

# Natural Resources PC

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## Climate Change, ETS, Green Finance

### Weekly Report No 585

**Not to be transmitted to third parties**  
**References available upon request**

Mar 22-28 '25

#### EU

### BWO opposes reduction of German offshore wind targets, 17 Mar

– calls for stability and sector growth

The German Offshore Wind Energy Association (BWO) has welcomed the recent exploratory agreement between CDU/CSU and SPD, confirming their commitment to fully harnessing the potential of renewable energy sources. According to BWO, this sends a strong and positive signal for Germany's energy transition and ensures long-term planning security for the offshore wind industry.

At the same time, BWO has firmly rejected the proposal from the Association of Municipal Enterprises (VKU) to lower offshore wind expansion targets. As BWO Managing Director Stefan Thimm emphasizes, reducing offshore wind ambitions would mean either abandoning climate goals or increasing Germany's dependency on hydrogen imports.

Continue at <https://balticwind.eu/bwo-opposes-reduction-of-offshore-wind-targets-calls-for-stability-and-sector-growth/>

### LNG Croatia expects auction for new capacities in May, 19 Mar

(SeeNews) - LNG Croatia (LNG Hrvatska), the operator of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal on the Krk island which is undergoing a large-scale capacity expansion, expects an auction for new capacities to be held in May, managing director Ivan Fugas said on Monday.

The company expects the auction to take place once it obtains approval for new rules of operation due to a change in the method of contracting new capacities, Fugas told SeeNews in an emailed interview ahead of the Budapest LNG Summit on April 14.

Following its expansion, due to be completed by mid-October after commissioning and start-up, the capacity of the LNG terminal will more than double, to 6.1 billion cubic metres (bcm) per year from 2.9 bcm. The project is divided into two phases, which are related to the construction of the gas transmission system carried out by Croatian transmission system operator Plinacro, Fugas explained.

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*New Forests partners with Japanese papermaker to build new forestry fund, p24*

Continue at <https://total-croatia-news.com/news/expansion-lng-croatia/>

### **BASF begins operation of 54-megawatt electrolyser, 24 Mar**

BASF's Ludwigshafen site recently welcomed Germany's largest proton exchange membrane (PEM) electrolyser, which is now in operation.

The electrolyser is designed to produce zero-carbon hydrogen by including a connected load of fifty-four megawatts, along with one metric ton of this substantial chemical feedstock to the main plant hourly.

The plant opened on March 17 after two years of construction. In the Presence of Katrin Eder (Rhineland-Palatinate State Minister for Climate Protection, Environment, Energy, and Mobility), and Udo Philipp (State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action).

This water electrolyser was built in cooperation with Siemens Energy and is seen as one of a kind when it comes to interface and integration into a chemical production environment, for being installed in the production and infrastructure at the Ludwigshafen site. So far, an installation of seventy-two stacks (modules) has successfully been added to the system...

Prior to the electrolyser being installed, the Ludwigshafen site mostly produced hydrogen through natural gas-based steam reforming, or as a coupling or by-product but since installing the electrolyser, BASF has begun the process of transforming hydrogen production technology.

Continue at [https://www.hydrogen-worldexpo.com/industry-news/54-megawatt-water-electrolyser-used-basf?utm\\_source=https%3a%2f%2fevent.tge-hydrogentech.com%2fhydrogentech%2f&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Hydrogen+Technology+Europe+Newsletter+24%2f03%2f25&utm\\_term=BASF+starts+operating+a+54-megawatt+electrolyser&utm\\_content=327511&gator\\_id=PyWJNwQOJ2Rg3d0i7DYhWcEj0RgfBl42av%2bcF1%2bs2HlqOSl4gObuKL%2bH7DYLob7fMb29I50EAjVjO5h07nfAms69Jo%2f3qwsWO9%2bu1%2bAmJyUty4zbSQyP6eB4Oao01HGFP%2fYnmTsanJ3JpDnICBJw7ADhCci6j4bsy433Bs9Igr34pZ7HZhszPENNg8LdYSC%2fbhoshitnif1epaqVa51SLg%3d%3d](https://www.hydrogen-worldexpo.com/industry-news/54-megawatt-water-electrolyser-used-basf?utm_source=https%3a%2f%2fevent.tge-hydrogentech.com%2fhydrogentech%2f&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Hydrogen+Technology+Europe+Newsletter+24%2f03%2f25&utm_term=BASF+starts+operating+a+54-megawatt+electrolyser&utm_content=327511&gator_id=PyWJNwQOJ2Rg3d0i7DYhWcEj0RgfBl42av%2bcF1%2bs2HlqOSl4gObuKL%2bH7DYLob7fMb29I50EAjVjO5h07nfAms69Jo%2f3qwsWO9%2bu1%2bAmJyUty4zbSQyP6eB4Oao01HGFP%2fYnmTsanJ3JpDnICBJw7ADhCci6j4bsy433Bs9Igr34pZ7HZhszPENNg8LdYSC%2fbhoshitnif1epaqVa51SLg%3d%3d)

### **Polish govt amends act on wind farms distancing to 500 m, 24 Mar**

The Polish Council of Ministers on Friday adopted a draft act on wind farms, including shortening their minimum distance from housing to 500 metres from 700 metres in a drive to reduce electricity prices.

The government pointed out that Poland has to increase the number of wind farms because the wind is one of the cheapest renewable energy sources and the country needs new and stable supplies in view of the current geopolitical situation of independence from Russia.

The new rule will unlock the potential of wind energy projects, the government noted, adding that in each case the location will need the consent of the municipal council and will be determined by the spatial development plan.

Continue at <https://renewablesnow.com/news/polish-govt-amends-act-on-wind-farms-distancing-to-500-m-1272688/>

### **New SME Sustainable Finance Standard proposed in EU, 24 Mar**

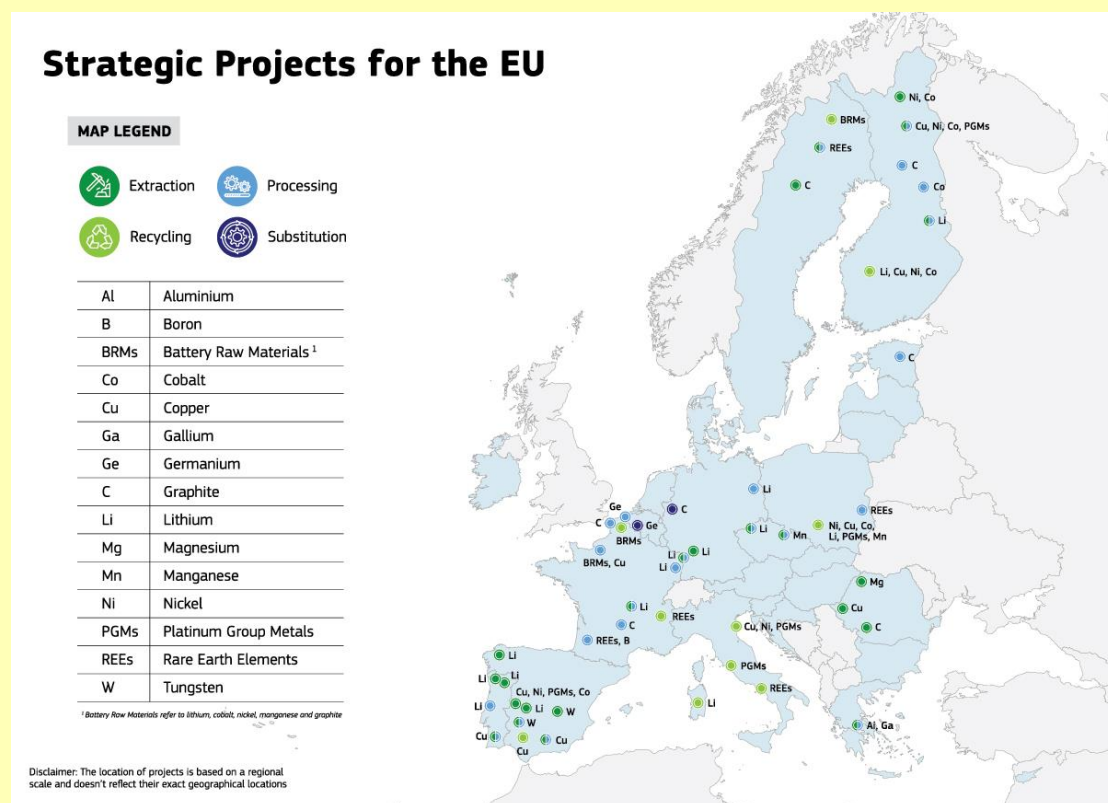
The Platform on Sustainable Finance (PSF), an expert group mandated by the European Commission to advise it on the development of sustainable finance policies, announced the publication of a new report, [proposing a new "SME sustainable finance standard" aimed at helping small and medium-sized enterprises to access external financing](#) to support their sustainability and climate transition-related initiatives.

