



One Step Forward, Two Steps Back

(March 2024 - Issue 20)

In this month's issue, we look at the paradox of the current state of the climate.

On one hand, we see regulatory bodies holding companies to a higher standard - raising the bar. On top of that, we also see an official carbon calculator taking a shot at net in UEFA! (bring on the football puns!)

On the other hand, we see reports of targets being missed, forecasts of future failings, and more funding directed at initiatives that are taking huge steps in the wrong direction.

Want to set some ambitious goals towards net-zero and take actual steps towards them this year? **Email us at info@mycarbon.co.uk and find out how to take your first steps in the right direction!**

MyCarbon's Commentary

*"The launch of UEFA's carbon footprint calculator is a **game-changer** (pun intended), signalling a long-overdue shift towards environmental accountability in the sports industry. While some may argue that football's environmental impact is insignificant compared to other industries, every sector must play its part in combating climate change - especially industries that hold a lot of influence like professional sports.*

*Like most industries, however, these clubs will most likely lack the expertise and resources needed to navigate the calculator effectively. Luckily for them **this is MyCarbon's bread and butter!!** Perhaps we can trade expertise? (Who knows, I might appear in the Premier League yet!!)*

While the football industry has taken a crucial step towards a sustainable future, global efforts to address air pollution remain

*incredibly poor. The lack of investment is **shocking** considering the clear link between air pollution and human health. This completely undermines efforts to combat climate change elsewhere. Governments, stakeholders and donors **must** commit and allocate sufficient grants (not loans) to tackle this issue. Regulatory intervention is crucial, policy makers also have a role to play, holding those accountable and ensuring targets are achieved."*

(Leah McLaughlin, Senior Carbon Consultant)

WHAT'S NEW WITH US?

TheGreenShot and MyCarbon Join Forces For Some In-Depth Carbon Modelling!

We're delighted to announce the kick-off of our most recent project, **working with TheGreenShot on carbon modelling!**

We'll be supporting TheGreenShot with enhanced emission tools for CSRD reporting for the enterprise, event and advertising sectors. **Not your run of the mill challenge!**

[Read more](#) information on Carbon Modelling Services.



THE GOOD

SBTi Axes Net-Zero Commitments of 200+ Companies

The Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi) **dropped net-zero commitments from over 200 companies**, including big sustainability players like Diageo and Unilever. Despite being part of the BA1.5°C campaign, many missed deadlines or opted out of the SBTi standards. Reasons vary from staff turnover to complexity. Challenges include Scope 3 emissions and data accuracy. The SBTi plans to enhance sector-specific standards and regional engagement. **You may wonder why we put this in with "THE GOOD"**. However, this move continues to raise standards, bringing stronger regulation to this growing (and somewhat unregulated) industry.

[Read more](#)



UEFA Launches Carbon Footprint Calculator For Football



UEFA introduces a carbon footprint calculator tailored for football operations, a first in sports governance. Accompanied by guides and validated by third-party verifiers, it simplifies emissions classification and aims to empower clubs to measure and mitigate their environmental impact. The move follows similar initiatives by NHL and FIA, reflecting a broader trend in sports sustainability. While challenges remain, such tools mark a crucial step towards fostering environmental accountability and driving collective action within the sports community.

[Read more](#)

‘A Beautiful Idea’: This French Town is Making its Cemetery a Source of Solar Energy

Saint-Joachim offers residents a unique chance to be part of a ground-breaking community energy project for just €5. By installing solar panels over its cemetery, the town aims to distribute clean energy to locals. Originally proposed to address flooding issues, the innovative initiative repurposes space efficiently. **What's more striking is the equal distribution of energy among residents, fostering community involvement.** With 420 residents already signed up, this project showcases a grassroots approach to renewable energy adoption, setting an example for towns worldwide.

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THE BAD ✖

UK Gives £600m Backing to Jim Ratcliffe's 'Carbon Bomb' Petrochemical Plant

The UK government's controversial €700m guarantee for Jim Ratcliffe's petrochemical venture, **dubbed a "carbon bomb,"** ignites debate as it ramps up plastic production in Europe. **Despite acknowledging environmental concerns,** the move overshadows aid for climate adaptation elsewhere. Importing fracked shale gas, the project underscores the clash between economic interests and environmental preservation. Legal challenges from NGOs raise questions on monitoring and accountability, highlighting the urgent need for sustainable solutions to combat plastic pollution.

[Read more](#)



The State of Global Air Quality Funding 2023



In the latest report on global air quality funding, trends and gaps in international aid and climate finance spending from 2015 to 2021 are highlighted. **Only 1% of international development funding and 2% of climate finance was allocated to address air pollution.** Despite its severe health and climate impacts, outdoor air quality remains chronically underfunded, with loans prioritized over grants. Recommendations urge donors to substantially increase funding, account for all benefits, and ensure equitable distribution to all regions in need.

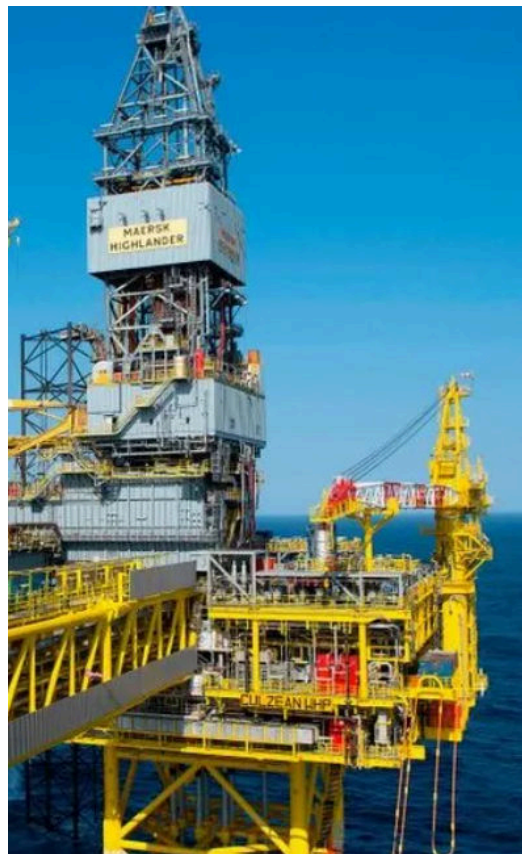
[Read more](#)

Oil and Gas Profits Windfall Tax Extended Until 2029

In Jeremy Hunt's Budget, **the windfall tax on oil and gas firms gets a 12-month extension**, despite Scottish Conservatives' opposition. Initially set to end in March 2028, the 35% surcharge on profits due to high energy prices will now last until 2029.

Hunt cites prolonged windfall profits from the Ukraine war's energy price surge. Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross urges reconsideration, emphasizing the need for industry certainty. The decision follows debates on the industry's future amidst changing tax landscapes.

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