

SAFL End of Week Briefing – 2025-06-23

This week's briefing explores the evolving landscape of sustainable finance, highlighting both opportunities and challenges for institutional investors. A lack of standardization in ESG metrics continues to impede efficient capital allocation, while increasing scrutiny around greenwashing necessitates enhanced due diligence. On a positive note, regulatory tailwinds in Australia and proactive corporate action, such as Primaris REIT's green finance framework and Kings Infra Ventures expansion in Andhra Pradesh's aquaculture, are creating tangible investment avenues. With La Caisse surpassing its sustainable investment targets and countries like Singapore and Indonesia prioritizing collaborative green initiatives, investors are faced with growing opportunities in both green and blue economies, yet challenges remain in harmonizing ESG metrics and the implementation of anti-greenwashing legislation. Going forward, we anticipate increased demand for standardized ESG reporting frameworks and innovative financial instruments that effectively support the sustainable development of both terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

Article Highlights

1. Bitcoin to Reshape Finances & Global Sustainability From the Ground Up, Study Finds

Source: Bitcoinist | **Date:** 2025-06-20T16:39:55Z

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****Lack of Standardization Hinders ESG Investment:**** The article highlights the significant challenges faced by institutional investors due to the absence of standardized ESG tools and metrics, making it difficult to compare and assess sustainable investments across different regions and countries. ****Increased Complexity and Costs:**** The proliferation of diverse and ad-hoc ESG tools leads to increased complexity and higher due diligence costs for institutional investors attempting to build diversified and impactful sustainable portfolios. ****Impeded Scalability of Sustainable Finance:**** The fragmented landscape undermines the potential for scaling up sustainable finance investments, as investors struggle to efficiently allocate capital and track the performance of ESG-focused assets across global markets. **Sentiment:** Negative **Topic:** Market Trends **Mentioned Companies:** None

2. Primaris REIT Publishes Inaugural Green Finance Framework

Source: Financial Post | **Date:** 2025-06-20T13:21:31Z

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*** Primaris REIT** has published its inaugural Green Finance Framework, signaling its commitment to sustainable finance and providing a structure for issuing green bonds. *** The Framework** aligns with global best practices, potentially attracting ESG-focused institutional investors seeking credible and transparent green investments. *** The issuance** of green bonds under the Framework will allow Primaris to fund eligible green projects, demonstrating a tangible commitment to

environmental sustainability within its real estate portfolio. **Sentiment:** Positive. This strengthens Primaris' appeal to ESG-focused investors. **Topic:** Corporate Action
Mentioned Companies: Primaris Real Estate Investment Trust (TSX: PMZ.UN)

3. Bribe or community benefit? Sweeteners smoothing the way for renewables projects need to be done right

Source: The Conversation Africa | **Date:** 2025-06-19T20:20:28Z

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Community engagement is critical for renewable energy project success: Institutional investors in sustainable finance need to prioritize projects with robust community engagement strategies to mitigate the risk of project delays or cancellations due to local opposition. **Social license to operate is becoming a key ESG factor:** The article highlights the growing importance of social considerations within ESG frameworks. Investors should assess how developers are addressing community concerns and building positive relationships as part of their due diligence. **Investment returns are directly linked to community acceptance:** Failed projects due to community opposition can result in financial losses. Therefore, sustainable finance investors need to carefully evaluate the social impact and community relations aspects of potential renewable energy investments to protect returns. **Sentiment:** Neutral **Topic:** Market Trends
Mentioned Companies: None

4. Canadian Pension Doubles Down on Green Investing With \$400 Billion Pledge

Source: Financial Post | **Date:** 2025-06-19T11:27:03Z

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La Caisse, a major Canadian institutional investor, has already met its 2025 sustainable investment targets ahead of schedule. Due to this early success, La Caisse is now increasing its sustainable investment targets, signaling a deeper commitment to ESG. This move demonstrates that large institutional investors can successfully integrate sustainability into their portfolios and achieve financial targets, potentially encouraging further adoption by other institutions. **Sentiment:** Positive **Topic:** Corporate Action **Mentioned Companies:** None

5. From 'greenwashing' to 'green hushing' — companies complain new law stifles environmental efforts

Source: CBC News | **Date:** 2025-06-17T08:01:09Z

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Increased Scrutiny and Reporting Burden: Anti-greenwashing legislation is perceived by some corporate leaders as creating a disincentive for climate action due to the fear of misrepresentation and the associated compliance burden. This raises concerns about the effectiveness of the legislation in promoting genuine sustainability efforts. **Reputational Risk Management:** Institutional investors focused on ESG are now facing a more complex landscape where companies may avoid ambitious climate goals to sidestep potential legal challenges regarding greenwashing. This necessitates enhanced due diligence and verification of

sustainability claims. * **Transparency and Disclosure Expectations:** The debate around anti-greenwashing legislation highlights the growing importance of transparent and verifiable ESG data. Institutional investors will likely push for standardized reporting frameworks and independent audits to differentiate between genuine sustainability initiatives and superficial "green" marketing. **Sentiment:** Neutral **Topic:** Regulatory & Policy **Mentioned Companies:** None