The new standard presents a simplified system for SMEs to access sustainable financing and to simplify disclosure to financiers around their key performance indicators and their climate-related efforts, according to the PSF, in addition to making it easier for banks and financial institutions to classify loans or other forms of financing provided to SMEs as sustainable green or transition finance.

Continue at the link above; Full article at *ESG Today* <info@esgtoday.com> Mar 24

## 47 Strategic EU Projects selected to secure and diversify access to raw materials, 25 Mar

The Commission has adopted, for the first time, a list of 47 Strategic Projects to boost domestic strategic raw material capacities, which will in turn strengthen the European raw materials value chain and diversify sources of supply. The new Strategic Projects mark an important milestone in the implementation of the [Critical Raw Material Act \(CRMA\)](#), which aims to ensure European extraction, processing and recycling of strategic raw materials meet 10%, 40% and 25% of EU's demand by 2030, respectively. By helping Europe meet these targets, the new Strategic Projects contribute significantly to Europe's green and digital transitions, while supporting Europe's defence industry and aerospace industries.



The 47 new Strategic Projects are located across 13 EU Member States: Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Estonia, Czechia, Greece, Sweden, Finland, Portugal, Poland and Romania. They cover one or more segments of the raw material value chain, with 25 projects comprising extraction activities, 24 processing, 10 recycling and 2 substitution of raw materials. The Strategic Projects cover 14 of the 17 strategic raw materials listed in the Critical Raw Materials Act. This includes several projects covering lithium (22 projects), nickel (12 projects), cobalt (10 projects), manganese (7 projects) and graphite (11 projects) which will particularly benefit the [EU battery raw material value chain](#). These projects will ensure that the EU can fully meet its extraction, processing and recycling 2030 benchmarks for lithium and cobalt, while making substantial progress for graphite, nickel and manganese. Moreover, other strategic projects

involving magnesium (1 project) and tungsten (3 projects) will contribute to the resilience of the EU's defence industry, which relies on the use of these materials.

These projects were selected as they contribute to the EU's secure supply of strategic raw materials, adhere to environmental, social and governance criteria and are technically feasible. In addition, the selected projects have also demonstrated clear cross-border benefits for the EU.

#### *Benefits for the selected projects*

To become operational, the 47 Strategic Projects have an expected overall capital investment of €22.5 billion. These projects will be able to benefit from coordinated support by the Commission, Member States and financial institutions to become operational, notably regarding access to finance and support to connect with relevant off-takers. They will also benefit from streamlined permitting provisions, to ensure predictability for project promoters while safeguarding environmental, social and governance standards. In line with the CRMA, the permit-granting process will not exceed 27 months for extraction projects and 15 months for other projects. Currently, permitting processes can last from five to 10 years.

Full details at [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_25\\_864](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_864)

#### **Analysts predict EU ETS emissions fell 5-8% in 2024, 25 Mar**

Verified emissions covered by the EU ETS continued their downward trend in 2024, analysts polled by Carbon Pulse predict, with total output seen 5-8% lower year-on-year.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/381628/>

#### **EC, Eurocontrol to cooperate in monitoring aviation emissions, 25 Mar**

The European Commission has signed a new cooperation agreement with Europe's civil-military organisation, setting out new monitoring, reporting, and verification of aviation emissions outside of CO<sub>2</sub>, they announced on Tuesday.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/381318/>

#### **EU seeks to promote highest carbon value for wood, biomass, 25 Mar**

With its carbon removals certification scheme agreed last year, the European Commission is seeking to promote biomass use with higher value-added than biofuels or bioenergy – both financially and from a climate perspective, a senior EU official has said.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/381351/>

#### **Bulgaria loses €600m in EU grants amid delays, 25 Mar**

SOFIA - The Bulgarian government has announced that it will forgo €600 million in EU grants for projects under the Recovery Plan, admitting that it cannot make up for the delay and complete them by 2026.

The most expensive project is a €172 million geothermal heat and power project that has been left untouched by the EU's poorest country for the past three years. The government is also scrapping a major project to build new water supply networks in small towns of up to 10,000 people [and] projects to expand green hydrogen production, a project to modernise the train control system and the renovation of the Aerospace Observation Centre in Sofia.

Continue at <https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/bulgaria-loses-e600m-in-eu-grants-amid-delays/>

## **Private equity firm Ardian agrees to take over Akuo, 25 Mar**

Global private equity firm Ardian reached an agreement to acquire France-based independent renewable energy producer Akuo.

Akuo, controlled by alternative asset manager ICG, is opening a new chapter under private equity firm Ardian, headquartered in Paris. Founded in 2007 in France, Akuo specializes in wind power, storage and photovoltaics, including agrisolar and floating solar power plants. It has more than 2 GW of assets in operation and under construction or shovel-ready projects across more than 20 countries worldwide.

Ardian agreed to take over Akuo for an undisclosed sum, “subject to the legal information and consultation process towards the relevant employee representative bodies” and pending regulatory clearance, according to the announcement.

Continue at [https://balkangreenenergynews.com/private-equity-firm-ardian-agrees-to-take-over-akuo/?utm\\_source=phplist864&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=HTML&utm\\_campaign=Newsletter+March+26%2C+2025+%E2%80%A3+Balkan+Green+Energy+News](https://balkangreenenergynews.com/private-equity-firm-ardian-agrees-to-take-over-akuo/?utm_source=phplist864&utm_medium=email&utm_content=HTML&utm_campaign=Newsletter+March+26%2C+2025+%E2%80%A3+Balkan+Green+Energy+News)

## **ING becomes first global bank with SBTi-approved financed emissions reduction targets, 26 Mar**

Amsterdam-based global bank [ING announced today that its climate targets, including goals to reduce financed emissions in client portfolios and its fossil fuel financing policies, have been validated by the Science Based Targets initiative \(SBTi\)](#) as aligning with the 1.5 °C ambition of the Paris Agreement. According to the SBTi, ING is the first global systemically important bank to achieve the validation.

The achievement comes as several banks globally have pulled back on their climate commitments, including some reviewing or eliminating their financed emissions goals. Several banks have also exited the process of seeking SBTi validation of their climate targets ahead of the recent launch of its new standard to assess financial institutions’ net zero goals, which included strict limitations on fossil fuel financing.

Continue at the link above; Full article at *ESG Today* <[info@esgtoday.com](mailto:info@esgtoday.com)> Mar 26

## **EU issues draft rules for verification of aviation emissions data, 26 Mar**

The European Commission has published draft rules for the verification of emissions data submitted by airlines under the EU’s Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) as well as for the accreditation of verifiers to perform the checks, including on green jet fuels.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/381718/>

## **Coalition papers on climate: Much criticism and many open questions, 26 Mar**

To achieve the German and European climate targets, tightening the regulations is actually necessary. However, the coalition papers from the ongoing coalition negotiations contain several announcements to weaken climate protection measures.

At least the goal is not being shaken: "We stand by the German and European climate targets," is the first sentence in the [outcome paper of the coalition working group on climate and energy](#) . However, how these are to be achieved remains completely unclear when one looks at the further announcements from this and the other climate-relevant working groups on [transport/infrastructure/construction/housing](#) , [rural areas/agriculture/food/environment](#) , and [economy/industry/tourism](#) .

Continue, in German, at the links above and at

<https://table.media/climate/analyse/koalitionspapiere-zum-klima-viel-kritik-und-viele-offene-fragen/>

### **German coalition plans ... to help industrials meet EU ETS obligations, 26 Mar**

A leaked document from a working group that will shape the energy and climate policies of the new German coalition government has indicated support for using Article 6 carbon credits under the Paris Agreement to help industries address their residual emissions.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/381714/>

### **GravitHy's €60 million fundraising to decarbonize the steel industry, 26 Mar**

GravitHy, a future low-carbon iron producer, announces a €60 million funding round – which includes public funds from the French programme “Première Usine”. The round brought in new worldclass investors: Ecolab, Japan Hydrogen Fund (a fund serviced by Advantage Partners), Marcegaglia, Rio Tinto, Siemens Financial Services, and additional investments from existing shareholders Engie New Ventures and InnoEnergy.

The injection of fresh capital will enable GravitHy to finance its action plan, targeting a final investment decision after completing project development in 2026. It will also accelerate growth by securing key contracts, completing engineering, obtaining permits, and attracting top talent. GravitHy is already actively engaging with new potential investors to reinforce its capital structure and support its development towards construction and commercial phases.

The future plant is scheduled to start commercial production in 2029, after an exhaustive commissioning phase and progressive pre-commercial ramp up, creating up to 500 direct jobs with an overall investment of 2.2 billion euros. It will be located on a 75-hectare site in the industrial zone of Fos-sur-Mer (France) and will produce 2 million tons of Direct Reduced Iron (DRI)/Hot Briquetted Iron (HBI) every year – the equivalent of one Eiffel Tower a day. The electrolyzer producing the green and low carbon hydrogen used to reduce the iron ore will have a capacity of approximately 750 MW - the biggest in France, and one of the largest in the world.

