

StuCo Environmental Citizenship News

Week of November 2

Need some good news?

More and more companies and organizations are recognizing the impacts of climate change to their operations, supply chain, and brand reputation. According to published research, a quarter of the world's Fortune Global 500 corporations have now made commitments to take serious climate action by 2030, quadruple the share of 2015 when the Paris Climate Accord was signed. According to revenue, this slice of companies represents more than \$8 trillion worth of commerce and 18 million worldwide employees.

Microsoft is one of them. The software and technology giant headquartered in Redmond, WA, is working towards the [double goal](#) of becoming carbon negative by 2030 and erasing the totality of its historic and current emissions by 2050. Challenges will surely lie ahead, not the least because 75 percent of its total carbon emissions are so-called scope 3 emissions. These are emissions from assets and processes not owned or controlled by Microsoft, such as emissions embedded in the food served in the cafeterias, business travel, procurement, waste and water.

Microsoft uses a multi-pronged strategy to eliminate its carbon footprint, including an internal carbon fee of \$15 per ton that is charged to all business divisions. This incentivizes managers to consider climate impacts in all activities and forward-looking planning, spurs innovation up and down the supply chain, and invites outside-the-box ideas. The company is also pioneering new technologies and partnerships, which you can read about in this [blog post](#).

Upcoming Dates & Events ...

- 11/3: Election Day!
- 11/7: Rethink Waste [workshop](#)
- 11/9: Back to campus for some classes for the first time since mid-March!
- 11/14: Rethink Waste [workshop](#)
- 11/15: U.S. Recycles Day

Good to know ...

Carbon taxes work well within national borders but pose a challenge for products imported from other places. Border carbon adjustments are a tool to level the playing field between domestic goods and foreign imports and it also serves to discourage companies from moving carbon-intensive operations—and the jobs that go with them—abroad. The European Union has announced that as part of its new Green Deal, the 27-nation bloc will impose a border carbon tax in 2023. The move is gathering quite a bit of attention and non-EU countries are watching

carefully how the border carbon tax is designed and implemented, ready to lodge complaints if they feel that their products are unfairly impacted. The EU must also be careful not to set the tax too high or it will over time become a low-carbon island that is by-passed by much of global trade. Nonetheless, the integration of the tax into the European New Deal signals continued commitment on the part of the EU to decarbonize its internal market and others have certainly taken notice.

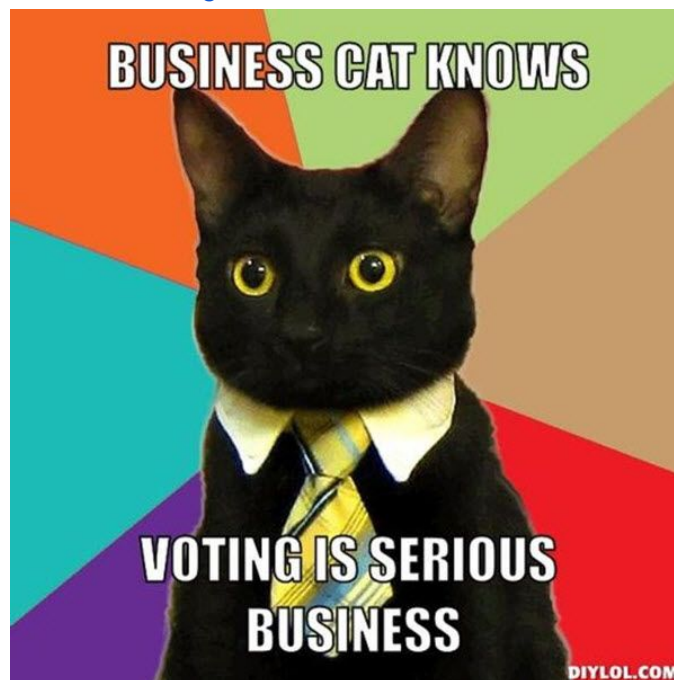
Things you can do ...

We talk a lot about the need to switch to clean and renewable energy, so it is helpful to know how energy mixes have evolved over time. The New York Times has recently published a [state-by-state analysis](#) of that evolution. If you like Sankey diagrams, you'll be in for a treat, and if you do not know what a Sankey diagram is, read the article.

There's a great conference on environmental justice coming up at 12:00pm, Saturday, Nov 14, 2020 (EST!!). This year's "2020 Global Environmental Justice Conference - Negotiating Institutional Transformation: International and Comparative Approaches to Justice in Environmental Protection" is fully virtual thanks to COVID-19. More information can be found here: <https://globalej.yale.edu/>

Photo of the Week

Of course this week's photo is about voting. If you're not eligible yet, help someone else cast their ballot, cuz as business cat says, it's serious business! Got a great voting pic, send it to us at envirocitizenship@nuevaschool.org



Credit: <https://sayingimages.com/voting-meme/>