



Pentagon Report says threat from Climate Change worse than terrorism



The prospect of global warming has become so real that the Pentagon's **strategic planners** have given it top priority. The threat that has riveted their attention is this: global warming, rather than causing gradual, centuries-spanning change, may be pushing the Earth's climate to a tipping point. Scientists now believe that the ocean-atmosphere system that controls the world's climate can lurch from one state to another in less than a decade—like a canoe that's gradually tilted until suddenly it flips over. A **report** commissioned by the Pentagon predicts that abrupt climate changes now possible due to continued emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide into the atmosphere could bring the world to the edge of anarchy.

The report specifically refers to the prospect of mega droughts, famine, mass migrations of populations and widespread rioting around the world as possibilities. Rising sea levels as polar ice melts will threaten many European cities. It also warns that Europe could experience Siberian-type temperatures within 20 years if the Gulf Stream stops flowing due to changes in sea currents. The Pentagon report also emphasises that the risk of nuclear conflict is likely to increase as countries rush to develop and deploy their nuclear capabilities as a means of defending and securing dwindling food, water and energy supplies.

The Pentagon says climate change should be seen as a national security issue, not just a scientific issue. Although the report doesn't predict when such events could happen, it recommends that the USA prepare **plans** for increasingly unstable international relations due to climate-related wars and conflicts. Bob Watson, chief scientist of the World Bank has said that the Pentagon's dire warnings could no longer be ignored.

Many governments, including all of those in the EU, have implemented the Kyoto Agreement in their countries - it is an agreement designed to stop the rise in carbon dioxide emissions to the atmosphere. It means reducing pollution from **industries**, vehicles and intensive agriculture. However, the USA is one of the few countries that have refused to implement the Agreement. This is partially because of the power and financial influence that huge oil companies have over American politics. As the largest emitter of carbon dioxide in the world, if the USA refuses to reduce emissions it will limit the success of the Kyoto Treaty.

Source: Fortune Magazine and The Observer

Summary – fill in the gaps

Corporate _____ refers to the obligation that every business has to respect the interests of all its stakeholder groups. Business _____ refers to the moral rules that should guide people working in business when making decisions.

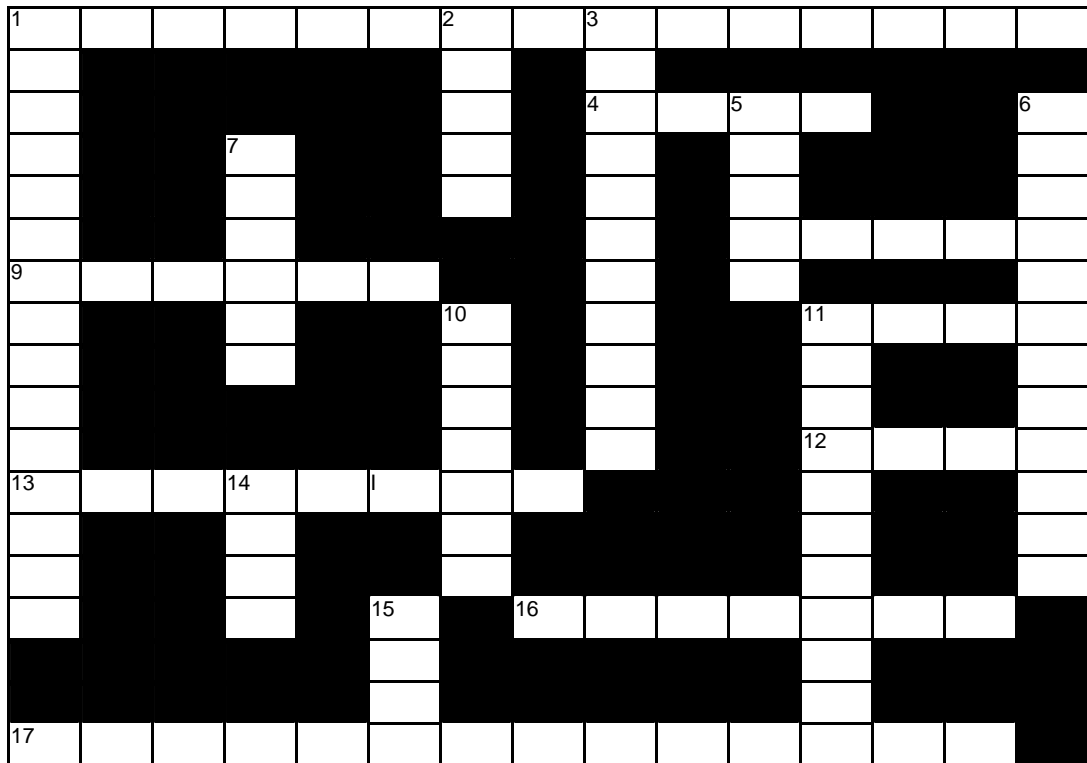
A very important issue for businesses in the 21st century is the need for business and economic development to be environmentally sustainable over the long-term. This means that all businesses must become more conscious of the impact that the production, distribution and consumption of their products will have on the health of the natural environment and on people. Ultimately, the health of the economy depends on the health of the natural environment of the Earth that supports it.

To encourage the transition to more environmentally sustainable economic activity, governments are introducing _____ taxes that force businesses and consumers to take account of both the social as well as the _____ costs involved in producing, consuming and disposing of products.

Score: _____ out of 4



**Crossword 23 –
Conflict between Business and Society**



CLUES

Across

1. This responsibility refers to the obligation of every business to respect the interests of all its stakeholder groups (9, 6)
2. An environmental _____ is an independent study of the impact of a business on the environment (5)
4. To gain access to a computer illegally (4)
8. Taxes imposed on firms and their products to reflect the true social and environmental costs of production (5)
9. Business _____ are the moral rules that should guide people working in business (6)
11. To prevent something (4)
12. What timber comes from (4)
13. This occurs when the interests of different people are in disagreement (8)
16. The costs incurred by a firm when producing a product e.g. cost of raw materials (7)
17. Staff who report wrongdoing in their workplace to the authorities or the press (14)

Down

1. A refusal by potential customers to buy a firm's products or services in protest at some issue (8, 7)
3. This document sets out guidelines for employees to follow when making decisions (7, 4)
5. What ships transport for businesses (5)
6. The Body Shop practices this with its stakeholders through regular reports (12)
7. A type of 2 across that studies the impact of a business on its stakeholder groups (6)
10. To find another use for something instead of throwing it away (7)
11. The society of Easter Island did not practice this type of development (11)
14. A type of trade that ensures that workers are not exploited (4)
15. The opposite of empty (4)