

NGO Sustainability, Inc.



In Consultant Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council

ngosustainability@gmail.com

www.unngosustainability.org

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Board Member Portraits



Juan Carlos Mendoza García
Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to The UN

Ambassador Mendoza is very active in several committees at the UN, one of which is sustainability. He is an advocate of human rights, the rule of law, accountability, international law, the protection of civilians, nuclear disarmament, ethics within the UN system, the revitalization of the GA, and the reform of the United Nations Security Council. The Ambassador has served as Congressman, President of Congress, and was a candidate for President of Costa Rica.

Fighting Climate Change Outside the Paris Accord

By Brad Plumer



“In the months since President Trump declared that the United States would withdraw from the Paris climate deal, 14 state governors have vowed to continue upholding the agreement and press ahead with policies to fight global warming.”

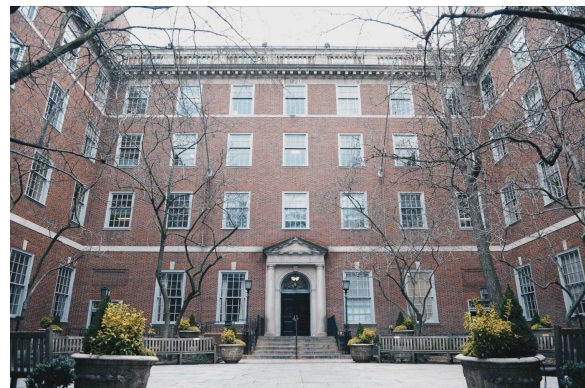
“Three governors in the United States Climate Alliance....unveiled a new study by the research firm Rhodium Group that said the 14 alliance states were on pace to meet their share of the Obama administration’s pledge under the Paris accord, thanks in part to local mandates on renewable energy and electric vehicles. However, because the states in the alliance only represent 36 percent of the nation’s population, the United States as a whole is still expected to fall short of Mr. Obama’s pledge. A previous Rhodium Group analysis estimated that total United States emissions would likely drop just 15 to 19 percent by 2025 as Mr. Trump dismantled federal climate policies.”

The ultimate significance of these state efforts, Dr. Victor said, may be to help prevent international climate efforts from collapsing, by reassuring other countries that the United States has not totally abandoned the issue.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/20/climate/paris-climate-accord-trump.html>

NYU Law Opens Center to Help AGs Fight EPA Rollbacks

By Sierra Jackson



“NYU Law will be opening the State Energy and Environmental Impact Center to help U.S. attorneys general from all parties combat the Trump Administration’s rollbacks of environmental protections.”

“The center’s advisory council will be chaired by NYU’s Lawrence King Professor of Law and Dean Emeritus Richard Revesz, David Hayes — former deputy secretary and chief operating officer at the Department of the Interior for former U.S. Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, respectively — will serve as the center’s executive director.”

<https://www.nyunews.com/2017/08/28/qa-nyu-law-opens-center-to-help-ags-fight-epa-rollbacks/>

China's Electric Car Push Lures Global Auto Giants despite Risks

By Keith Bradsher



“Volkswagen, the German auto giant, is preparing for a swift expansion in its output of electric cars next year — and the biggest jump in production will be in China. General Motors is making China the hub of its electric car research and development. Renault-Nissan, the French and Japanese carmaker, and Ford Motor have hustled to set up joint electric-car ventures in China.”

“China underscored that ambition over the weekend, when it said it would eventually ban the sale of gasoline- and diesel-powered cars at an unspecified date.”

Hubertus Troska, the chairman and chief executive of greater China at Daimler, which makes Mercedes and Smart cars. “This is the coolest, most attractive car market in the world right now.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/10/business/china-electric-cars.html>

Using the EPA to Prop Up Big Coal

By The Editorial Board



“Eight months in, the [Trump] administration has already killed, or is in the process of killing, rules that would prevent the dumping of coal mining wastes in streams, impose a temporary moratorium on new mine leases in the West, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants — one of President Barack Obama’s most important efforts to resist climate change.” Scott Pruitt, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, ordered a two-year postponement of the Obama administration’s tighter controls on lead, mercury, arsenic and other coal plant wastes that threaten human health. “In 2017 and 2018, at least 46 coal-fired units will close at 25 electricity plants in 16 states, according to the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.” In its outlook for 2017, the institute skewered Mr. Trump’s campaign vows, saying, “Promises to create more coal jobs will not be kept — indeed the industry will continue to cut payrolls.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/18/opinion/using-the-epa-to-prop-up-big-coal.html>

Celebrating a Honey Harvest in the Center of Hudson Yards

By James Barron



The south roof of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center on Manhattan's Far West Side is buzzing with excitement. It has become an "urban meadow — the south roof, mostly covered by 6.75 acres of kaleidoscopic sedum." Which provides the home for a new hive of bees.

"Tending hives at the Javits Center would have been impossible a few years ago. Beekeeping was illegal in New York City until 2010... The Javits Center's green roof was installed a few years later as part of a \$463 million project that was part face-lift, part green-roof sustainability project."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/10/nyregion/atop-a-manhattan-convention-center-a-harvest-of-honey.html>

In Taiwan, a Small Driverless Bus May Hint at Big Things to Come

By Chris Horton



"The electric vehicle crawl[s] along at a speed of no more than six miles per hour. ...12 passengers could fit inside. But the bus also drove itself, raising hopes in Taipei that autonomous public transportation would be up and running here within a year...The EZ10, with a top speed of 25 m.p.h., achieves "Level 4" automation under the standards of the global engineering association S.A.E. International, meaning its route is chosen by humans, but there is no one behind the wheel and it can avoid obstacles on its own."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/28/automobiles/wheels/taiwan-autonomous-bus-test.html>

Producer: Roma Stibravy, President

Editor: Erin Davies, Intern

