



Recent work

We continue to work on a range of cutting edge projects for companies, governments and NGOs. Some recent highlights include:

- Identifying opportunities for improvement in an international energy company's **carbon management processes** based on an analysis of best practices in leading companies in the energy, mining, and chemicals sectors
- Developing an **electricity and energy strategy** to minimise costs, reduce risks relating to carbon and exploit clean energy opportunities for an international natural resources company
- Recommending improvements to the **water risk management activities** of a well-known US beverage manufacturer following an assessment and benchmarking project using the Ceres Aqua Gauge
- Completing the [Economics of Climate Resilience Project](#), a long-term assignment for the UK government, which **assessed the response of multiple sectors to climate change** and informed the National Adaptation Programme
- Creating a **framework for private equity firms to manage environmental, social and governance issues** with the Environmental Defence Fund (<http://www.edf.org/esgtool>)
- Developing a strategy and business plan for an **early stage hybrid electric vehicle company** with strong links to China
- Helping a leading NGO to identify and address the barriers facing the **carbon offset market in California**
- Advising leading African companies on inputs to their countries' negotiating strategies for the **international climate change negotiations** (COP18) in Doha
- Advising the European Space Agency on market opportunities for Earth Observation products and services related to **ecosystem services assessments**
- Launching an **ecosystem services based environmental impact assessment** service as part of a consortium of experts

Members of the Irbaris team have also presented at conferences or participated in symposia in London, Paris, Houston, Phoenix and Johannesburg.

Some thoughts and observations

Too few companies and policy makers appreciate how much the energy landscape is changing and how many assumptions made just a few years ago no longer apply

- Cost of renewables have been falling dramatically and could become cost competitive even with low cost coal
- Large scale storage coupled with demand management could undermine electricity market structures
- Progress on CCS is slower than hoped for and the time window for CCS to be valuable is shrinking
- While short-term "gas is good", the long term impacts of the gas boom on the power markets remain unclear
- By the 2020s, investments today could be undermined by carbon constraints or cleantech developments

Carbon is becoming an issue again as some companies face new regulations and market pressures, despite the problems in the EU ETS

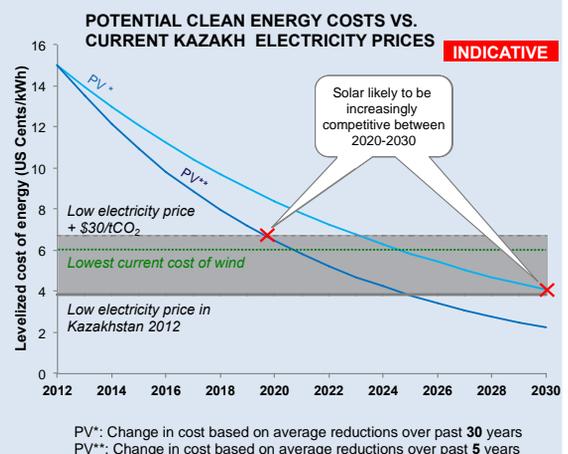
- National GHG regimes, regional linkages among national regimes, indirect regulations (e.g. fuel standards) and changing customer needs are creating a complex carbon landscape with significant risks and opportunities

Water risk is increasingly seen as important; however too much focus remains on individual sites, incremental improvements and the flawed expectation that infrastructure will provide the solution

- The different values of water for different users need to be better understood by companies and regulators to prioritise allocations and improvement investments across both physical watersheds and business value chains

More companies are working on adapting to the potential effects of climate change, but many companies need to move beyond continuity planning and asset protection to determining how to create resilient businesses

- Looking for certainty through more climate modelling is generally less useful than building resilience to the uncertainties in vulnerable parts of the business and looking for potential new business threats and opportunities



Please contact info@irbaris.com if you would like any further information