To supply the necessary power, GravitHy has made significant progress in securing part of the electricity supply to its future plant, signing a letter of intent (LOI) with EDF for a Nuclear Production Allocation Contract (CAPN) in 2024. The access to the planned extension of the electricity transmission infrastructure by RTE has been officially confirmed in the decennial network development plan, ensuring a secure and reliable execution.

<https://gravithy.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/PR-GravitHy-EN-26-03-25.pdf?linkId=300000023921330>

### **Energy policy as a security issue: Why new gas-fired power plants endanger Germany's future, 26 Mar**

The incoming German government is planning a massive expansion of climate-damaging gas-fired power plants. This is intended to ensure security of supply and stabilize electricity prices. However, the changing global situation requires a resilient power grid for Germany's security – renewable energies combined with storage and a reform of the electricity system, instead of subsidizing expensive natural gas.

German energy policy is at a crossroads. While renewable energies and storage technologies are becoming increasingly efficient and cost-effective, the new federal government-designate is planning a massive expansion of climate-damaging gas-fired power plants. According to the coalition government, these plans are intended to ensure security of supply and stabilize

electricity prices. But in the current global situation, security requires a resilient energy system that is equipped to withstand external shocks and attempts at blackmail by authoritarian regimes. The idea that stable electricity prices can be secured with fossil gas is false. With this strategy, Germany risks becoming permanently chained to an outdated, expensive, and geopolitically risky energy model.

Continue, in German, at the links above and at <https://table.media/climate/standpunkt/energiepolitik-als-sicherheitsfrage-warum-neue-gaskraftwerke-deutschlands-zukunft-gefaehrden/>

### **InnoEnergy to mobilize €160 billion in clean tech investments by 2030, 27 Mar**

Early-stage impact investor InnoEnergy announced its new 2030 growth plan, aiming to mobilize up to €160 billion in clean tech investment between 2025 and 2030, across equity, debt, grants, and project finance.

Founded in 2010, and supported by the EU body the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), newly rebranded InnoEnergy (formerly EIT InnoEnergy) invests in early-stage companies building resilient clean tech value chains that drive sustainable economic growth, and provides support to startups including market access, access to finance, technology enhancement and access to talent.

To date, InnoEnergy has supported more than 500 startups, in clean tech categories ranging from batteries, steel and hydrogen to solar PV and fertilizers, and has participated in the launch of funds including the EBA Strategic Battery Materials Fund and the [Santander InnoEnergy Climate Fund](#).

Under its 2030 growth plan, InnoEnergy said that it is “muscling up to...accelerate the development of new clean tech markets, building on its leadership in the battery, PV and green hydrogen value chains.

Continue at the link above; Full article at [https://www.esgtoday.com/innoenergy-muscling-up-to-mobilize-e160-billion-in-clean-tech-investments-by-2030/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=innoenergy-muscling-up-to-mobilize-e160-billion-in-clean-tech-investments-by-2030](https://www.esgtoday.com/innoenergy-muscling-up-to-mobilize-e160-billion-in-clean-tech-investments-by-2030/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=innoenergy-muscling-up-to-mobilize-e160-billion-in-clean-tech-investments-by-2030)

### **EU Council approves delay to CSRD and CSDDD Sustainability Reporting Regulations, 27 Mar**

EU member states in the [European Council announced that they have approved the European Commission's 'stop-the-clock' directive](#), delaying the implementation of key sustainability reporting and due diligence regulations, including the CSRD and CSDDD.

The directive forms the first major step in the Commission's Omnibus package, aimed at significantly reducing the sustainability reporting and regulatory burden on companies, and particularly on SMEs. Among the proposals included in the package were delays for the application of the CSRD for companies that have not yet started reporting by two years, and of the transposition and application of the CSDDD by a year.

Continue at the link above; Full article at [ESG Today <info@esgtoday.com>](mailto:info@esgtoday.com) Mar 27

### **IATA backs call by European airlines to soften green fuel mandate, 27 Mar**

BRUSSELS, (Reuters) - The head of global airlines body IATA has welcomed a call by Europe's top carriers for a delay to a 2030 target for sustainable aviation fuel use in Europe, saying Brussels policymakers need to face reality.

"We can't just stand back and pretend that these targets are meaningful and can be achieved. They were never going to be capable of being achieved," Willie Walsh, director general of the International Air Transport Association, told Reuters.

Under EU rules, suppliers must ensure that 2% of fuel available at EU airports is SAF in 2025, rising to 6% in 2030 and gradually to 70% in 2050.

Airlines say SAF is barely available and that they are being blamed for shortfalls in availability from the energy industry, while insisting they remain committed to a broader industry goal of reaching net zero emissions by 2050. "There's fantastic ambition, but you can only achieve it if everybody plays their part and others aren't playing their part," Walsh said on the sidelines of an annual event hosted by the A4E European airline association.

Continue at <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/iata-backs-call-by-european-airlines-soften-green-fuel-mandate-2025-03-27/>

### **Greece's Metlen sees gallium production at 50t in 2028, 27 Mar**

*...enough to cover EU needs*

Greek energy and metals group Metlen said on Thursday that in 2028 its production in critical mineral gallium, which is used in smartphones, will reach 50 tonnes and suffice to fully cover the European Union's needs.

The European Commission this week [published a list of 47 strategic projects](#), including in Greece, to boost the EU's production of materials it deems critical for its energy transition and security. Gallium, which is also used in high-quality semiconductors, is among them.

"From 2028, Metlen will produce 50 tonnes of gallium fully covering EU demand," Metlen's president and chief executive officer Evangelos Mytilineos told journalists.

China, with a 98.8% share of refined gallium production, [imposed restrictions](#) on the export of the metal this year. The Greek company, which already processes bauxite, [plans to invest 300 million euros](#) in the extraction of gallium from raw materials and hopes to expand its activity to rare-earth metal scandium and to germanium which has widespread military applications.

Commission Vice President Stephane Sejourne, who is responsible for defining the bloc's industrial strategy, said during a visit to Metlen's mines in Greece that EU will support the project.

Continue at the links above; Full article at <https://www.mining.com/web/greeces-metlen-sees-gallium-production-at-50t-in-2028-enough-to-cover-eu-needs/>

### **How solar parks on agricultural land increase biodiversity, 27 Mar**

If managed appropriately, solar parks can increase biodiversity and contribute to biodiversity targets at the national and EU levels. A new study commissioned by the German Association for New Energy Industries demonstrates what is needed to achieve this.

Well-planned solar parks add value to biodiversity, according to a [field study](#) commissioned by the German Association for New Energy (BNE). According to the study, ground-mounted PV systems on structurally poor agricultural land create "a mosaic of new, obviously suitable habitats for many species," including a rich food supply, says environmental consultant Tim Peschel, who conducted the study with his firm Peschel Ökologie und Umwelt (Peschel Ecology and Environment) together with planner Rolf Peschel (no relation).

Continue, in German, at the link above and at <https://table.media/climate/news/feldstudie-wie-solarparks-auf-agrarflaechen-die-artenvielfalt-steigern/>

### **PPC to develop data center in former coal mines in W. Macedonia, 27 Mar**

*First phase will involve construction of 300MW data center,*

Greek state-owned utility Public Power Corp (PPC) has unveiled a plan to develop data centers in former lignite mines in Western Macedonia. The project, which is expected to represent an investment of €5 billion (\$5.38bn), will involve the construction of a 300MW data center as part of its first phase. The utility indicated that the data center could subsequently be upgraded to 1GW.

The data center will be powered by natural gas and solar, and feature a battery energy storage system (BESS), and pumped hydropower storage.

PPC intends to convert its last operational coal-fired plant, Ptolemaida 5, into a 350MW natural gas facility with the ability to burn hydrogen. The decision follows an announcement by the utility that it intends to fully phase out coal-fired power by 2026.

In addition, the utility intends to develop 1.3GW of solar power on the sites of the Amyndaio and Ptolemaida mines, as well as install a 300MW BESS and two pumped storage hydropower projects with a capacity of 320MW and 240MW.

...In recent months, PPC has increasingly targeted the data center sector as an area of growth. Late last year, in a [joint venture with data center developer Edgnex](#), it announced plans to develop a 12.5MW data center in Athens, Greece.

