Weekly Sustainability News Summary
April 17, 2015

Company Initiatives:

- **Four tech companies trying to fight California's drought** — Agriculture gulps down 80% of annual water consumption, so it stands to reason that the biggest savings won't come from a ripped up residential lawns but rather, from reduced use of water by agriculture and large industrial operations. **Full Article:** USA Today

- **Apple invests in China solar project, US forest conservation** — Apple is expanding its environmental efforts by investing in a new Chinese solar power project and preserving 36,000 acres of “sustainable” timberland in Maine and North Carolina. **Full Article:** The Washington Post

- **Woolworths hires rapper Pharrell to ‘make sustainability cool’** — Woolworths Holdings Ltd., the South African retailer that bought Australian department-store operator David Jones Ltd. for $2 billion, has appointed Pharrell Williams as style director for sustainability-focused projects in Africa. **Full Article:** Bloomberg

- **CEOs urge ‘ambitious’ UN climate pact** — The chief executive officers of 43 major international companies are urging world leaders to come to an “ambitious” United Nations agreement to fight climate change. **Full article:** The Hill

Trends, Studies, and Opinions:

- **Climate change: why the Guardian is putting threat to Earth front and centre** — Journalism tends to be a rear-view mirror. We prefer to deal with what has happened, not what lies ahead. We favour what is exceptional and in full view over what is ordinary and hidden. **Full article:** The Guardian

- **Liberal groups aim to register a million climate voters** — A coalition of environmental, civil rights and progressive groups aims to register a million climate-conscious voters by Election Day. The goal is the latest indication that liberals view climate change as a wedge issue that can boost Democratic candidates while drawing a contrast with Republicans. **Full Article:** Politico

- **Mighty Rio Grande now a trickle under siege** — On maps, the mighty Rio Grande meanders 1,900 miles, from southern Colorado’s San Juan Mountains to the Gulf of Mexico. But on the ground, farms and cities drink all but a trickle before it reaches the canal that irrigates Bobby Skov’s farm outside El Paso, hundreds of miles from the gulf. **Full Article:** The New York Times

- **Pope Francis throws the weight of his office behind tackling climate change** — The Vatican is set to host a major conference on climate change this month that will feature leading researchers on global warming and an opening address by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The meeting is another sign of Pope Francis’ “green agenda” and another potential red flag for conservatives who are already alarmed over an expected papal teaching document on the environment that is scheduled for release this summer. **Full Article:** The Washington Post

Government Action:

- **Judges Hear Challenge to Proposed E.P.A. Rule to Curb Climate Change** — A panel of federal judges on Thursday appeared inclined to dismiss the first legal challenge to President Obama’s most far-reaching regulation to slow climate change. **Full Article:** The New York Times