Alberta’s chief justice ruled that paying back creditors takes priority over clean-up costs when energy companies go bankrupt. This means that the public can be left with the liability to clean up abandoned wells while lenders walk away with any valuable assets that a bankrupt company may hold.

The CBC story of May 19, 2016 has more details. The business law firm Osler offers a legal summary of the implications of the court’s decision.

**Better data, better models, better performance**

Investors are beginning to see a strong link between corporate sustainability performance and financial performance. That’s creating a bigger demand for better data — and better business models. Out of the Sustainability Doldrums in the MIT Sloan Review makes the case.

**Second Vatican Conference on Impact Investing**

From June 26-28, impact investing experts and Catholic leaders from around the world will convene in Rome to explore how the Catholic Church and other faith-based institutions can harness the power of impact capital to attain and sustain their social mission.

“Worldwide reach and vast social service networks put the Catholic Church in an ideal position to take impact investing to the next level,” said Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo, president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services and the former dean of the Mendoza School of Business, one of the conference sponsors.

**Carbon’s not the only problem**

Remember the ozone layer? What is it, why do we need it, and how’s it doing? The New York Times had the story on June 20, 2016.

**Supply chain, social enterprise**

Fairphone has added conflict-free tungsten from Rwanda into its supply chain. With this achievement, the social enterprise has transparently sourced all four of the conflict minerals (tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold).

Fairphone began in 2010 as a campaign to increase awareness of conflict minerals in consumer electronics. Six years later, the social enterprise has released two smartphones, and more than 100,000 Fairphone owners have joined the movement.

More details in Sustainable Brands on June 20, 2016.

**Rounding out the circular economy**

More than 25 businesses and organizations, including 3M, Aveda, and Target, have announced the launch of the Minnesota Sustainable Growth Coalition. This business-led public-private partnership harnesses collective expertise to advance the next frontier of corporate sustainability – the circular economy.

In a circular economy, all types of capital – financial, natural, manufactured, human and social – are valued and preserved, nothing is lost or wasted, and all resources are utilized to their highest potential. The end result is an economy that decouples economic growth from consumption of finite natural resources. Sustainable Brands has more on this new coalition.