Continue at the link above; Full article at <https://www.datacenterdynamics.com/en/news/ppc-unveils-plan-to-develop-data-center-in-former-coal-mines-in-western-macedonia/>

### **Ratings could safeguard \$15-bln market for voluntary carbon in compliance schemes, finds analysis, 27 Mar**

The transacted value of voluntary carbon credits integrated into compliance schemes could reach \$15 bln by the early 2030s, according to a ratings agency – with ratings to play a key role in shoring up integrity.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/382386/>

### **France, Italy, Slovakia call for further simplification of CBAM amid export fears, 27 Mar**

France, Italy, and Slovakia have urged the European Commission to reassess the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) before its full implementation in 2026, warning that the current framework risks weakening the competitiveness of EU industrial exports.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/382351/>

### **Researchers list five options for carbon trading in a net-negative world, 27 Mar**

With the EU ETS emissions trajectory aiming for net zero by 2040, policymakers in Europe who have started thinking about the next steps have five main options for future carbon trading, according to researchers.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/382210/>

### **France puts ETS price corridor on EU agenda, questions funding model for Industrial Decarbonisation Bank, 27 Mar**

Paris on Thursday added a last-minute item to the agenda of a meeting of the EU27 environment ministers in Brussels, urging initiatives to stabilise prices across EU carbon markets, and questioning ETS funding for the bloc's future Industrial Decarbonisation Bank.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/382346>

### **New energy strategy proposed for Greece, 28 Mar**

...the political party 'Democracy Movement' proposes...a new energy strategy with "utilization of modern lignite units and investigation of the possibility of building a nuclear plant in Thrace", as well as de-reliance on natural gas and LNG, ... modernization of transport and energy networks, and smart grids...

Continue, in Greek, at [https://www.efsyn.gr/politiki/antipoliteysi/467408\\_pyriniko-ergostasio-sti-thraki-proteine-o-kasselakis](https://www.efsyn.gr/politiki/antipoliteysi/467408_pyriniko-ergostasio-sti-thraki-proteine-o-kasselakis)

### **EUAs post 6<sup>th</sup> 5-day loss in 8 weeks..., 28 Mar**

... despite flat trading as end of month and  $Q_1$  near

European carbon prices posted a five-day loss for the sixth time in eight weeks even after prices made marginal gains on Friday, boosted by technical buying after an early failure to make a significant break below Thursday's lows, while traders continued to discuss a French government proposal for a price corridor to encourage a more "stable" EUA price.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/382754/>

### **EC to present options for CBAM export compensation in May, 28 Mar**

The European Commission will put forward options in May to address the issue of "export leakage" for goods covered by the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), ahead of a formal legislative review due before the end of the year, an official has said.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/382902/>

### **Rooftop solar will pave way for decarbonisation of buildings, ahead of EU ETS<sub>2</sub>, 28 Mar**

Flexible, rooftop solar installations can deliver substantial emissions savings across Europe, as citizens prepare to face the evolving framework of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS<sub>2</sub>), set to cover heating and cooling fuels from 2027.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/382309/>

## **Elsewhere in Europe**

### **EPS investments in green energy EUR 3.5 billion by 2030, 13 Mar**

By 2030, EPS JSC will have invested more than three billion euros in green energy investment projects, of which more than two billion in renewable energy projects and around one billion euros in the construction of new and revitalization of existing hydro power plants - said Aleksandar Jakovljević, Executive Director for Investments and Development at EPS.

At the panel "New Projects for RES" at the conference "Auctions and Projects for Renewable Energy Sources - the Road to Green Kilowatts", he pointed out that EPS is intensively planning investments to ensure energy security and secure electricity supply, and that the construction of the Kostolac wind farm and the Petka solar power plant is approaching completion. Jakovljević also said that a project to build 1,000 MW of solar power plants with battery storage is being developed, and preparatory activities are also underway intensively for the construction of the Pumped-storage HPP Bistrica, which is one of the key projects for ensuring an increasing share of RES in the upcoming period.

Continue at <https://www.eps.rs/eng/vesti/Pages/jelica-konferencija.aspx>

### **Another electric vehicle to be produced in Serbia – Citroën e-C3, 21 Mar**

*After the Fiat Grande Panda electric car, the Citroën e-C3 will also be manufactured at the Stellantis factory in Kragujevac.*

In July last year, Stellantis [launched a trial production](#) of its electric Fiat Grande Panda in Kragujevac. Local media reported that the company would begin manufacturing Citroën C3 this year.

Saša Đorđević, president of the Kragujevac branch of the Confederation of Autonomous Trade Unions of Serbia (SSSS), said Citroën e-C3 would be produced in cooperation with the Stellantis factory in the Slovak city of Trnava. It is the primary site for the model. In his words, the Kragujevac factory already produces many parts for the facility in Slovakia.

The Fiat Grande Panda and e-C3 share the same platform, Đorđević added. According to him, it is good news for the employees in Kragujevac as more capacity would be utilized. -- And the good news for potential buyers of electric cars in Serbia is that the e-C3 will also be subsidized with EUR 5,000 apiece.

Continue at the link above; Full article at [https://balkangreenenergynews.com/another-electric-vehicle-to-be-produced-in-serbia-citroen-e-c3/?utm\\_source=phplist864&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=HTML&utm\\_campaign=Newsletter+March+26%2C+2025+%E2%80%A3+Balkan+Green+Energy+News](https://balkangreenenergynews.com/another-electric-vehicle-to-be-produced-in-serbia-citroen-e-c3/?utm_source=phplist864&utm_medium=email&utm_content=HTML&utm_campaign=Newsletter+March+26%2C+2025+%E2%80%A3+Balkan+Green+Energy+News)

### **Switzerland consults to ensure carbon market alignment with EU ETS, 25 Mar**

Switzerland has opened a consultation on Tuesday concerning proposed changes to keep its emissions trading system (ETS) aligned with that of the EU.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/381379/>

### **UK pushes for global IMO shipping levy, confirms maritime sector to join ETS from 2026, 25 Mar**

The UK government is pushing for the quick adoption of a global levy on shipping emissions after announcing on Tuesday that domestic maritime emissions will be cut by at least 30% by 2030 and 80% by 2040, with the sector coming into the ETS from next year.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/381370/>

### **EPS has initiated a study on the utilisation of hydrogen, 26 Mar**

Elektroprivreda Srbije (EPS) has commenced an evaluation of the feasibility and rationale for utilising hydrogen production and storage facilities within its production capacities. This analysis will reveal our potential and outline how we can begin incorporating hydrogen to meet our needs, stated Dušan Živković, General Manager of Elektroprivreda Srbije.

He emphasised the need to identify potential sites, determine the scale, and establish the methods for utilising the plant. The objectives include energy storage, diversification of storage options, reducing fossil fuel consumption for energy production, enhancing overall energy efficiency, integrating variable renewable energy sources (RES), and optimising the EPS energy balance.

"...Over the next 10 to 15 years, hydrogen can carve out its place in our future," stated Živković at the conference "Green Hydrogen as a Roadmap for Energy Transition".

Continue at <https://www.eps.rs/eng/vesti/Pages/konferencija-ovodoniku.aspx>

### **UK to exempt green H<sub>2</sub> producers from climate change tax on electricity, 27 Mar**

Finance ministry believes climate change levy exemption would level the playing field with blue H<sub>2</sub> producers

The UK government is planning to exempt green hydrogen producers from the country's green tax on energy consumption in an effort to level the playing field with blue H<sub>2</sub> producers, the country's finance minister Rachel Reeves said yesterday (Wednesday).

The so-called Climate Change Levy (CCL) has been in place since 2001 and effectively levies a charge on all users of energy, including power and gas. This would include green hydrogen producers, for whom electricity costs make up around 70% of the final levelised cost of hydrogen.

However, blue hydrogen producers that make H<sub>2</sub> from fossil gas and carbon capture and storage are already exempt from the CCL for their main feedstock (although not their electricity consumption) because the gas they use is classified as a "non-fuel", ie, used for its chemical properties rather than burnt for energy.

Continue at [https://www.hydrogeninsight.com/production/uk-to-exempt-green-hydrogen-producers-from-climate-change-tax-on-electricity/2-1-1798637?utm\\_campaign=2025-03-27&utm\\_content=hydrogen&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=email\\_campaign&utm\\_term=recharge](https://www.hydrogeninsight.com/production/uk-to-exempt-green-hydrogen-producers-from-climate-change-tax-on-electricity/2-1-1798637?utm_campaign=2025-03-27&utm_content=hydrogen&utm_medium=email&utm_source=email_campaign&utm_term=recharge)

### **Phase 2 of Northern Lights CCS project gets green light, 27 Mar**

The first phase of the Norwegian project is expected to receive its first carbon dioxide this year, with the second phase slated to start operations in late 2028.



*The Northern Lights carbon capture and storage facilities are in Øygarden outside of Bergen, Norway. Source: Torstein Lund Eik/Equinor*

Equinor and its partners are moving forward with the second phase of the Northern Lights carbon capture and storage (CCS) project in Norway.

Operator Equinor announced on 27 March that the Northern Lights joint venture (JV), which also includes Shell and TotalEnergies, had reached final investment decision (FID) on the \$713

million second phase of the CCS project after signing a commercial agreement with Stockholm Exergi to transport and store 900,000 tonnes of biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> annually for 15 years.

The first phase of the Northern Lights Phase 1 project, valued at \$710 million, reached FID in May 2020. Northern Lights is part of the larger Norwegian full-scale Longship CCS project that includes capturing CO<sub>2</sub> from industrial sources and shipping liquid CO<sub>2</sub> to the terminal in Øygarden, near Bergen, Norway.

