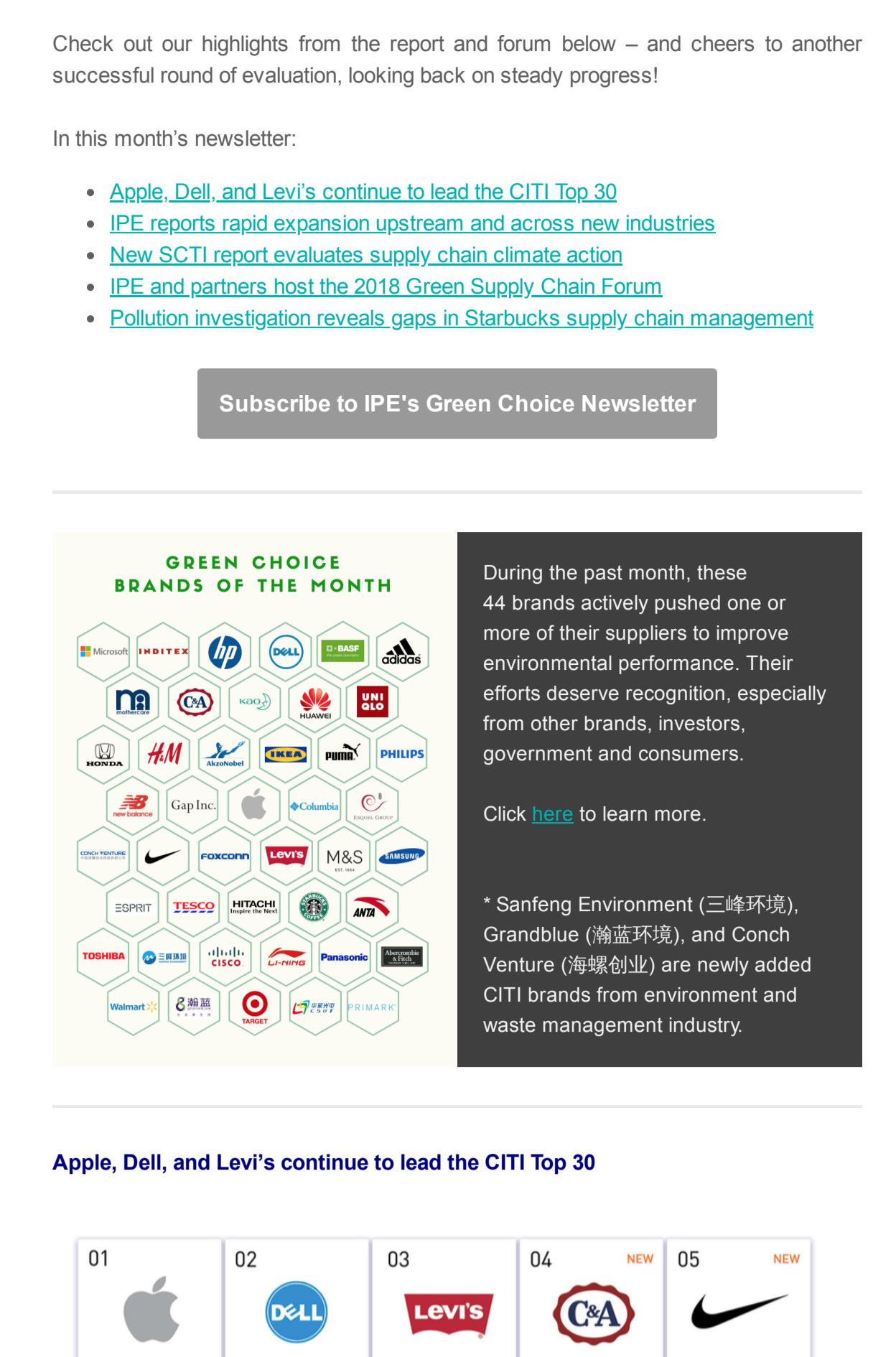


Apple, Dell, and Levi's continue to lead the Citi Top 30. IPE reports rapid expansion upstream and across new industries, new SCTI report evaluates supply chain climate action. IPE and partners host the 2018 Green Supply Chain Forum; pollution investigation reveals gaps in Starbucks supply chain management & more

