



Dear Stakeholder,

I hope you found the first edition of the newsletter useful.

April saw an onslaught of several extreme and unexpected weather events - heatwaves in South and Southeast Asia in multiple regions of Philippines, Thailand, Bangladesh and India; heavy rain and flood in Dubai and Mauritius and storms & tornadoes in five states of USA. The month also witnessed several governments galvanize into action through adoption of new environment-friendly laws: mandating sustainability reporting & disclosures and by making Industry responsible and accountable. To keep you informed about some of these new regulations, select global news will be shared from this edition onwards.



I came across some interesting articles last month and I'll like to recommend a couple of these to you: The Economist, in a story titled 'Global warming is coming for your home', shares that nearly a tenth of the world's residential properties (by value) are under threat. The story raises an important question - who will pay for the damage? The complete story can be accessed [here](#). Another interesting article I came across presents an interesting proposition - developing designated small 'zero-emission zones' in cities to help fight pollution. You can read the complete WRI story [here](#).

Did you come across any interesting article or report in the last few days? I look forward to your recommended reads as well as your advice on how to improve the newsletter.

Thank you,
Seema Arora
Deputy Director General
Confederation of Indian Industry

Stakeholder Engagements

Participation in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee Meeting for Global Plastics Treaty

Industry's sustained efforts towards India's transition to a circular economy is critical. Voluntary business initiatives, such as the India Plastics Pact, anchored at the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD), encourage Industry to take bold actions in the journey towards a circular economy for plastics packaging. The Global Plastics Treaty, expected to be finalized by the end of 2024, will be an international legally binding agreement aimed at ending plastic pollution by addressing the full lifecycle of plastic.

In the leadup to the fourth round of negotiations for the Treaty, the Centre organised a dialogue with an aim to bring awareness of the Global Plastics Treaty among Indian Industry on April 4, 2024 in New Delhi. Attended by 50 stakeholders from 32 organisations, the dialogue served as a platform to showcase positive action by Indian Industry in addressing plastics waste management. Participants also deliberated on different aspects of the Treaty such as access to technology, trade, finance, and reporting.

The fourth round of negotiations were held between 23 and 29 April 2024 in Ottawa, Canada. A CII business delegation was at the negotiations. During the negotiations, CESD hosted 'The 3i hour', an engaging session on Indian Industry initiatives. The session was attended by 60 delegates representing stakeholders across the global plastics value chain. The session showcased positive actions undertaken in India, created awareness of policy-driven and voluntary business action for managing plastic waste at a national level, and highlighted challenges of developing and emerging economies.

Launch of Management Development Programme with NISM

On April 19, 2024, the Centre, in partnership with the training institute of SEBI - National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM), organized the first online Management Development Programme (MDP) on Achieving BRSR Core Compliance.

The programme, meant for practitioners of BRSR and BRSR Core compliance, delves into the nuances of applicability of BRSR core to companies, their value chains and assurance scope. It also details materiality process and management role, which is a key step in preparation of BRSR reports. Additionally, there is a detailed focus on nine attributes of BRSR Core, with case examples from Indian Industry.

Going forward, NISM has proposed to jointly organise these webinars with the Centre, both, as virtual webinars and as physical sessions across India.

Deliberating on Mobility and Battery Solutions

The Second Meeting of the CII National Committee on Future Mobility & Battery Storage was held on April 29, 2024. The Centre, shared updates about the Working Groups on Fleet Electrification, Green Freight Mobility, and Advanced Cell Chemistry Batteries during the meeting and more than 30 participants joined the deliberations. Based on the deliberations, some important issues that would be pursued include:

- Rationalisation of GST for EV charging or battery swapping stations.
- Long-term EV policy proposal at the national level to harmonize state-level implementation.
- Actionable solutions to improve access to capital and bankability of EVs.
- Improving charging station accessibility via a common aggregation platform.
- Developing standardised testing procedures and a comprehensive database for different ACC battery chemistries.