In February, the Northern Lights JV announced the arrival of the *Northern Pioneer* in Stavanger. One of four sister vessels custom-designed for shipping liquid CO<sub>2</sub>, it will be capable of transporting 8,000 tonnes of liquid CO<sub>2</sub> between customer facilities and the receiving terminal.



*The 130-m-long Northern Pioneer can transport 8,000 tonnes of liquid carbon dioxide.*

*Source: TotalEnergies*

From Øygarden, the liquefied CO<sub>2</sub> will be piped to the Aurora saline aquifer 2,600 m under the seabed near the Troll field in the North Sea.

Phase 1 is expected to [receive first CO<sub>2</sub>](#) via ship this year from Heidelberg Materials' cement factory in Brevik, Norway, at the receiving terminal near Kollsnes on Norway's west coast. Northern Lights will also store CO<sub>2</sub> from the Hafslund Celsio waste-to-energy plant in Oslo. The Norwegian government covered about 80% of the cost for the first phase of the Northern Lights project.

Continue at the link above; Full article at <https://jpt.spe.org/phase-2-of-northern-lights-ccs-project-gets-green-light>

### **Ukraine's EU hopes turn critical, 28 Mar**

Ukraine's bid to secure accession to the EU risks being undermined by US President Donald Trump's push to secure critical minerals in the country. His administration is demanding the "right of first offer" on investments in all infrastructure and natural resources projects under a revised partnership deal with Kyiv, according to a [draft of the document we've obtained](#).

The agreement would grant the US first claim on profits transferred into a special reconstruction investment fund that would be controlled by Washington. Aid provided by the US would be seen as its contribution to the facility, effectively compelling Ukraine to pay for all the American support provided since the start of the war. If that wasn't enough, Brussels would likely see the unprecedented expansion of US economic influence as hampering its [membership bid](#).

Continue at the links above; Full article at *Bloomberg* <[noreply@news.bloomberg.com](mailto:noreply@news.bloomberg.com)> Mar 28

### **UK emissions drop in 2024, but international aviation bucks trend, 27 Mar**

The UK's greenhouse gas emissions fell around 4% year-on-year in 2024 amid a continued push for renewable power, although emissions from the international aviation sector, which are not included in the figures, bucked the trend to return to levels predating the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/382329/>

## UK forest carbon standard to publish new crediting framework in July, 28 Mar

A UK forest carbon standard will launch a new version of its crediting code later this year, as part of its ongoing commitment to improvement, it said in an update on Friday.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/382873/>

## USA

### 84% of Companies keeping or accelerating climate targets: PwC, 25 Mar

The vast majority of public companies are either retaining or ramping up their climate commitments, with companies found to be more than twice as likely to be increasing their emissions reduction goals than decelerating them, according to a new study released by professional services firm PwC, based on data from climate research provider and environmental disclosure platform CDP.

The study also found that the practice of setting climate goals is progressing down the value chain as companies increase engagement efforts, with smaller companies representing a growing proportion of those introducing new targets.

Continue at <https://www.esgtoday.com/84-of-companies-keeping-or-accelerating-climate-targets-pwc/>

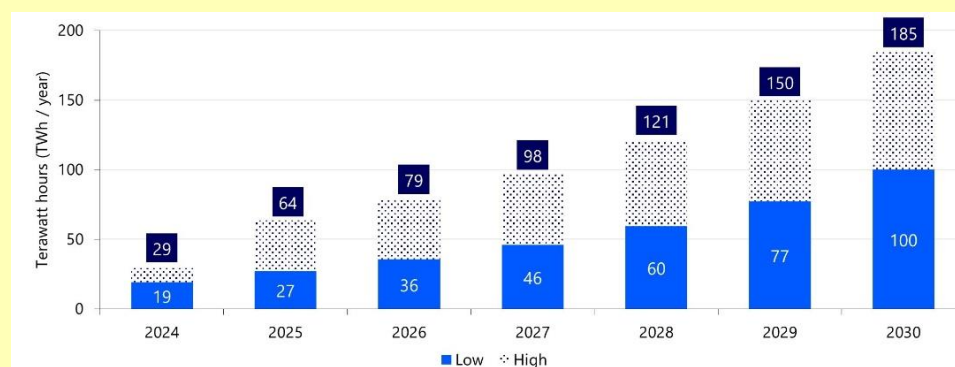
### US grids must harness electric vehicle growth to tackle load risks, 25 Mar

U.S. deployment of electric vehicles (EVs) is expected to grow rapidly in the coming years, alongside soaring demand from [data centers](#), changing how utilities and grid operators manage loads and expand their power networks.

President Trump has removed electric vehicle targets and reduced funding support but experts continue to predict strong growth in EV deployment due to long-term automaker commitments, state-level policies, consumer adoption trends and falling [battery](#) prices.

Rabobank estimates EVs will add between 100 and 185 terawatt-hours (TWh) to U.S. electricity demand by 2030, equivalent to 2.5% and 4.6% of the country's total electricity consumption. Consultancy PwC expects EV adoption in the U.S. to be around 30% of all sales by 2030, mainly driven by manufacturers introducing more affordable EVs to the public. By 2040, EV adoption should be closer to 60% of all U.S. light-duty vehicle sales, with EV load rising from an estimated 24 TWh in 2023 to 468 TWh by 2040.

*CHART: Forecast US electricity demand from passenger EVs*



Continue at the links above; Full article at *Reuters Events Energy Transition via LinkedIn* <newsletters-noreply@linkedin.com> Mar 25

### **Trump to impose 25% tariff on countries that buy oil, gas from Venezuela, 25 Mar**

WASHINGTON (Reuters) -U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday that any country that buys oil or gas from Venezuela will pay a 25% tariff on any trades made with the United States.

This "secondary tariff" will take effect on April 2, Trump said in a Truth Social post. Trump said he is imposing the move because, he said, Venezuela has sent "tens of thousands" of people to the United States who have a "very violent nature."

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/companies/trump-to-impose-25-tariff-on-countries-that-buy-oil-gas-from-venezuela/ar-AA1ByAZX?ocid=BingNewsSerp>

### **Critical minerals cooperation between the US and the DRC, March 2025**

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is one of the world's most resource-rich countries, and in 2024, it attracted the largest volume of mineral exploration investment in Africa. Enhancing U.S.-DRC cooperation is critical to counterbalance China's dominance. The United States has historically underinvested in commercial diplomacy in the DRC, while China has established control over key mines through state-backed financing and infrastructure-for-resources deals. This brief answers two questions: First, how can the U.S. government utilize its resources to maximize impact in this sector? And second, what reforms can the DRC government implement to attract investment? Building the bilateral minerals partnership will require a suite of bilateral diplomatic, financial, and legislative reforms.

Full Report at <https://www.csis.org/analysis/building-critical-minerals-cooperation-between-united-states-and-democratic-republic-congo>

### **Car imports: Trump announces tariffs of up to 25 percent, 26 Mar**

*US President Donald Trump announced a 25% tariff on automobile imports on Wednesday.*

Tariffs on cars are set to go into effect in the US on the night of April 3. US President Donald Trump announced this on Wednesday at the White House. "What we're going to do is impose a 25 percent tariff on all cars that weren't made in the US," Trump said. The tariffs are permanent, said the US president, who has repeatedly suspended tariff decisions after a short period of time in recent weeks. According to Trump's [proclamation](#), a 25 percent tariff on car parts is also to be imposed by May 3 at the latest.

Continue at the link above; Full article at [https://table.media/europe/news/\\_\\_\\_trashed-76/](https://table.media/europe/news/___trashed-76/)

### **Project developer admits delays to FID for billion-dollar, green hydrogen-based fertiliser project due to cost uncertainty amid US tariffs, 27 Mar**

Project developer Atlas Agro, which is working on a \$1.5bn dollar green hydrogen-based fertiliser plant in Washington state, has admitted that it will be unable to take a final investment decision that had been scheduled for early 2025 due to uncertainties around cost.

"Specifically, potential tariffs on steel and key equipment like solar panels and batteries, have made it increasingly difficult to secure the cost certainty needed for a project of this scale," Dan Holmes, chief growth officer and co-founder at Atlas Agro, exclusively told *Hydrogen Insight*,

referring to the company's Pacific Green Fertiliser project, which is a key part of the Pacific Northwest Hydrogen hub.

