

Environmental, Social and Governance

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Elk Rock Solutions LLC

Providing organizations and companies with innovative and effective environmental, social and governance solutions.

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ESG News

Climate

- Carbon Market, Exxon Mobile, BP & Shell Proposing \$50/MT CO₂e emitted, but the Biden administration is pushing for \$150/MT CO₂e emitted. How will this affect you?

\$\$CO₂e

Read this great Bloomberg article:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-19/pushing-biden-s-climate-policy-with-new-carbon-price-risky-climate>

- Lab made meat, OK. But **Glyph “whiskey”** from Endless West is made without grain, malt or being aged in barrels! Say It’s Not So.

The technology is here! Food & drink that is produced in a lab (such as whiskey, beef, & ice cream) is hitting the store shelves with a lower carbon and environmental impact. Is this the new tomorrow?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/21/business/fake-meat-eggs-dairy-products.html?referringSource=articleShare>



- Nestlé CEO: “We don’t have to sacrifice shareholders to fight climate change”.

The global challenge of climate change is no longer the can that is kicked down the road. Businesses like Nestlé, with a global footprint and vast supply chains, need to take the threat climate change poses to our civilization seriously to prosper in the long term. Nestlé is committed to stepping up to the challenge and leading its industry toward a sustainable future. Now it’s time for some soul-searching—and some truth-telling.

<https://fortune.com/2021/02/17/fighting-climate-change-business-shareholders-investments-nestle-ceo-mark-schneider/>



- **Shell Oil hits their peak oil output. They now plan to reduce their output and start the switch to be a low-carbon power supplier.**

In a historic shift for the company, Shell announced it would start reducing oil production, calling an end to a decades-old strategy centered on pumping more hydrocarbons. Shell and other energy giants seek to capitalize on a shift to low-carbon power.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/shell-hits-its-own-peak-oil-plans-to-reduce-output-11613042962>



SOCIAL

- **A Hidden Hurdle in Efforts to Diversify Boardrooms.**

As investors and society push companies to diversify their boards, a new fault line is being exposed in corporate America: Should companies let their managers spread their wings? It's a common practice that many companies don't want or allow their junior- and mid-level managers to serve on other boards given fears of conflicting priorities and transparency.



<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/16/business/dealbook/boardroom-diversity.html>

- **Biden's Labor Pick Would Bring a Union Advocate to Cabinet.**

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh if confirmed, would oversee the administration's to-do list, from workplace safety to job growth—and a minimum-wage increase to \$15 an hour. Mr. Walsh on February 25th said that work at OSHA, including increasing the number of the agency's inspectors, would be a priority for him should he be confirmed.



"If we increase standards and don't increase inspectors, then we don't really protect the American worker," Mr. Walsh said. The Labor Department has a range of responsibilities, from investigating employers for illegal wage practices and worker-safety violations to conducting statistical analysis and facilitating job training programs.

https://www.wsj.com/articles/bidens-labor-pick-would-bring-union-advocate-to-cabinet-11612434601?st=2ruwlr1tfk5dmg5&reflink=article_email_share

- **US-OSHA Issues Stronger Updated COVID-19 Standards to Better Protect Workers.**

The updated guidance intended to inform employers and workers in most workplace settings outside of healthcare ways to help identify risks of being exposed to and/or contracting COVID-19 at work. It will also help them determine appropriate control measures to implement. Separate guidance is applicable to [healthcare \(CDC guidance\)](#) and [emergency response \(CDC guidance\)](#) settings.



OSHA has additional [industry-specific guidance](#) including the food industry. This guidance contains recommendations as well as descriptions of [mandatory safety and health standards](#).
<https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/safework>



Workplace Safety Tips for Coronavirus

1. Encourage workers to stay home if sick.
2. Encourage respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes.
3. Provide a place to wash hands or alcohol-based hand rubs containing at least 60% alcohol.
4. Limit worksite access to only essential workers, if possible.
5. Establish flexible worksites (e.g., telecommuting) and flexible work hours (e.g., staggered shifts), if feasible.
6. Discourage workers from using other workers' phones, desks, or other work tools and equipment.
7. Regularly clean and disinfect surfaces, equipment, and other elements of the work environment.
8. Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved cleaning chemicals with label claims against the coronavirus.
9. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use of all cleaning and disinfection products.
10. Encourage workers to report any safety and health concerns.

osha.gov

They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself.

Andy Warhol

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