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On October 25, 2018, IPE co-hosted the annual 2018 Green Supply Chain Forum and released the fifth edition of our [Corporate Information Transparency Index \(CITI\) report](#). The first quantitative assessment of brands' environmental management of their supply chains in China, [CITI](#) offers a roadmap of best practices founded in information disclosure.

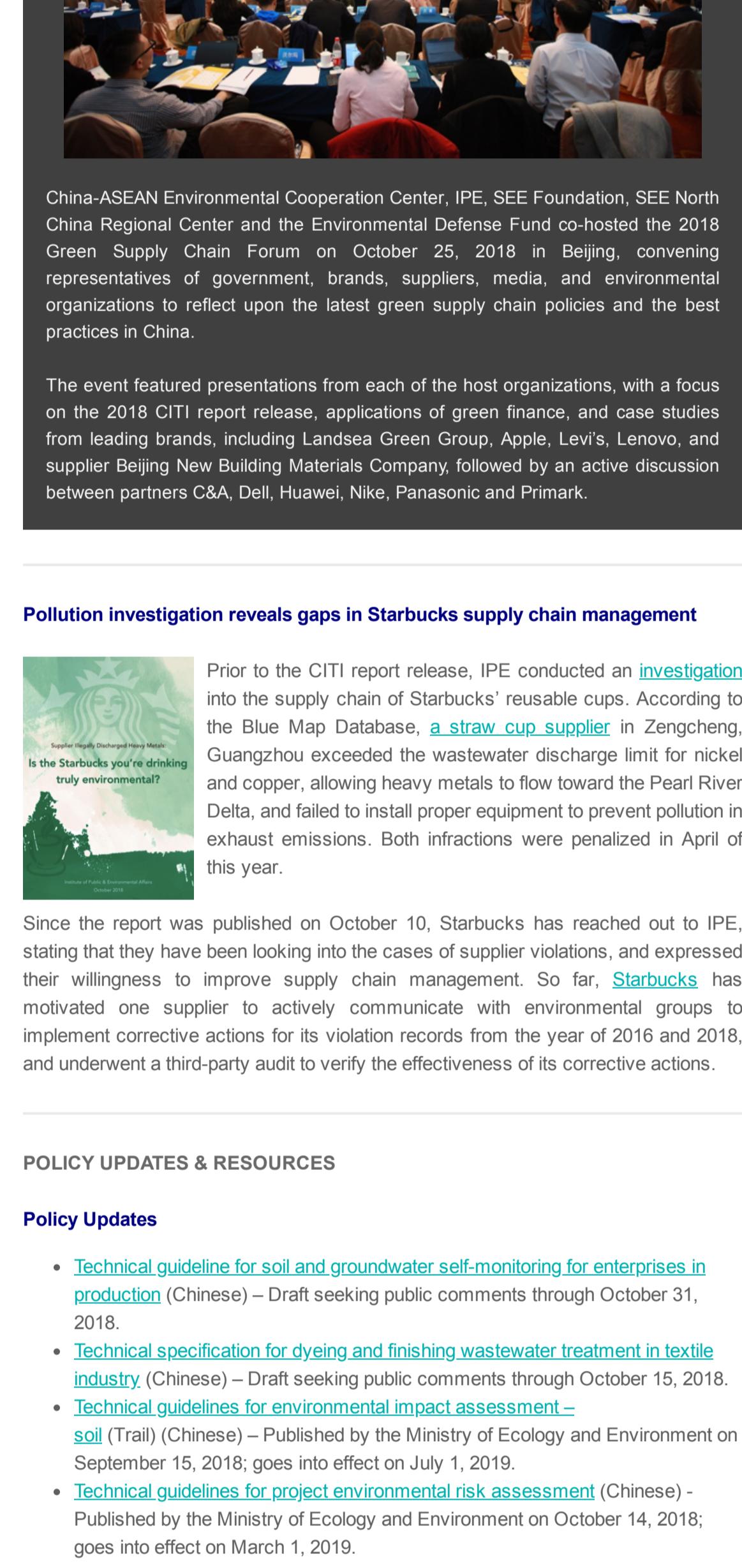
This year's evaluation expands to [306 brands](#) across 16 industries, and emphasizes that increased government enforcement poses major business risks in the supply chain. In turn, however, the growth of environmental big data in the Blue Map Database inspired [Blue EcoChain](#), the automated supply chain management system that paved the way for this year's effective pollution response. Today, companies with supply chains in China are more equipped than ever before to respond to the urgency of increasing government supervision and intensifying climate change.