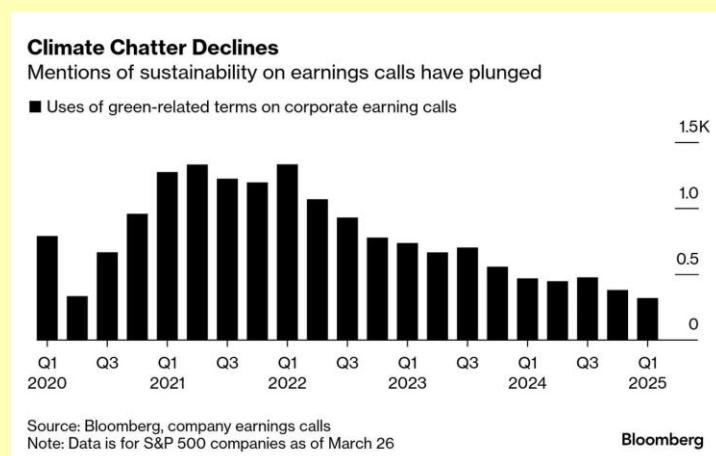
For the full story, click [here](#)

### Earnings calls avoid climate talk in the US, 27 Mar

In boardrooms across America, mentions of sustainability and related terms on earnings calls have dropped steeply as public companies see less to gain from associating themselves with environmental goals.

*Bloomberg Green* analyzed transcripts of S&P 500 company earnings calls going back to 2020, tracking mentions of more than a dozen terms including climate change, global warming, ESG, clean energy and green energy. On average, companies are talking about the environment 76% less than they were three years ago.

Green chatter on quarterly calls peaked at the beginning of 2022, months before passage of then-President Joe Biden's landmark climate law, the [Inflation Reduction Act](#). In 2025, it has dropped to the lowest level since the second quarter of 2020, at the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.



The dearth of green talk comes as President Donald Trump pivots the US away from climate action. Trump has pulled the country out of the Paris Agreement for the second time and has [targeted](#) environmental programs and jobs for elimination. Agencies have [flagged](#) climate terms as words to avoid.

Continue at the links above; Full article at *Bloomberg Green* <noreply@news.bloomberg.com> Mar 27

### Nantucket appeals BOEM's approval of SouthCoast Wind, 28 Mar

The Town and County of Nantucket has appealed the federal permit of the SouthCoast Wind offshore wind project, which is being developed 30 miles (48km) south of Martha's Vineyard and 20 miles south of Nantucket, Massachusetts.

[Read more](#)

### US SEC votes to end defence of climate disclosure rules in circuit courts, 28 Mar

The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) announced Thursday that it had voted to withdraw defending its rules in court that required companies to disclose climate-related risks and GHG emissions.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/382637/>

### **US blue hydrogen producers likely to choose 45Q tax credits over 45V, 28 Mar**

Blue hydrogen producers may more often use 45Q tax credits rather than the generous 45V clean hydrogen tax credits due to the latter's higher carbon intensity standards, according to a new report.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/382607/>

### **CCAs drop during NACW as ARB fails to inspire; WCAs drive towards APCR trigger, 28 Mar**

California Carbon Allowance (CCA) prices dipped during the North American Carbon Week (NACW) conference after an early-week bump as state regulator ARB largely avoided any statements to provide greater programme clarity, while Washington Carbon Allowances (WCAs) gained over 7% as they were pulled towards the Allowance Price Containment Reserve (APCR) trigger price, traders said.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/382473/>

### **Split US Supreme Court may rule against EPA in Clean Air Act venue question, 29 Mar**

The US Supreme Court may be poised to rule against the EPA in a pair of cases challenging the agency's alleged penchant to transfer lawsuits to the friendly grounds of the DC Circuit court, although the outcome may hinge on the opinion of a single justice, an environmental law specialist said Thursday.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/382993/>

### **Oregon DEQ proposes to delay NOx mandates for heavy-duty vehicles by 1 year, 29 Mar**

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) published proposed clean truck rules on Friday that would delay the implementation of low NOx regulations to model year (MY) 2026 engines, and create additional flexibilities within the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) regulations.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/382990/>

### **Traders continue to reduce CCA exposure as emitters build RGGI, LFS shorts, 29 Mar**

Market participants continued to cut their exposure to California Carbon Allowances (CCAs), while emitters went into a net short position in V25 RGGI allowances (RGAs) and once again built Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LFS) shorts, data published Friday by the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) showed.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/382914/>

## **China**

### **Chinese exchanges explore CCER-linked financial products, 25 Mar**

Exchanges in China are exploring innovative financial products linked to carbon credits issued under the national voluntary programme, amid rising interest in project investment across the country.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/381217/>

### **China decides on soft ETS start for steel, cement and aluminum, 26 Mar**

China has officially decided to expand its emissions trading scheme to include the steel, cement, and aluminum sectors.

[China will expand its emissions trading scheme to include the steel, cement, and aluminum industries, according to a work plan](#) published Wednesday. Starting at the end of 2025, 1,500 steel, iron, and aluminum smelters, as well as companies in the cement sector, will be required to participate in the ETS. However, this will be a "soft start," as ETS expert Yan Qin of Clear Blue Markets [writes](#)

Continue, in German, at the link above and at <https://table.media/climate/news/ets-china-beschliesst-sanften-start-fuer-stahl-zement-und-aluminium/>

### **JinkoSolar's 2024 results hit by lower PV module prices, 27 Mar**

Chinese solar product maker JinkoSolar Holding Co Ltd (NYSE:JKS) saw its net profit and revenues tumble in 2024, largely hit by the imbalance between supply and demand in the global market that dragged down module selling prices.

[Read more](#)

### **CN Markets: CEAs extend recent losses, ETS expansion plan expected to drag down demand, 28 Mar**

Permit prices in China's national CO<sub>2</sub> emissions market continued to drop over the past week, with analysts expecting what they see as the unambitious plan for the country's ETS expansion to weigh on market prices.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/382755/>

### **China seeks voluntary carbon methodology proposals under CCER program, 28 Mar**

China has issued a call for proposals to add new carbon methodologies to the country's national voluntary program.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/382706/>

### **China domestic ETS price, 28 Mar**

Today's China price is 86.13 yuan/mt CO<sub>2</sub> eq, per Live Carbon prices today, 28 Mar in the 'Section Elsewhere in the World. Internationally' below.

China launched its own domestic ETS in 2021, though carbon credits had already traded extensively at the provincial and municipal levels for years beforehand. The world's largest in terms of emissions covered, China's ETS is estimated to account for over 40% of the country's carbon emissions (roughly 4 billion tCO<sub>2</sub>), largely from its power sector. The ETS is expected to expand to cover other sectors in the years to come, and should serve as an important tool in the Chinese government's climate change mitigation plans.

The ETS is expected to expand to cover other sectors in the years to come, and should serve as an important tool in the Chinese government's climate change mitigation plans.

## Elsewhere in the World. Internationally

### **Russia's high-flying gas exporter Gazprom crippled as Europe stays away, 13 Mar**

- *Gazprom's Europe-facing export arm considers selling lavish offices, sources say*
- *Down to just a handful of employees, job cuts also approved at headquarters, sources say*
- *European buyers cast doubt on return to Russian gas in case of Ukraine peace*
- *Russia's gas exports to China unlikely to replace European market losses*

(Reuters) - When the CEO of Russian state gas giant Gazprom, Alexei Miller, opened a lavish Italian palazzo-styled building in central St Petersburg to house the company's export arm 11 years ago, he augured a future funded by European sales. "This is symbolic," he said, referring to the modern new offices in Russia's most European city. "Europe will increasingly need Russian gas."

Instead, the opulent offices have come to symbolize Gazprom's rapid decline, dragged down by the almost total loss of European markets after the war in Ukraine ruptured Russia's ties with the West.

Continue at <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/gazproms-grandeur-fades-europe-abandons-russian-gas-2025-03-13/>

### **Japan's JERA creates global renewables-focused unit in Britain, 15 Apr**

LONDON (Reuters) - Japan's largest power company JERA Co. has created a global renewable energy business to be headquartered in London, as it seeks to increase low-carbon investments to meet decarbonisation targets, the head of the new unit told Reuters.

Named JERA Nex, the unit will develop, invest in, own and operate renewable energy projects such as onshore and offshore wind, solar energy and battery storage. Starting with a 3 GW portfolio of renewables assets, it aims to develop 20 gigawatts (GW) of renewables capacity by 2035 and is considering investments across the globe as well as in its home market Japan, its CEO Nathalie Oosterlinck said. She said the unit would focus on adding capacity through selected acquisitions and partnerships as well as developing projects alone.

JERA is a joint venture between Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings and Chubu Electric Power Co Inc. It aims to achieve net zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050.

Continue at <https://uk.finance.yahoo.com/news/japans-jera-creates-global-renewables-060649705.html>

### **Russia to launch industrial lithium production in 2030, 17 Mar**

MOSCOW— Russia plans to produce at least 60,000 tonnes of lithium carbonate in 2030, Reuters cited the country's natural resources ministry as saying on Monday.

The move aims to reduce Russia's dependency on imports and increase the production of high-capacity electric batteries. Demand for lithium has surged in recent years as Russian companies work on mass production of lithium batteries and electric vehicles.

The country has traditionally imported lithium, and it is now crucial to launch facilities swiftly and increase the extraction and processing of this strategically important resource for the economy," Reuters cited the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment as saying.

