



Reading 145

Read the newspaper article and answer questions 1–10.

Investors urge KFC, McDonald's and Burger King to cut emissions

McDonald's, KFC and Burger King have been **urged** to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their supply chains by a coalition of global investors, with the animal agriculture industry criticised for being one of the world's highest-emitting sectors without a low-carbon plan.

Increasing concern that the industry is **neglecting** climate change and has failed to set emissions targets — unlike other sectors — prompted more than 80 investors representing \$6.5tn (£4.94tn) to **challenge** fast food chain owners to put robust targets in place for their meat and dairy suppliers, in what could prove a landmark demand.

In a letter jointly organised by the Farm Animal Investment Risk & Return Initiative and sustainability organisation Ceres, the fast food companies — which account for more than 120,000 restaurants worldwide — were **censured** for expanding without sufficiently **mitigating** their environmental impacts.

“If we are to meet the global climate ambitions set by the Paris agreement, and ensure the availability and sustainable management of global water resources, then global fast food brands need to take concrete action to manage supply-chain emissions and water impacts,” said Heike Cosse, from Aegon Asset Management.

BMO Global Asset Management added that the long-term value of fast food multinationals was under rising threat, citing the growing demand for plant-based food, increased environmental regulation and fears over water pollution from intensive farms.

Livestock farming is one of the leading causes of deforestation and water pollution, responsible for 14.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions - methane, nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide. If global demand for beef increases 95% by 2050 as expected then **catering** to the growing appetite could have **severe** consequences.

In the US the majority of large meat processing plants that pollute streams and rivers face few consequences, according to research by Ceres, and the animal agriculture industry is **exempted** from reporting its greenhouse gas emissions.

Across the world, animal farming uses 83% of agricultural land despite providing only 18% of calorie **intake**, with consumers in Europe eating around five times the recommended amount of red meat, poultry and dairy products, according to Fairr. The organisation previously warned demand is set to exceed what can be met within “planetary boundaries”, and that the intensification of animal farming is not sustainable, with scientists recommending people adopt plant-based diets.

“Every day around 84 million adults consume fast food in the US alone, but the inconvenient truth of **convenience food** is that the environmental impacts of the sector's meat and dairy products have hit unsustainable levels,” said Jeremy Collier, founder of Fairr and chief investment officer of Collier Capital. “To put this in perspective, if cows were a country, it would be the world's third largest emitter of greenhouse gases.”

- 1) The word ‘urged’ is closest in meaning to...
A) exposed B) proposed C) persisted D) forced
- 2) The word ‘neglecting’ is closest in meaning to...
A) justifying B) concerning C) ignoring D) abusing
- 3) The word ‘to challenge’ is closest in meaning to.
A) to confront B) to exacerbate C) to inhibit D) to saturate
- 4) The word ‘censured’ is closest in meaning to.
A) discouraged B) concealed C) blamed D) forced
- 5) The word ‘mitigating’ is closest in meaning to.
A) reducing B) amending C) demanding D) highlighting
- 6) The word ‘catering’ is closest in meaning to.
A) satisfying B) improving C) agreeing D) developing
- 7) The word ‘severe’ is closest in meaning to.
A) unexpected B) inadequate C) ridiculous D) dangerous
- 8) The word ‘exempted’ is closest in meaning to.
A) to be free from B) to be obliged C) to be liable D) to be affected
- 9) The word ‘intake’ is closest in meaning to.
A) admission B) consumption C) introduction D) outcome
- 10) The word ‘convenience food’ is closest in meaning to.
A) home-made B) processed C) unhealthy D) different

Reading 145 — Keys

KEY

- 1 D / forced
- 2 C / ignoring
- 3 A / (to) confront
- 4 C / blamed
- 5 A / reducing
- 6 A / satisfying
- 7 D / dangerous
- 8 A / to be free from
- 9 B / consumption
- 10 B / processed

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