

NGO SUSTAINABILITY

August 2017 Newsletter

<https://unngosustainability.org>

Portraits of Board Members

Ambassador Ružička's new posting is as Chef de Cabinet to the President of the 72nd United Nations General assembly. František Ružička served as the Slovak Permanent Representative to the UN since 2012. He served as Chair of the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) during the 69th UN General Assembly and was a member of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing in 2013-2014. He also co-chaired the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the 68th UN General Assembly.



He is the author of "European Diplomacy" (w L. Karvašová) on the creation, challenges and tasks of the European External Action Service(2012).

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YALE PROGRAM ON CLIMATE CHANGE COMMUNICATION

June 5th, 2017

On May 25th, Senate Mitch McConnell and 21 other Republican Senators sent a letter to President Donald Trump encouraging him to leave the Paris agreements. Trump took their advice and left the agreement, largely because he felt he owed it to those who had voted for him. Research shows that in fact it was not what voters would have wanted.

STUDENTS PITCH THEIR IDEAS TO MAKE THE WORLD BETTER

By Mariana Alfaro

Maral Artykova pitched a \$788,000 proposal to mine plastics out of the ocean and turn them into environmentally friendly fibers. Ms. Artykova's projected after one year the startup would earn over \$1 billion. The proposal was a part of Kingsborough Community College's Brooklyn Science Innovation Initiative: a free five-week program sponsored by AT&T intended to engage student's interests in environmental science through hands-on experience. The accessibility of the program is meant to encourage students who may not have the resources to participate in pre-college science programs.



BRITAIN JOINS THE SHIFT TO ELECTRIC CARS

By Editorial Board

Britain joined France in deciding to end the sale of new gas and diesel cars by 2040. Ten other countries including Norway and India also pledged to get rid of gas and diesel cars or set targets for electric ones. These strides bode well for both the planet and human health: gas or diesel powered cars are major polluters, including large quantities of health threatening nitrogen oxides. Despite the all-around benefits of switching to electric, plug-in electric vehicles are a tiny market centered in only 10 industrially advanced countries. The shift towards electric cars would require new charging points, an upgrade in generating capacity, improved batteries, and new sources of government income to replace lucrative fuel taxes. Furthermore, less emissions requires a shift in where the electricity comes from: if electric cars are powered by coal-fired plants, there could be a net increase in greenhouse gases.

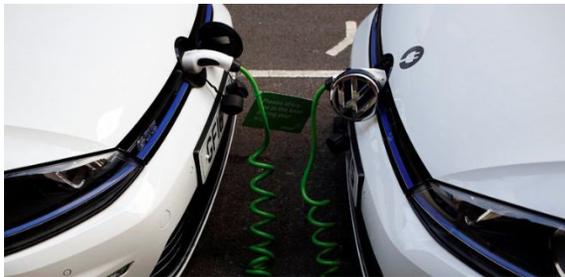
Link:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/31/opinion/britain-electric-cars.html>

ELECTRIC VEHICLE ENERGY HARVESTING/REGENERATION 2017-2037

June 5th, 2017

The ID TechEx Research report “Electric Vehicle Energy Harvesting/Regeneration 2017-2037” explains how electric transportation, including aircraft, boats, and land vehicles is possible. It explores the complexities of a future of electric technologies, defines difficult or unreachable terminologies, and categorizes each type of technology and their benefits and disadvantages.



DAIMLER READIES EMISSIONS FIX

By William Boston

The maker of Mercedes-Benz cars has allegedly cheated on emissions, supposedly using illegal defeat devices for some of its diesel vehicles. Daimler AG will change the engine software of more than three million diesel vehicles as a result. Although not technically a “recall”, this case is reminiscent of Volkswagen AG’s recall of nearly eleven

million vehicles worldwide due to emissions-cheating, a case which raised the awareness of and set the precedent for toxic pollution from diesel vehicles. The Volkswagen scandal also resulted in many European cities banning diesel vehicles. Subsequent public concern has led to a drop in diesel sales in Germany, which prompted Chancellor Angela Merkel to focus efforts on encouraging the auto industry to adopt voluntary measures, to curb diesel pollution, and prevent cities from banning diesel vehicles. Germany, as well as other countries hope to strengthen confidence in diesel technology.

Link:

<http://money.cnn.com/2017/07/18/news/daimler-mercedes-recall-diesel-emissions/index.html>



CALIFORNIA'S CLIMATE CAP AND SPEND

By Editorial Board

Seven Republicans and forty-eight Democrats in the state Assembly voted to extend California's cap-and-trade program from 2020 to 2030. Jerry Brown swayed some Republicans by offering to extend a partial sales tax exemption and waive a rural fee for fire prevention. This issue required a legislative supermajority, which is also needed to raise taxes and fees. Cap and trade is projected to raise gas prices by twenty-four to seventy-three cents a gallon by 2031. Manufacturers, refiners, and other employees in lower-income areas will have to spend millions upgrading their equipment and buying carbon permits. Although California accounts for less than 1% of global emissions, the move sends a positive message in the wake of the US leaving the Paris Accords.

Link:

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/california-climate-cap-and-spend-1500419481>

BLOOMBERG'S NEXT ANTI-WASHINGTON MOVE \$200 MILLION PROGRAM FOR MAYORS

By Alexander Burns

Michael Bloomberg is focusing on helping beleaguered American mayors by creating a \$200 million philanthropic program, American Cities Initiative, aimed at backing inventive policies at the city level and giving mayors a stronger hand in national politics. Bloomberg has taken on a role as an elite-level organizer against certain policies on the Trump Administration. For example, after President Trump withdrew the country from the Paris climate accord, Mr. Bloomberg helped marshal an alliance of American cities and private companies to support continued participation in the pact, and offered to pay out of his private philanthropy for the American share of the UN budget to coordinate the deal. Bloomberg sees cities as major sites for many of the issues: if people in cities use less energy, the coal-fired power plants outside the cities pollute less.