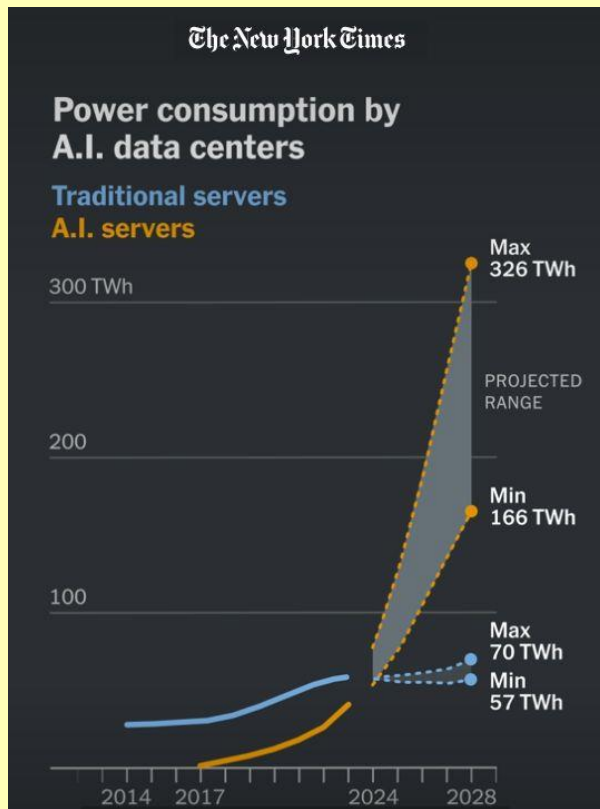
The ministry said it had issued exploration licences for three major lithium deposits: Kolmozerskoye and Polmostundrovskoye in the Murmansk region in northwestern Russia, and Tastygskoye in the Tuva region, which borders Mongolia. All three deposits and their adjacent production plants are expected to become operational by 2030, the ministry said.

Continue at <https://theenergyyear.com/news/russia-to-launch-industrial-lithium-production-in-2030/#:~:text=MOSCOW%2C%20March%2017%2C%202025%20%E2%80%93%20Russia%20plans%20to,and%20increase%20the%20production%20of%20high-capacity%20electric%20batteries>

## The rise of AI has been changing the narrative in the energy world, 18 Mar

*It fuels expectations for a significant rise of power consumption – especially in those countries (like US) where there are massive investment in new data centres*

*And it underpinning a “lively” debate in what sources can underpin such growth.*



[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/alessandro-biasi-6579a66\\_energy-investment-renewables-activity-7307784898365280257-3ile?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAEFyzUBI0DgxG11h7zD4hIFkiaHToWvqe8](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/alessandro-biasi-6579a66_energy-investment-renewables-activity-7307784898365280257-3ile?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAEFyzUBI0DgxG11h7zD4hIFkiaHToWvqe8)

## MOL Energia, SCG Chemicals ink long-term time charters for 2 more VLECs, 18 Mar

Singapore-based MOL Energia, a company under Japan's Mitsui OSK Lines (MOL), has entered into long-term charter contracts with Thailand's SCG Chemicals (SCGC) for two very large ethane carriers (VLECs) in addition to [three vessels](#) already contracted on January 24 of this year.

Of the approximately 90 dedicated liquefied ethane carriers currently in service or on order worldwide, this deal will bring the number of VLECs managed and operated by the MOL Group to 14.

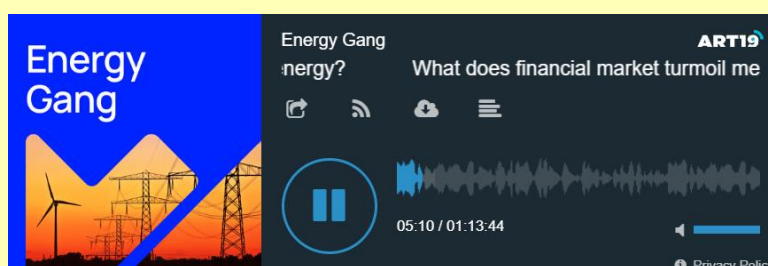
Samsung Heavy Industries in South Korea will build two more 100,000-cubic-metre VLECs for delivery in 2028, along with the vessels contracted in January. The vessels will be equipped with ethane dual-fuel propulsion engines, which will reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, sulphur oxides, and nitrogen oxides compared to vessels that run on conventional fuel oil.

With the conclusion of this contract, the MOL Group will own a total of five newly built dedicated liquefied ethane carriers serving SCGC, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Siam Cement Group.

The MOL Group will be responsible for transporting all of the ethane used at SCGC's petrochemical plants in Vietnam.

Continue at the link above; Full article at <https://www.bairdmaritime.com/shipping/gas/mol-energia-scg-chemicals-ink-long-term-time-charters-for-two-additional-vlecs>

### **What does financial market turmoil mean for low-carbon energy? 18 Mar**



Listen at [https://www.woodmac.com/podcasts/the-energy-gang/what-does-financial-market-turmoil-mean-for-low-carbon-energy/?utm\\_source=inside-track&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=financial-market-turmoil-eg-28march2025-iss333&utm\\_campaign=inside-track-march-2025](https://www.woodmac.com/podcasts/the-energy-gang/what-does-financial-market-turmoil-mean-for-low-carbon-energy/?utm_source=inside-track&utm_medium=email&utm_content=financial-market-turmoil-eg-28march2025-iss333&utm_campaign=inside-track-march-2025)

### **Thrifty shoppers are helping the planet, 22 Mar**

Shoppers around the world are quickly adding more used shoes, accessories and clothes to their closets. Last year, they spent \$227 billion on secondhand apparel, accounting for nearly 10% of all global spending on clothes, according to a new report from online resale marketplace [ThredUp Inc.](#)

The trend is set to accelerate, particularly in the US where President Donald Trump's tariffs are likely to increase the price of new clothes, and globally thanks to changing consumer attitudes on used items.

The benefits of buying and selling used items for the planet are clear: Secondhand avoids the greenhouse emissions generated by producing and transporting new clothes. Similarly, selling used clothes rather than trashing them is environmentally friendly.

The marketplace for secondhand has moved beyond donation and vintage shops, with a growing online ecosystem for buying used, including eBay, ThredUp, Poshmark and other sites where customers can directly sell and purchase items.

More brands are also setting up their own online resale offerings, either independently or by outsourcing to companies that provide resale services, including Archive and Trove. Outdoor apparel maker [Patagonia Inc](#) and sneaker seller [AllBirds Inc](#) are among those that use Trove's services.

Global secondhand fashion sales, which rose 15% in 2024 from the previous year, are projected to surpass \$250 billion in 2025 and then exceed \$300 billion in 2027, according to the report

published this week, based on ThredUp data and research from the third-party retail analytics firm GlobalData.

While affordability is a big reason for the uptick, consumers are no longer stuck on the idea that new is better. Historically, there was a stigma around secondhand shopping, says Samina Virk, US chief executive officer for the high-end online resale marketplace Vestiaire Collective, but “it’s now become the norm.”

Continue at the links above; Full article at *Bloomberg Green* <noreply@news.bloomberg.com> Mar 22

### 'One year of global plastic waste visualized', 24 Mar



Continue, with text, at <https://www.voronoiaapp.com/sustainability/One-year-of-global-plastic-waste-visualized-4407>

### Emissions and economic growth finally separate, IEA says, 24 Mar

The International Energy Agency (IEA) found a record year for power demand in 2024 even as emissions growth slowed, underlining the fact that after decades, economic and emissions growth are finally and demonstrably decoupling.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/380841/>

### Japanese LNG drive would be better spent on domestic renewables, 24 Mar

Japan would be better able to shore up its domestic energy security via investing more in renewables within its own borders than LNG projects outside of them, especially in geopolitically fraught areas, a think tank warned this week.

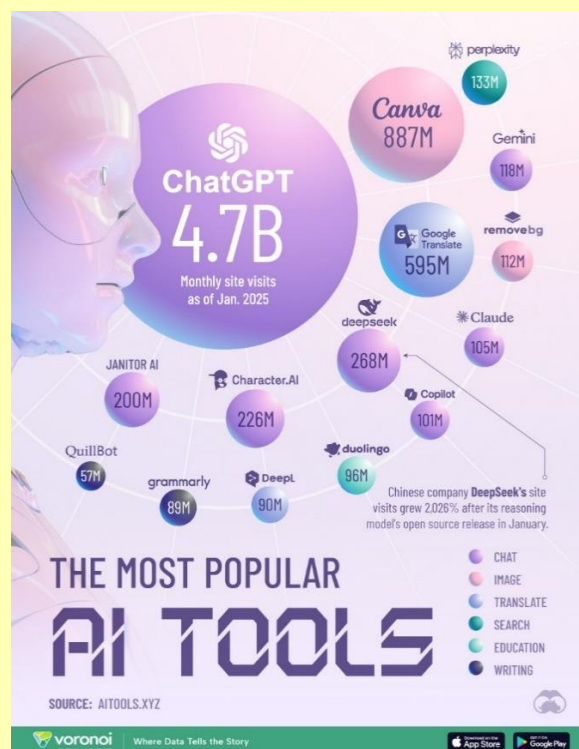
<https://carbon-pulse.com/380880/>

## Japanese beverage group outlines strategy for carbon credit purchases, devt, 24 Mar

A Tokyo-listed beverage group has formulated a carbon credit purchase and development policy that prioritises offsets from forestry and sustainable agriculture projects.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/380828/>

## Ranked: Most popular AI tools by monthly site visits, 24 Mar



Continue, with text, at <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/ranked-most-popular-ai-tools-by-monthly-site-visits/>

## Could tariffs give Canada's EVs a jolt? 24 Mar

The trade war between the US and Canada threatens to throw a wrench into the prospects for decarbonizing both economies — though it may offer some longer-term opportunities for Canada, especially in the area of electric vehicles.

