formally in laws or rules. Other measures can be compared with assumed or implied goals, such as a stable or increasing population of a wildlife species like the bald eagle. When compared with explicit or implicit goals, some trends are encouraging and show clear evidence of progress. Others reflect situations that appear to be worsening and challenges that lie ahead. Many trends reflect both current and past conditions and are subject to changes in the future due to factors that are, in some cases, poorly understood and beyond the direct control of the DEP. There are a variety of ways that these chapters could be organized. No single framework suffices because environmental systems are interrelated, overlapping, and dynamic. For example, water quality is affected not only by discharges from point sources but by atmospheric deposition of pollutants from local, regional and national sources. Water quality is also affected by land use and, in some cases, by factors that affect water quantity, which in turn may be affected by global climate changes, which are in turn affected by human activity in a variety of ways, and so on. You may download or review individual chapters of the report as discrete PDF documents using the index of chapters provided in the adjacent table. A reference matrix is provided to help explain the relationship between different topic areas in order to view all pertinent chapters of the report. This matrix can help a reader to find those chapters that relate to a particular interest or subject area. A first look at the marked chapters should help most readers focus on the specifics of their areas of interest.

Chapter 6 : 10 emerging sustainability trends to watch this year | GreenBiz

The environment is considered the surroundings in which an organism operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans and their interrelation.

Shutterstock kirillov alexey If were any indication, looks to be a big year for sustainability issues, including climate change, water scarcity and consumer engagement. From historic climate change marches and bold advocacy by companies on the price of carbon to global economic volatility and heated debates on inequality, was a year of accelerated awareness and action for sustainable development. This year promises to be equally rich and meaningful for corporate sustainability, with more deliberate action by companies and governments to debate and address issues such as water scarcity, corporate diversity, human rights violations in global supply chains and innovation of sustainable business models. The outcome of the global summit in Paris will set the tone and direction for global climate action for years to come. Scales tip on global climate change action With rising civic activism, surging numbers of corporate commitments and more decisive action by local and national governments, global climate change diplomacy is showing new signs of life. The November deal between the U. There is genuine "although still cautious" optimism that the international community finally may agree on a meaningful and lasting framework for decarbonization in In early , every country will submit detailed domestic policy plans that will form the basis of the treaty to be signed in Paris next year. Global water stress is fast becoming a major economic, political and social issue, and a supply chain risk to which companies are responding with a range of initiatives and innovations. As pressure to address the challenge builds in both the public and private sectors, will see even more concerted action to understand and act on water-related issues with an emphasis on collaboration and system-level solutions. Bike-sharing systems such as Velo, based in Lyon, France, operate in more than cities globally. Incumbents face a growing number of credible threats New technologies, shifting consumer preferences and a growing movement of social entrepreneurs and other innovators are disrupting traditional business models and drastically altering existing markets. In , companies in a number of industry sectors "including automotive, electric utilities, banking, retail and food" began coming to terms with increasingly viable threats to their businesses. While not all of this disruption has sustainability as its goal, a new generation of products and services "and whole new approaches such as the sharing economy" are finding increased credibility and impact and making the notion of a more sustainable economy more tangible. Disruption from within is also accelerating as electric cars become less mysterious and less expensive and further open consumer minds to more sustainable innovation. Coal, oil and gas companies acknowledge climate change-related risks, but few have taken sufficient action to signal their acceptance of and commitment to the need to transition. Falling oil prices are likely to temporarily slow the rapid ascent of renewables, but that will not relieve oil, gas and coal producers from the need to reinvent their roles in the emerging low-carbon economy. Renewable energy made record gains in with drops in technology costs and rapid expansion of capacity and investments. The notion of "stranded assets" is gaining recognition as a risk factor affecting mainstream investment decisions. While living wage questions continue to dominate the conversation about fair employment practices, companies are recognizing that wages and contracts are only part of the puzzle. Workplaces that are fit for the future will implement the broader drivers of well-being such as flexible working hours and schedules, terms of contracts that are beneficial for both employers and employees, larger investments in training and education and adaptability to employees working until a later age. Subsequently, it also announced upgrading its scheduling software to enable managers to make work shift schedules more family-friendly. Corporate diversity beyond gender Although gender continues to lead the workforce diversity conversation, stakeholders and companies are turning their focus to additional dimensions of inclusion such as race, ethnicity and sexual orientation. Technology firms made a big leap in , disclosing employee data reflecting gender, racial and ethnic underrepresentation and acknowledging the need to change. Tech companies are under increasing pressure from stakeholders, including civil rights activist Jesse Jackson, to tackle the predominantly "white male" composition of their workforces. As stakeholders point out the limitations of supply chain audits, companies

have been pressured to raise accountability standards and implement new measures. In , the U. Government repression and conflicts have been key factors accounting for the increase but many violations are also attributed to corporate actions. Parliament will require businesses to report efforts towards eradicating modern slavery from their supply chains. Ethics issues continue to plague financial institutions. Ethics deficit haunts banks and corporations Questions about the state of ethics continue to plague large multinationals and banks following a year marked by bribery scandals, penalties on the finance sector and reports highlighting lack of transparency across industries. Multiple companies have fought accusations of avoiding paying their fair share of taxes by moving tax domiciles abroad. While European and U. That said, it will take many years for regulators, stakeholders and businesses to move the needle on the issue. Morgan and HSBC were among many financial institutions accused of bending the rules to make profit and that faced significant regulatory fines and other penalties as a result. Burger King, Pfizer and Walgreens had to fend off accusations of attempting tax inversion. Companies set for a larger role in international development As the dividing lines between industrialized and emerging markets blur, multinational corporations progressively have been promoting economic growth in the developing world and contributing to solutions to complex global problems such as poverty. The role of companies is set to further accelerate as U. The proposed goals cover broad themes: They also include specific targets for reducing inequality, making cities safe and addressing climate change. Global Compact is reviewing ways that businesses and financial institutions can support priorities of the post agenda. Together with the Global Reporting Initiative, the U. Global Compact has created an international network of professionals and is working with forward-thinking companies to implement a guide that supports businesses in assessing their impacts, aligning their strategies with the Sustainable Development Goals and setting company goals. The promise of consumer engagement Corporate sustainability leaders have recognized that achieving long-lasting change requires reaching beyond companywide initiatives. As corporations look for innovative ways to engage consumers in positive behavior change, millennials are a key demographic, with the number of youth engagement initiatives on sustainability and environmental issues growing steadily. With the increasing use of social media platforms, we will see more innovation in this sphere in â€” although not all research supports the claim that deeper engagement leads to more sustainable consumption patterns. Companies will look for stronger evidence to back up marketing initiatives as they also expand efforts aimed at other age groups. But findings are mixed with some indicating millennials as key drivers in sustainable consumption while others show no significant variations across age groups. This article originally appeared at the SustainAbility corporate blog.

Chapter 7 : NJDEP- Environmental Trends

The research program began with evaluations of new jails that were created by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, which had a novel design intended to provide a nontraditional and safe environment for.

Chapter 8 : 15 Surprising Environmental Trends to Watch in - Scientific American

In fact, viewing the polls together, it is remarkable how strong the preference for environmental protection (Figure 1) remains given the countervailing trends: the improvements over time in baseline environmental protection, dips in economic growth, and increased distrust in government.