

ESG Newsletter

January 2026

Your Knowledge Digest

New Clarity AI Survey Reveals AI's Growing Role as Climate Risk and Regulation Reshape Markets

UN Sounds Alarm Over Rising Demands on Water Resources as Scarcity Increases

News | Regional

Qatar's AI Mana Holding Commits \$200M to Egypt Sustainable Aviation Fuel Plant

Qatar's AI Mana Holding signed a \$200M deal to build a sustainable aviation fuel plant in Egypt's Suez Canal Economic Zone. The facility will produce 200,000 tonnes annually, with Shell securing full offtake from 2027, positioning Egypt as a regional decarbonization hub.



Arabian Qudra to Set Up First Floating Solar Plant in Saudi Arabia

Arabian Qudra partners with Saudi Water Authority to launch Saudi Arabia's first floating solar power plant, marking a major step in renewable energy innovation. The deal was signed during the Innovation Driven Water Sustainability Conference (IDWS).



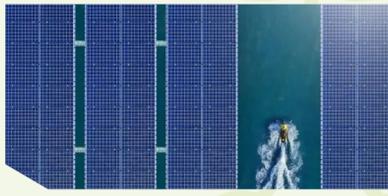
Oman's Clean Energy Share Reaches Nearly 10% in 2025

Renewables supplied 9.46% of Oman's grid electricity in 2025, marking a major step toward its 30% target by 2030. With 1,550 MW installed and 7,300 MW in the pipeline, Oman is accelerating its clean energy transition.



UAE Sustainable Finance Working Group Sets Execution Agenda at Abu Dhabi Finance Week 2025

The UAE Sustainable Finance Working Group issued its fourth statement at Abu Dhabi Finance Week, shifting focus to market execution on governance, disclosures, taxonomy, and transition planning. New Climate Transition Principles align institutions with ISSB standards and UAE Net Zero 2050 goals.



GCC Countries Set Advanced Model in Social Protection: GCC-Stat

GCC-Stat reports Gulf states as global leaders in social protection, achieving universal access to education, healthcare, and housing. With advanced welfare systems and strong economic capacity, the GCC sets a benchmark for inclusive and sustainable development.



News | International

Canada to Launch Sustainable Investment Taxonomy in 2026

Canada appointed the Canadian Climate Institute to develop a voluntary sustainable investment taxonomy, with initial green and transition guidelines due by end of 2026. Aligned with global standards, the framework will enable credible labeling for bonds and support Canada's 2050 net-zero goals.



EU to Scrap Requirements for 100% Emissions Reduction from New Cars by 2035

The EU's new Automotive Package proposes lowering the 2035 CO₂ target for cars and vans to 90%, allowing hybrids alongside EVs. It introduces flexible compliance, eases 2030 van targets, and launches a €1.8B Battery Booster to boost clean mobility competitiveness.



EU Parliament Approves Omnibus Agreement to Cut Sustainability Reporting and Due Diligence Requirements

Lawmakers adopted the Omnibus I package, sharply reducing the scope of CSRD and CSDDD by raising thresholds and removing climate transition plan requirements. The agreement also lowers penalties, limits supply chain reporting, and introduces flexibility measures, while retaining review clauses for possible future expansion.



ISSB Eases Climate Reporting Requirements for Finance Firms

ISSB announced amendments to IFRS S2 climate disclosure requirements to ease reporting for financial firms. Key changes clarify Scope 3 financed emissions, exclude derivatives, and allow alternative classifications and jurisdictional MWP values. The update aims to provide relief while maintaining decision-useful information for investors.



EU to Expand CBAM Carbon Import Tax to Downstream Products to Avoid Production Shift to Countries with Weaker Climate Policies

EU proposes expanding CBAM to 180 steel and aluminum-intensive downstream products to prevent carbon leakage. New measures include stricter reporting, anti-circumvention rules, and a temporary fund for vulnerable EU producers. The update aims to ensure fair carbon pricing and strengthen Europe's clean transition.



GRI Releases New Draft Standards for Workforce Human Rights Disclosure Standards

GRI released draft updates to labor standards on forced labor, child labor, and labor rights across value chains. The revisions strengthen disclosures on due diligence, incident reporting, and worker engagement, with new prevention requirements. Public consultation runs until March 9, 2026, as part of GRI's broader Labor Project.



New York Releases Regulation Requiring Mandatory GHG Reporting for Large Emitters from 2027

The NY Department of Environmental Conservation will require carbon-intensive sectors to report greenhouse gas emissions starting in 2027, ensuring transparency and supporting state climate goals despite federal rollbacks.



China Drives \$80 Billion in Overseas Clean Technology Expansion

Chinese firms invested \$80B in overseas clean tech projects last year, bringing total since 2023 to over \$180B. Expansion spans Asia, MENA, Africa, and Latin America, driven by oversupply and global energy transition demand. Mega-projects in hydrogen, batteries, and EV ecosystems are reshaping industrial and geopolitical dynamics.



Google Signs 21-Year Clean Energy Deal with TotalEnergies to Power Malaysia Data Centers

Google signed a long-term PPA with TotalEnergies to supply 1 TWh of renewable energy from a new solar plant in Malaysia. The deal supports Google's 24/7 carbon-free energy goal and builds on a recent U.S. agreement for 1.5 TWh of clean power. This partnership advances sustainability while enabling local grid decarbonization.



EU Commission Harmonizes Circular Economy Rules to Reignite Plastic Recycling Market

The European Commission launched new pilot actions to harmonize EU-wide plastics recycling rules, aiming to boost circularity and fair competition. Measures include end-of-waste criteria, recycled content verification, and steps to strengthen the Single Market for recycled plastics.

NBK ESG Highlights of the Month



NBK Run Reinforces Its Status as Kuwait's Largest Sporting Event

NBK Run 2025 marked its 31st edition with over 7,000 participants and new race categories, reinforcing its status as Kuwait's largest sporting event. The celebration crowned 18 champions and featured exciting prizes, promoting health, sports, and community spirit.

NBK Closes Exceptional 2025 Marked by Unprecedented Achievements

NBK closes 2025 with record-breaking achievements and global recognition, reinforcing its status in innovation and sustainability. A year marked by exceptional employee engagement and strategic milestones, setting new benchmarks for growth and excellence.

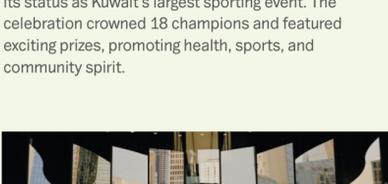


NBK Celebrates 10 Years of its Most Valuable Team Player and Most Collaborative Team Awards

NBK marks 10 years of its "Most Valuable Team Player" and "Most Collaborative Team" awards, honoring 83 outstanding employees and 32 teams in 2025, bringing the program's decade-long total to 650 individuals and 165 teams recognized for their exceptional teamwork.

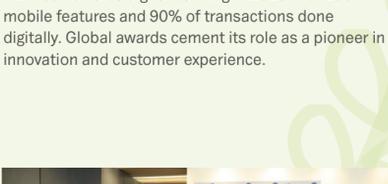
NBK Reinforces Its Leadership in Consumer and Digital Banking Services Throughout 2025

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