Check out our highlights from the report and forum below – and cheers to another successful round of evaluation, looking back on steady progress!

In this month's newsletter:

- [Apple, Dell, and Levi's continue to lead the CITI Top 30](#)
- [IPE reports rapid expansion upstream and across new industries](#)
- [New SCTI report evaluates supply chain climate action](#)
- [IPE and partners host the 2018 Green Supply Chain Forum](#)
- [Pollution investigation reveals gaps in Starbucks supply chain management](#)

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Apple, Dell, and Levi's continue to lead the CITI Top 30

01	02	03	04	05
84 (score)	82	76	69	68
PRIMARK*	H&M	SAMSUNG	INDITEX	TARGET
64	62.5	62.5	61	60.8
ESPRIT	new balance	M&S EST. 1884	adidas	Gap Inc.
60	60	59	59	59
59	56.5	56	50.5	50.5
46	45	41.5	41.5	40
38	37	36	36	35.5

*"New" signifies brands that joined the CITI Top 30 in this round of the evaluation.

This year's Top 30 brands reflect many familiar faces and a few surprising jumps in ranking. [Apple, Dell, and Levi's](#), all U.S. brands, held their positions in first, second, and third for the second year in a row, with Apple celebrating its fifth consecutive year as the No.1 brand for all five years of the CITI evaluation. To join these high performers, [C&A](#) and [Nike](#) leapt from just below the Top 30 right into the Top 10, a feat that demonstrates hard work and dedication to significantly raise the bar of supply chain environmental management over the past year.

[Foxconn, Esquel, and Huawei](#) have outdone their competitors from Greater China to secure places in the Top 30 among the ranks of global green supply chain leaders for five straight years. Although the Top 30 continues to showcase many leaders in the IT and apparel industries, [Landsea](#) and [Kao](#) represent continuous individual commitment to responsible procurement, topping the list and more than double the score of the No.2 brands in the real estate and household & personal care industries, respectively.

IPE reports rapid expansion upstream and across new industries

CITI 5.0 summarizes and analyzes brands' major accomplishments during the evaluation period from September 2017 to September 2018, in which Chinese and international brands pushed 2,458 suppliers to respond to their pollution records by reaching out to NGOs, disclosing related information, or undertaking rectification. Among them, 1,206 suppliers passed third-party audits to confirm their rectified practices, a 280% increase from 2017 that underscores the growing influence of brand environmental management.

The rapid expansion of influence is aided in part by IPE's [Blue EcoChain mechanism](#), now used by 38 active brands, wherein brands and suppliers simultaneously and automatically receive notifications regarding supplier environmental performance. With greater efficiency enabled by this system, consumer-facing brands have pushed their management upstream to new industries closer to raw material production, particularly in the high-impact sectors of IT and apparel production, as well as in the real estate supply chain.

The report recommends that more brands, with the help of data- and internet-based tools, improve green supply chain management; that financial institutions incorporate green supply chain performance into green finance considerations; and that public media, environmental organizations, and other third parties give more recognition to enterprises that actively develop green supply chains, to guide consumers in the practice of green consumption.