Bilateral tariffs on steel and aluminum are already in place, and industry is bracing for more US levies on April 2. President Donald Trump had said tariffs on auto imports from Mexico and Canada would go into effect on that date, but officials recently indicated that sectoral tariffs will be excluded from this round and could come later.

Applying tariffs to this highly integrated supply chain — which often sees parts cross the border multiple times during assembly — would likely raise prices significantly.

Yet the tariffs may have less of an impact on North American electric cars and, longer-term, may offer Canada some opportunities.

Traditional gasoline-burning vehicles contain more border-crossing parts than EVs, according to BloombergNEF research, which notes that auto tariffs may drive up those prices more,

providing a leg up to EVs. “The overall impact is interesting because the tariffs might actually be a good thing for electric vehicle production, relative to ICE production,” said Antoine Vagneur-Jones, head of trade and supply chains for BNEF.

Continue at *Bloomberg Green* <noreply@news.bloomberg.com> Mar 23

### **Turkish State Railways to build massive solar power capacity for own consumption, 24 Mar**

Turkish State Railways (TCDD) is preparing to build a solar power plant of 159.3 MW, [Enerji Günlüğü](#) reported. One in a group of ten such facilities throughout the country, it would generate electricity for the company’s consumption.

The facility would have a grid connection of 118 MW to a 154 kV transmission line. It would be one of the biggest PV plants in the country. The investment is part of the firm’s plan for ten solar power plants to meet its climate targets.

Infrastructure authorities and companies in Turkey are increasingly turning to photovoltaics for decarbonization and the security of energy supply.

Continue at the link above and at [https://balkangreenenergynews.com/turkish-state-railways-to-build-massive-solar-power-capacity-for-own-consumption/?utm\\_source=phplist864&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=HTML&utm\\_campaign=Newsletter+March+26%2C+2025+%E2%80%93+Balkan+Green+Energy+News](https://balkangreenenergynews.com/turkish-state-railways-to-build-massive-solar-power-capacity-for-own-consumption/?utm_source=phplist864&utm_medium=email&utm_content=HTML&utm_campaign=Newsletter+March+26%2C+2025+%E2%80%93+Balkan+Green+Energy+News)

### **Siemens Gamesa to divest most of India, Sri Lanka wind biz to TPG, 26 Mar**

Siemens Gamesa will offload 90% of its wind business in India and Sri Lanka to an investor group led by US private equity firm TPG ([NASDAQ:TPG](#)) in a move that will allow it to shift its focus to core markets.

The wind power subsidiary of Siemens Energy AG ([ETR:ENR](#)) announced the plan on Wednesday, keeping financial details under wraps.

Under the deal, around 1,000 employees and two manufacturing plants in India will be transferred to a new company that will be majority-controlled by TPG. Siemens Gamesa will own a 10% stake in the transferred business.

Continue at the links above and at [https://renewablesnow.com/news/siemens-gamesa-to-divest-most-of-india-sri-lanka-wind-biz-to-tpg-1272851/?utm\\_campaign=daily-newsletter-by-renewables-now&utm\\_edition=202503260358&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=newsletter](https://renewablesnow.com/news/siemens-gamesa-to-divest-most-of-india-sri-lanka-wind-biz-to-tpg-1272851/?utm_campaign=daily-newsletter-by-renewables-now&utm_edition=202503260358&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter)

### **New Forests partners with Japanese papermaker to build new forestry fund, 26 Mar**

Global forestry investment manager New Forests has partnered with one of Japan’s largest paper and pulp producers to establish a fund dedicated to forest investments.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/381663/>

### **MOL secures ocean carbon removal credits from US startup, 26 Mar**

Japanese shipping giant Mitsui OSK Lines (MOL) has secured carbon removal credits from a California-based startup developing direct ocean capture (DOC) technology, a move to support its 2050 net zero target and diversify its project portfolio.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/381684/>

## Japanese megabank signs on to Zurich-based CDR buyers club portfolio, 28 Mar

A Japanese megabank has joined a Zurich-headquartered carbon removal (CDR) buyers club as a major offtaker, the coalition announced Thursday.

<https://carbon-pulse.com/381433/>

## Electric metal prices, 28 Mar

CARBON CREDITS .com	Last	Change
<b>Electric Metal Prices</b>		
Lithium Carbonate 99.5%	¥74,150.00	-
Uranium Spot Price	\$70.05	-
Copper Spot Price	\$5.09	-
Nickel Futures	\$16,202.89	-
Aluminum Spot	\$2,550.85	-
Natural Gas	\$4.09	-

**Live Carbon prices, 28 Mar** *Note: EU ETS price shown below differs from the one in the Section 'EU Emissions allowances'*

CARBON CREDITS .com	Last	Change	YTD
<b>Live Carbon Prices</b>			
<b>COMPLIANCE MARKETS</b>			
European Union	€68.76	-	-8.55%
UK	\$44.80	-	+23.14%
Australia (AUD)	\$32.60	-	-10.07%
New Zealand (NZD)	\$59.00	-	-5.60%
South Korea	\$6.12	-	-5.37%
China	¥86.13	-	-11.65%
<b>VOLUNTARY MARKETS</b>			
Aviation Industry Offset	\$0.17	-	+30.77%
Nature Based Offset	\$0.43	-	-25.86%
Tech Based Offset	\$0.35	-	-

<https://carboncredits.com/carbon-prices-today/>

## New Technology

### Machine learning enhances refractory material and technological design, March 2025

...In the past several years, ML algorithms have been increasingly employed in the refractory industry, which consumes a high amount of exhaustible natural resources. Thanks to big data

collection in metallurgical plants, ML algorithms can be readily applied to the development of more durable, cost-effective, and energy-efficient refractory materials and technologies.

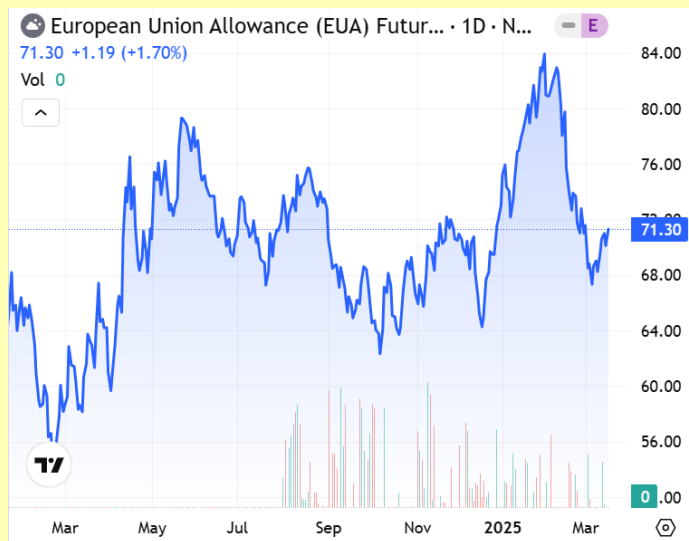
There are several dominant aims of using ML in the refractory industry: predicting refractory lifetime in a service environment, optimizing industrial processes to extend this lifetime, tracking the pattern of wear to reduce failure risk, and optimizing refractory compositions. All these avenues of investigation can contribute to the transformation of the refractory and metallurgical industry to be more environmentally friendly and resource efficient.

Although the benefits of using artificial intelligence tools are unquestionably groundbreaking, the complexity and large number of parameters influencing refractory materials in high-temperature and corrosive industrial processing environments require manufacturers to possess extraordinary insight, a critical approach, and reasonableness. Many manufacturers are willing to put in the work, as demonstrated by the panel “Modeling and Digitalization,” which was held at the 2023 Unified International Technical Conference on Refractories in Frankfurt, Germany.

Full story at <https://bulletin.ceramics.org/article/refractory-advancements-machine-learning-enhances-material-and-technological-design/>

## EU Emissions allowances

### EU-ETS carbon pricing, 28 Mar (-)



<https://carboncredits.com/carbon-prices-today/>

Note: Original link is interactive

*Natural Resources PC*