6. New Finance Rules Aim to Accelerate Emissions Cuts in Australia

Source: Financial Post | **Date:** 2025-06-17T06:34:36Z

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* **Clarity for Green Investments:** Australia's new sustainable finance guidelines offer institutional investors greater clarity on eligible projects, potentially unlocking significant capital flows into decarbonization efforts within traditionally emissions-heavy sectors. * **Opportunity in Transition Finance:** The focus on including projects within sectors like agriculture and mining signals a willingness to support transition finance, providing opportunities for investors seeking to engage with and decarbonize these industries rather than simply divesting. * **Standardization and Risk Reduction:** Standardized guidelines help to reduce greenwashing concerns and provide a more reliable framework for evaluating the environmental impact of investments, thereby lowering risk for institutional investors. **Sentiment:** Positive **Topic:** Regulatory & Policy **Mentioned Companies:** None

7. Sabah establishes Blue Economy Council

Source: The Star Online | **Date:** 2025-06-16T09:50:00Z

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* **Strategic Coordination:** Sabah establishing a Blue Economy Council signals a dedicated, high-level commitment to sustainable marine resource management and development, creating potential investment opportunities aligned with ESG goals. * **Policy Implementation:** The council's mandate to implement strategic policies provides institutional investors with greater clarity and predictability regarding regulatory frameworks and future developments within Sabah's blue economy. * **Investment Opportunities:** The initiative is likely to stimulate the development of bankable projects in sectors such as sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, renewable energy, and eco-tourism, attracting institutional investment seeking positive environmental and social impact. **Sentiment:** Positive **Topic:** Regulatory & Policy **Mentioned Companies:** None

8. Seafood export firm Kings Infra Ventures unveils expansion plans

Source: BusinessLine | **Date:** 2025-06-16T09:17:48Z

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* **Expansion into Andhra Pradesh Aquaculture:** Kings Infra Ventures' expansion into Andhra Pradesh signals a growth opportunity within the blue economy, specifically aquaculture. This move could attract institutional investors seeking exposure to sustainable seafood production and regional diversification. * **Strategic Growth Vision:** The announcement of a strategic growth vision provides clarity and potentially quantifiable targets for investors. Institutional investors

look for well-defined plans when allocating capital, especially in emerging sectors like the blue economy. * **Blue Economy Focus:** The company's emphasis on the "blue economy" aligns with increasing investor interest in sustainable ocean-based activities. This focus positions Kings Infra Ventures to potentially benefit from ESG-driven investment mandates and funds. Sentiment: Positive Topic: Corporate Action Mentioned Companies: Kings Infra Ventures Ltd

9. Scaling investment for Africa's sustainable 'blue economy'

Source: The Japan Times | **Date:** 2025-06-16T08:00:00Z

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Here's a summary for institutional investors, sentiment, topic, and mentioned companies: * The article highlights the significant, yet often overlooked, economic and environmental importance of the "blue economy," encompassing oceans and waterways which carry 80% of global trade, absorb 30% of CO2 emissions, and provide food security for billions. This underscores a potentially large and under-capitalized area for sustainable investment. * It identifies a critical need for more robust financial instruments and investment strategies specifically tailored to support the blue economy's sustainable development, including addressing risks from overfishing, pollution, and climate change. This represents an opportunity for institutional investors to develop specialized funds and products. * The piece emphasizes the potential for innovation and scalable solutions within the blue economy, such as sustainable aquaculture, renewable energy from the ocean, and carbon sequestration technologies. This signals a growing area for impact investing and the application of ESG principles. **Sentiment:** Neutral **Topic:** Market Trends **Mentioned Companies:** None

10. Green economy a promising new area for Singapore-Indonesia cooperation, says PM Wong

Source: CNA | **Date:** 2025-06-16T06:34:23Z

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* Singapore and Indonesia are prioritizing collaboration in the green economy, presenting new investment opportunities for institutional investors focused on sustainable development projects in the region. * Prime Minister Lawrence Wong's statement signals strong government backing for green initiatives, potentially leading to favorable policies, incentives, and reduced regulatory risks for sustainable investments. * The partnership between Singapore and Indonesia could unlock significant capital flows into green sectors like renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure, and carbon offset projects, attracting ESG-conscious institutional investors seeking both financial returns and positive environmental impact. Sentiment: Positive Topic: Regulatory & Policy Mentioned Companies: None