Check out the [full report](#) on IPE's website.

New SCTI report evaluates supply chain climate action

Given the critical importance of climate change, this year, IPE released an extension of the CITI report that focuses directly on brands' management of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in their supply chains in China – the Supply Chain Climate Transparency Index (SCTI). The SCTI evaluation is based on the understanding that supply chain emissions outside of direct operations account for over 75% of a company's overall emissions in most industrial sectors.

After ranking 118 apparel and IT brands from the CITI report, the SCTI analysis found that only 23 brands published information regarding their Scope 3 emissions, and only 17 set targets for reducing their supply chain emissions targets. However, of these 17, at least 16 are actively working with their suppliers to incentivize information disclosure and climate action, including Apple, Nike, and Walmart, who topped the list in this evaluation.

Check out the [SCTI report](#) on IPE's website. Read the stories of how [Apple, Nike, and Walmart](#) worked with suppliers to reduce carbon emissions in production.

IPE and partners host the 2018 Green Supply Chain Forum

China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center, IPE, SEE Foundation, SEE North China Regional Center and the Environmental Defense Fund co-hosted the 2018 Green Supply Chain Forum on October 25, 2018 in Beijing, convening organizations of government, brands, suppliers, media, and environmental groups to reflect upon the latest green supply chain policies and the best practices in China.

The event featured presentations from each of the host organizations, with a focus on the 2018 CITI report release, applications of green finance, and case studies from leading brands, including Landsea Green Group, Apple, Levi's, Lenovo, and supplier Beijing New Building Materials Company, followed by an active discussion between partners C&A, Dell, Huawei, Nike, Panasonic and Primark.

Pollution investigation reveals gaps in Starbucks supply chain management

Prior to the CITI report release, IPE conducted an [investigation](#) into the supply chain of Starbucks' reusable cups. According to the Blue Map Database, a [straw cup supplier](#) in Zengcheng, Guangzhou exceeded the wastewater discharge limit for nickel and copper, allowing heavy metals to flow toward the Pearl River Delta, and failed to install proper equipment to prevent pollution in exhaust emissions. Both infractions were penalized in April of this year.

Since the report was published on October 10, Starbucks has reached out to IPE, stating that they have been looking into the cases of supplier violations, and expressed their willingness to improve supply chain management. So far, [Starbucks](#) has motivated one supplier to actively communicate with environmental groups to implement corrective actions for its violation records from the year of 2016 and 2018, and underwent a third-party audit to verify the effectiveness of its corrective actions.

POLICY UPDATES & RESOURCES

Policy Updates

- [Technical guideline for soil and groundwater self-monitoring for enterprises in production](#) (Chinese) – Draft seeking public comments through October 31, 2018.
- [Technical specification for dyeing and finishing wastewater treatment in textile industry](#) (Chinese) – Draft seeking public comments through October 15, 2018.
- [Technical guidelines for environmental impact assessment – soil](#) (Trial) – Published by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment on September 15, 2018; goes into effect on July 1, 2019.
- [Technical guidelines for project environmental risk assessment](#) (Chinese) – Published by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment on October 14, 2018; goes into effect March 1, 2019.

Policy Resources

- [Environmental Protection Tax Law of the P.R.C.](#) (English)
- [Soil Pollution Action Plan \("Soil Ten"\)](#) (Unofficial English translation)
- [Amendments to China's Air Law \(passed in August 2015\)](#) (English translation)
- ["Water 10" Action Plan \(issued in April 2015\)](#) (English translation)
- [Made in China 2025](#) (policy summary)
- [EU-China Environmental Governance Project Policy Resource Center](#) (Bilingual)
- [China Hazardous Chemicals Management Resource Center](#) (Bilingual)
- [China Law Translate](#) (crowd-sourced English translations of Chinese laws)

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