

Climate change & environmental damage: Examining five of the worst economic problems caused by worsening pollution

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Abstracts

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SUMMARY

Climate change and the state of the environment are the most important and difficult challenges facing governments, businesses and individuals this century. Now the environmental risks posed by a developing climate are taking a toll. There needs to be careful management to reduce the impacts on the global economy that climate change, and environmental damage caused by changing weather patterns, will bring and some problems which won't be preventable.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The world's major cities are recording high levels of dangerous pollutants, largely caused by governments encouraging the use of diesel over petrol powered vehicles. Manufactures are now improving designs; governments are seeking to grow alternatives such as EV and hybrid vehicles.

The plastic trash vortex in the Pacific Ocean is vast - a larger area than Texas - and has been caused by plastic waste, particularly plastic microbeads. Now under pressure from consumers, large companies are changing how products are made to meet with consumer demands and strengthening government regulation.

Many of the largest and most economically important cities in the world are situated near waterways. Current projections show major problems are looming, creating major population displacement problems. Avoiding these and other problems appears to be increasingly unlikely, meaning governments can only seek to limit the potential damage.

SCOPE

Examines how various environmental problems pose challenges to businesses around the world.

Assesses how environmental damage feeds back into problems for commerce, such as resource management and sustainability.

Looks at how different businesses are impacted by growing pressure of climate change and environmental damage.

Details how climate change presents threats to the security of food supply and the wider issues that entails.

Assesses the potential economic damage incurred from rising sea levels in the context of many centers of economic power being near major bodies of water.

REASONS TO BUY

What is the likely impact of plastic waste on large companies?

How are governments and businesses reacting to the growing pollution problems in major cities?

What is the potential impact of rising sea levels on the major cities of the world?

How will climate change impact food supply and what will be the knock-on effects?

What role will coal play in the future of power generation as the world seeks cleaner sources of energy?

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Executive Summary

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Climate Change and Food Security: The Global Threat

Diesel's bubble slowly bursting: Opportunity for cleaner fuel sources arising

World cities are recording high levels of dangerous pollutants

Fines and bans will affect 50% of the European vehicle fleet

The move from petrol to diesel was encouraged by legislators

Manufacturers have used dirty tactics to keep up with rules

Some small signs that consumers are moving away from diesel

Manufacturers are improving their designs in readiness

Europe will become an attractive market for EVs and Hybrids

Rising global coal demand creates contrasting impact on business

Expensive energy creates contrast in industrial competitiveness with non-OECD nations

Low-cost coal continues to rule in non-OECD countries, helping industry

Cheap coal keeps prices down for consumers, encouraging use

Trump and coal: Dumping waste in water could harm unrelated industries

Impact of coal on fresh water has wider ramifications for economies

Environmental laws on coal helps renewable energy across the world

The Pacific Trash Vortex: Oceanic Plastic pollution and the impact on business

The extent of oceanic plastic pollution is colossal, raising concerns about the use of plastic in the consumer society

Microbeads in the oceans could be making fish and marine life toxic, threatening numerous industries

Government policy on plastic waste is forcing companies to change, opening up fresh opportunities

Decline in plastic bag use prompted by government action increases demand for alternatives

Industry successfully turned UK government policy away from tough targets on non-recyclable plastic use

Growing influence of corporate responsibility the consequence of oceanic plastic pollution

New companies with innovative solutions to ocean plastic pollution enter the market

New technology seeks to solve environmental problems caused by waste plastic

Big industry: Dell converts ocean plastic waste into packing for laptops

Rising Sea Levels will impact the global economy making some cities uninhabitable
Current projections of sea level rise suggest disaster is looming
China and Netherlands heavily exposed to population displacement
US, China and India have billions of dollars of exposed assets
Sea level rises will affect inland areas too through river floods
Avoiding these problems is looking increasingly unlikely
Companies and governments need to make difficult decisions
Climate Change and Food Security: The Global Threat
Impact of climate change on agriculture is unevenly spread - tropical regions will suffer the most, threatening supplies
Crop yields around the world fail to keep pace as climate change sets in
Conditions demand a second 'green revolution' - this time to create resilience against extreme weather events
Pesticide use in response to climate change harms food security throughout the world
Growing food insecurity is damaging economies and creating political strife
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