

The Peace Post



Dear Friends,

At the Peace Innovation Initiative, our mission to foster peace through sustainable development is more critical than ever. This month, we focus on Sustainable Development Goal 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, and explore how these elements have the capacity to drive sustainability efforts worldwide, creating a more equitable, prosperous, and peaceful world for all.

New industry technologies have been vital in combating climate change, supporting parallel efforts to drive emissions reductions through government regulations. At the same time, proactive company climate strategies are equally important. In fact, research shows that companies that increase sustainable investments and green technologies in response to climate regulations maintain market competitiveness while contributing significantly to lower carbon emissions. Industry leadership can indeed drive both environmental and economic stability! I am proud to mention that Gordon Winston, a founding member of PII, is actively working to create more efficient energy solutions and technologies worldwide. His efforts exemplify a commitment to driving positive change through innovation.

Bridging the global digital divide is equally essential for driving inclusive and sustainable development for people and planet, and it has been at the core of our organizational work since PII's inception. Digital inclusion programs in education and healthcare ensure equitable access to the opportunities of the digital age, and enhancing digital infrastructure empowers communities, fosters innovation, and promotes social cohesion. This interconnectedness is crucial as we strive to reduce disparities and build more inclusive societies in harmony with our natural world.

Innovative infrastructure solutions are another cornerstone of sustainable development within the scope of SDG 9. Addressing urban fragmentation through community-centered planning creates cohesive, resilient cities. By promoting green spaces, efficient public transportation, and inclusive housing, we build urban environments that support wellbeing and foster a sense of community. These initiatives are fundamental in reducing social tensions and enhancing quality of life, contributing to lasting peace.

As we explore these themes in this month's edition of the Peace Post, we hope to highlight the transformative potential of industry, innovation, and infrastructure in advancing sustainability and peace. Join us in harnessing technology and innovative strategies to build a brighter and more sustainable future for all!

In the spirit of peace and unity,
Barbara Winston
President and Founder

Gordon Winston
Co-Founder

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How '15-minute cities' could save time, reduce emissions, and build community

Carlos Moreno, pioneer of the 15-minute city concept, envisions neighborhoods where basic needs, work, and social activities are accessible within a short walk or bike ride from home. This model, exemplified by Paris' reduction of traffic and pollution, enhances local social cohesion and environmental sustainability, exploring urban fragmentation and promoting community-centered, sustainable planning. By enhancing community resilience, reducing environmental impact, and promoting equitable access to resources, the '15-minute city' model ultimately promotes more inclusive, accessible, and harmonious societies.

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Inside the Icelandic plant turning CO2 into rocks

The Icelandic plant Orca, run by Climeworks, uses direct air-capture technology to remove CO2 from the atmosphere by turning it into stone. Located near Reykjavik and powered by geothermal energy, Orca captures and processes CO2, storing it underground in the native basalt rock. Though currently capturing 4,000 tons of CO2 annually, plans are to scale to gigaton levels by 2050. This innovative approach addresses the need for active CO2 removal to complement emission reductions, thus aligning with PII's commitment to sustainable, innovative solutions which combat global environmental challenges.

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Companies that ignore climate change risks lose market value

A groundbreaking study reveals that companies responding proactively to climate risks are rewarded by the market, while those that do not suffer a loss in market value. By analyzing earnings, call transcripts from over 4,000 U.S. firms identified how companies address acute and chronic physical and transition risks related to climate regulations and industry shifts. Companies that increase sustainable investments and green technologies in response to these risks maintain market value and contribute to lower carbon emissions. This study underscores the importance of proactive climate strategies and emphasize PII's mission of promoting sustainable peacebuilding through innovative environmental risk engagement.

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How Cisco is bridging the global 'digital divide' to connect the world

Francine Katsoudas, EVP at Cisco, discusses bridging the 'digital divide' to foster equality, safety, and innovation. Cisco's mission is to power an inclusive future, having positively impacted over one billion lives through social grants programs. Katsoudas leads Cisco's Country Digital Acceleration (CDA) program, partnering with governments to enhance digital inclusion in areas such as education and healthcare. By proactively addressing digital needs Cisco exemplifies how technology can improve lives by leveraging technology for sustainable peace and overall societal health and well-being.

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Event Spotlight



The Roof Garden Commission: Petrit Halilaj, - The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Kosovo-born artist Petrit Halilaj has been commissioned to create an installation for the MET Museum's Cantor Roof Garden. The artist's first major project in the U.S. Abetare is a timely message about children who find themselves in war zones. The MET roof has since been transformed into a sprawling sculptural experience that's both playful yet extremely poignant, reminding us of the dire need for a global culture of peace and illuminating our deep interconnectedness as human beings. The exhibit shows how even in the midst of wars organized by adults, children remain playful, curious beings, and that peace is possible.

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Your support and engagement drive us to continue our mission of fostering innovation for a more harmonious world. Whether you're reading, sharing, or contributing, you're playing a vital role in this journey toward global peace. If you have stories, insights, or feedback, please don't hesitate to reach out. Together, we're making a difference.

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