Focussing on Biomass Utilization

To get an understanding about the key infrastructure investment required to scale biomass co-firing in thermal power plant, the Industry Working Group on Biomass Co-firing, under the Cleaner Air Better Life initiative conducted a site visit to Jhajjar power plant on April 26, 2024. To get a better picture about the incremental cost associated with co-firing, similar visits will be planned in the next few months across the NCR region.

Other engagements during the month included bilateral discussion with members on: key roadblocks for achieving 5 per cent co-firing as mandated by the Government of India, achievements of captive power plants in utilising biomass and possible policy interventions to scale co-firing.

Launch of Phase 2 of the Eco Edge Program with Škoda

On April 23, 2024, Škoda Auto Volkswagen India Pvt Ltd celebrated Earth Day at their facility in Chakan, Pune. The celebrations were marked by the launch of Phase 2 of the Centre's Eco Edge Program with 50 Value Chain Partners (VCPs) of the organisation. During the session, Škoda awarded select VCPs for demonstrating exemplary performance during Phase 1 of the Eco Edge Program.

Nurturing Responsible Environmental Stewardship

On April 22, 2024, Ryan International School, Mayur Vihar, New Delhi, celebrated Earth Day through a day-long programme around this year's theme 'Planet vs Plastics'. More than 400 students participated in the sessions that saw deliberations, performances, tree plantation drive and other engaging activities around the theme. The Centre, with an aim to inspire the children to take proactive steps towards building a greener and a more sustainable world, engaged with the students and responded to their questions on sustainability, climate change and biodiversity management.



The 19th Sustainability Summit is being organised on 17 - 18 September 2024, in New Delhi. The theme of the Summit is 'Driving Change for a Sustainability Conscious World'. Deliberations will focus on tangible actions in driving sustainable change. Click [here](#) for more details.

For the first time, the Centre has launched a Call for Articles linked to the Summit tracks. Unpublished, original articles are invited from industry practitioners, experts as well as students (Masters & PhD) and researchers. For submission and other details, please click [here](#).

Building Capacity

- The Leadership Session on ESG, organised by the Centre on April 30, 2024 saw active participation from Industry. The programme offers industry leaders valuable insights and guidance and serves as a platform for discussions on integrating ESG aspects into decision-making and business strategies. It offers a deep understanding of the evolving global ESG landscape, investor perspective as well as best practices.
- The two-day training on Effective and Sustainable CSR, organised by CESD on 18 - 19 April, 2024 saw participation of CSR professionals from diverse sectors. The advance level training, through use of project frameworks, dedicated sessions on CSR strategy & planning; social impact measurement, monitoring & reporting as well as through field visit to CSR project sites, shared unique, impactful and scalable CSR initiatives with the participants.

Insights from Research Reports & Surveys

Analysing the Prevalent Reuse Models in India

Launched on April 22, 2024, the report 'Landscape Assessment: Reuse Models in India' provides an overview of the current landscape, challenges and opportunities of reuse and refill solutions in India. The study highlights the existing reuse system in India and presents a comparative analysis with the prevalent practices in Global North. It emphasizes the need for increased investment in reuse and refill solutions (especially return on the go and return from home models) in India. Read the complete report [here](#).

Global SD News Briefing

Adoption of Environment-friendly Laws by EU Parliament

On April 24, 2024, EU Parliament adopted a provincial political agreement on measures to improve air quality in EU in a bid to reduce harmful impact on human health, natural ecosystems and biodiversity. The revised rules have stricter 2030 limits and include target values for pollutants that have a severe impact on human health, such as PM2.5, PM10, NO2 and SO2. The updated rule also states that if there is a violation, those affected by air pollution will be able to take legal action, and citizens can claim compensation if their health has been affected. You can read more about the revised law [here](#).

Another significant law that was adopted on the same day was the Due Diligence Law. The new directive requires organisations, as well as the value chain partners to mitigate their negative impact on the environment and on human rights. The rules apply to EU & non-EU organisations, as well as organisations with franchising or licensing agreements in the EU (different threshold limits defined for each depending on the global turnover, number of employees, etc).

