# Volkswagen's Emission Scandal 2015Volkswagen’s Emissions Scandal 2015

**Key Issues**

* Corporate responsibility for the environment
* Company culture and whistleblowing
* Digitalization of manufacturing
* Pressure from profit, competition and regulation
* Ethical dilemmas for involved individuals and for Volkswagen

**Background Information**

All group members should read/view the following texts/video coverage:

1. 10 Volkswagen Scandal Facts  
   <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7UaX2HzSGU>  
   <http://streaming.cle.ust.hk/media/courses/lang2030/2019_spring/case2.mp4>
2. Volkswagen emissions scandal – timeline – The Guardian  
   <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/dec/10/volkswagen-emissions-scandal-timeline-events>
3. Volkswagen’s diesel scandal, explained by The Verge  
   <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQ4irwe3ZDk>  
   <https://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XMTM2NDI4MTc5Ng==.html?spm=a2h0k.11417342.soresults.dtitle>

**Case Materials**

Go through the following case materials and decide how you will divide up the reading and organize group sharing of information. You are also encouraged to read more widely around this topic.

1. How VW tried to cover up the emissions scandal   
   <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-44005844>
2. VW’s company culture

<https://www.cnbc.com/2015/10/11/emissions-scandal-vws-demanding-culture-under-winterkorn-led-to-crisis.html>

1. Volkswagen’s Emissions Scandal: Lessons for Corporate Governance? (Part 1)

<https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/business-law-blog/blog/2016/05/volkswagen%E2%80%99s-emissions-scandal-lessons-corporate-governance-part-1>

1. The engineering of Volkswagen’s aggressive ambition  
   <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/14/business/the-engineering-of-volkswagens-aggressive-ambition.html?_r=0>

(Find the article from the Factiva database of the HKUST Library. Type the title into the search box and change the date to “All dates”.)

1. Engineers, ethics, and the VW scandal   
   <http://spectrum.ieee.org/cars-that-think/at-work/education/vw-scandal-shocking-but-not-surprising-ethicists-say>
2. The engineer’s dilemma resurfaces in Volkswagen’s emissions scandal  
   <http://spectrum.ieee.org/computing/software/the-engineers-dilemma-resurfaces-in-volkswagens-emissions-scandal>
3. Diesalgate aftermath  
   <https://www.theverge.com/2018/9/18/17876012/dieselgate-volkswagen-vw-diesel-emissions-test-epa-german-auto-industry-mercedes-benz-bmw>
4. Professional Ethics of Software Engineers: An Ethical Framework  
   <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/277817334_Professional_Ethics_of_Software_Engineers_An_Ethical_Framework>