

ESG in Five

9th January 24.

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ESG IN FIVE

- **Microsoft & QCells Spark 12 GW Solar Deal, Igniting a Green Energy Revolution in the U.S.**
- **Starbucks Sips Sustainability: Reusable Cups Now Rollin' Through Drive-Thrus**
- **Statkraft's Windy Business**
- **BT's Etc. Turns Street Cabinets into EV Powerhouses**

Market Recap

Markets pulled back for the week and the MSCI ACWI ESG Focus index was no different, returning -1.76% compared to the -1.62 delivered by the MSCI ACWI Index.

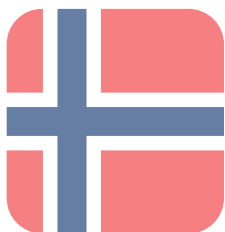


Microsoft Signs Solar Panel Procurement Deal

Microsoft and clean energy company QCells announced today an eight-year strategic alliance, including the supply of 12 GW of U.S.-made solar panels and services, aimed at supporting Microsoft's climate and renewable energy goals, and the development of a U.S. solar supply chain. The deal marks a significant expansion of a 2.5 GW agreement signed by the companies last year, and an announcement in early 2023 by Qcells, a subsidiary of South Korean conglomerate Hanwha Group, of plans to invest more than \$2.5 billion to build a complete solar supply chain in the U.S., marking both the company's largest investment and the largest investment in the U.S. solar industry to date.

Starbucks Enables Use of Reusable Cups for Drive-Thru and Mobile Orders

Starbucks announced today a new program enabling customers to use personal, reusable cups at all company-operated and participating licensed stores in the U.S. and Canada, including for drive-thru purchases and mobile orders made through the Starbucks app. According to Starbucks, the announcement makes the company the first U.S. national coffee retailer to accept reusable cups for mobile and drive-thru orders, and supports the company's goal, set in 2020, to reduce waste to landfills by 50% by 2030.



Norway's Statkraft to Invest up to €6 Billion in Hydro, Wind Power

State-owned Norwegian hydropower and renewable energy production company Statkraft announced today the launch of a major investment program, with plans to invest up to €6 billion in its hydro and wind facilities, and for the construction of new wind farms. Hydropower accounts for the significant majority of Norway's energy mix, at around 88% of total power production, according to the Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, with wind power from 65 wind farms accounting for approximately 11%. According to Statkraft, Norway's future increased power needs will be mainly covered by new wind power, with hydropower remaining "the backbone" of the energy system.

BT Group Pilot Powers Up First EV Charger Repurposed from Street Cabinet

Etc., the startup and digital incubation arm at BT Group, announced that it will power up its first EV charging unit built from a street cabinet traditionally used to store broadband and phone cabling. The announcement marks the first step in the rollout of new technical trials, exploring the potential to upgrade up to 60,000 cabinets to help meet government sustainability targets and decarbonise the transport system in the UK.



Sources:

Anthony Walters - Head of ESG at Clever Adviser Technology Ltd (Clever)

Market recap Data sourced from FE FundInfo & Koyfin (quoted in Pounds Sterling).

Microsoft Signs 12 GW U.S. Solar Panel Procurement Deal with QCells by ESG Today, 08/01/24

Starbucks Enables Use of Reusable Cups for Drive-Thru and Mobile Orders, by ESG Today, 04/01/24

Norway's Statkraft to Invest up to €6 Billion in Hydro, Wind Power by ESG Today, 08/01/24

BT Group Pilot Powers Up First EV Charger Repurposed from Street Cabinet, by ESG News, 08/01/24

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