The directive expects organisations to integrate due diligence in the corporate policies; procure contractual assurances from partners; make related investments; improve business plan and support the upstream & downstream partners to ensure compliance. The organisations are also expected to adopt a transition plan to make their business model compatible with the Paris Agreement. More details about the new law can be accessed [here](#).

Record Reduction in ETS Emissions in Europe

As per data reported by EU Member States (as of April 2, 2024) there has been a 15.5 per cent decline in emissions under EU's Emission Trading System (ETS) in 2023, as compared to the 2022 levels. ETS emissions are now around 47 per cent below 2005 levels; this is the most significant annual emissions reductions since the launch of ETS in 2005. This was due to an impressive 24 per cent decline (vis-à-vis 2022) in emissions reduction from electricity production, which was made possible through a substantial increase in renewable electricity production (wind & solar), at the expense of coal & gas. You can find out more [here](#).

Launch of Carbon Offset Guidelines in USA

To build confidence in the carbon credits market and to ensure that the carbon credits signify actual emissions cuts, it was revealed on April 19, 2024 that the United States Government will share guidelines for the use of carbon offsets. The guidelines will require assurance that the carbon credits reflect real, additional & permanent emissions reductions. The guidelines will also attempt to ensure that emission accounting takes place at the sectoral level. Read more [here](#).

Data Collection for Canada's Federal Plastics Registry

On April 22, 2024, the Government of Canada published an information-gathering notice under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA) to collect data for the Federal Plastics Registry. Under this, Government has mandated plastic reporting; tracking and collecting data for conducting research; creating a data inventory; formulating objectives and codes of practice and issuing guidelines and assessing / reporting on the state of the environment. The Federal Plastics Registry requires organisations to report annually the quantity and types of plastic they manufacture, import, collect and market. Producers of plastic products will need to report on the quantity of plastic placed on the ground, diverted, reused, repaired, remanufactured, refurbished, recycled, processed into chemicals, composted, incinerated, and landfilled. They will need to report on the amount of plastic waste generated on their industrial, commercial, and institutional premises. Read more [here](#).

Hong Kong Stock Exchange Mandates Disclosure Requirements

On April 19, 2024, the Hong Kong Stock Exchange stated that it will be adopting the 'new climate requirements' starting January 1, 2025. The new rule will require all issuers on the stock exchange to disclose Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions, based on the IFRS Sustainability's International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) new reporting standards. Access more details [here](#).

'Eternal Mongolia' to Save the Country's Grasslands

On April 22, 2024, Mongolia signed the climate finance pact - 'Eternal Mongolia' to safeguard its grasslands. The agreement calls for a USD 71 million funding commitment, spread over 15 years and supported by Mongolia's guarantee of USD 127 million. One of the largest climate finance projects for conservation, it would help in extending Mongolia's network of National Protected Areas. Read more [here](#).

CESD in Media

- The latest issue of CII PSE Insights includes a double-page article on the cluster-level solutions for MSMEs and Value Chain Partners developed by the Centre. These tech-enabled solutions can help industry with key aspects of sustainability, air quality management and climate actions. To read the article click [here](#).
- The April edition of CII Communiqué includes a feature on CAP 2.0*. The issue also contains brief about: CII-ITC Sustainability Awards; launch of India Plastic Pact's Annual Report, release of the CII Climate Action Charter Cluster Insights Report and an update about the climate action awareness workshop among MSMEs in Punjab. You can access the newsletter by clicking [here](#).
- To commemorate Earth Day, the Centre engaged with Mr Tejpreet Chopra, CEO and President, Bharat Light & Power through a Special Episode of the On Air Series. In the in-depth interview, Mr Chopra shared what motivated him to focus on clean energy, how energy transition can help achieve cleaner air and better quality of life. You can access the interview [here](#).
- In a recent interview with Geneva-based dss+, views and suggestions have been shared on sustainable development, collaborative actions and policy advocacy. If this interests you, the complete interview can be accessed [here](#).

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