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Regional

- 1 Kazakhstan Updates ESG Disclosure Guidance to Align Banking Sector with Climate Standards
- 2 Azerbaijan Central Bank Expands ESG Requirements for Financial Institutions
- 3 Kyrgyzstan Considers Launching Domestic Solar Panel Production
- 4 Kazakhstan and China Expand Cooperation on Large-Scale Renewable Energy Projects

Contents:

Contents:

Global

- 1 ISO Introduces Global Climate Adaptation Standard to Strengthen Local Resilience Planning
- 2 HKMA Expands Sustainable Finance Taxonomy with Transition and Adaptation Categories
- 3 EU Launches First Certification Methodologies for Permanent Carbon Removal Technologies
- 4 GHG Protocol Publishes New Land Sector and Removals Accounting Guidance
- 5 SBTi Publishes Revised Net-Zero Standard Draft for Automotive Industry
- 6 IPSASB Establishes Global Climate Disclosure Baseline for Public Sector Entities
- 7 EU Parliament Endorses 90% Emissions Reduction Goal for 2040
- 8 European Commission Clears EUR 3bn German Aid Package to Expand Clean Technology Manufacturing
- 9 New Water Sustainability Index Aims to Close ESG Reporting Gap on Water Use



Regional

Kazakhstan Updates ESG Disclosure Guidance to Align Banking Sector with Climate Standards

The Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Regulation and Development of Financial Market approved amendments to the ESG disclosure guidance for banks and financial institutions, introducing a revised framework focused on climate and sustainability reporting. The updated document expands disclosure requirements across commercial banking, brokerage, trade finance and microfinance activities, while also being applicable to insurers and asset managers. The guidance is aligned with IFRS S1, IFRS S2 and European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS), strengthening transparency on climate risks, governance and performance metrics. The order entered into force upon signing in January 2026.

[Read more](#)



Azerbaijan Central Bank Expands ESG Requirements for Financial Institutions

Regulatory amendments adopted by the Central Bank of Azerbaijan introduce enhanced ESG governance and climate-risk integration across the banking sector. The reforms require clearer accountability structures, stronger transparency standards and integration of sustainability metrics into internal audit and remuneration policies. Banks must begin preparing sustainability disclosures covering qualitative and quantitative ESG indicators. The first reporting cycle will cover 2026 performance, with public disclosure expected in early 2027.

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Kyrgyz Republic Sets Course for Energy Independence and Carbon Neutrality

The Kyrgyz Republic has approved a strategic “Green Energy” pathway under its National Development Program to 2030, aiming to achieve full energy independence and carbon neutrality. The government plans to increase the share of renewables in total electricity generation to 92%. The program targets a 16% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through domestic efforts and up to 44% with international support. Planned investments include hydropower expansion, solar and wind plants with storage systems, exploration of nuclear and pumped storage options.

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Kazakhstan and China Expand Cooperation on Large-Scale Renewable Energy Projects



The Senate of Kazakhstan has ratified an agreement with China on implementing major renewable energy projects, aiming to strengthen collaboration in “green” energy and jointly combat climate change. The deal provides a legal framework for constructing wind and solar power facilities across country, with combined capacity projects including approximately 1.5 GW of wind and 0.3 GW of solar.

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Global



ISO Introduces Global Climate Adaptation Standard to Strengthen Local Resilience Planning

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) released ISO 14092:2026 – Climate Change Adaptation, a new international standard designed to help local governments, communities and organizations plan and implement climate resilience strategies. The framework provides structured guidance on governance, risk assessment, stakeholder engagement and monitoring of adaptation measures. It aligns with ISO 14091 and ISO 14093, linking climate risk analysis with financing mechanisms and supporting the Paris Agreement and SDG resilience goals.

[Read more](#)



HKMA Expands Sustainable Finance Taxonomy with Transition and Adaptation Categories

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) released Phase 2A of the Hong Kong Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance, expanding the classification framework for green and transition activities. The update incorporates stakeholder feedback and introduces new climate-adaptation and transition elements to guide sustainable capital allocation. Designed as a living framework, the taxonomy aims to improve market transparency and comparability of environmentally aligned investments. The release builds on Phase 1 launched in 2024 and reflects outcomes of the 2025 public consultation process.

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EU Launches First Certification Methodologies for Permanent Carbon Removal Technologies

The European Commission adopted the first voluntary certification methodologies for permanent carbon removal projects, establishing clear rules for defining and verifying removed CO₂. The framework covers Direct Air Capture with Storage (DACCS), biogenic emissions capture with storage (BioCCS) and biochar carbon removal. The initiative aims to accelerate investment in technologies that permanently remove carbon from the atmosphere while addressing risks such as leakage and liability. The delegated act will undergo scrutiny by the European Parliament and Council before entering into force.

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GHG Protocol Publishes New Land Sector and Removals Accounting Guidance

The Greenhouse Gas Protocol issued new guidance outlining how companies should account for emissions and removals linked to forestry, agriculture and land use activities. The framework introduces standardized methodologies for tracking emissions and carbon sequestration across value chains. Organizations with significant land-sector exposure will need to align reporting practices ahead of upcoming requirements. From January 1, 2027, companies operating in a land region or in its value chain and reporting in accordance with the GHG Protocol will be required to align their reporting with the new Standard.

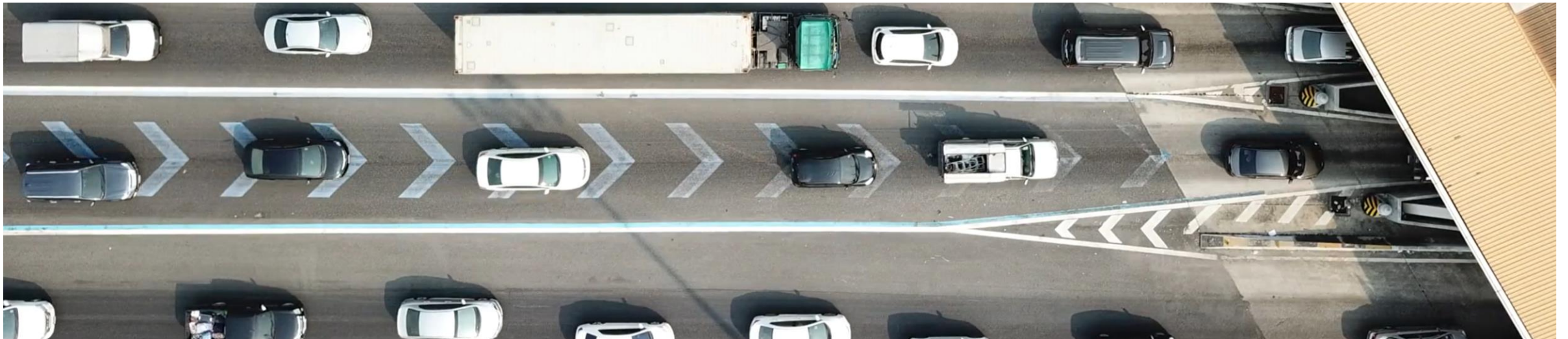
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SBTi Publishes Revised Net-Zero Standard Draft for Automotive Industry

The Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) released an updated draft Automotive Sector Net-Zero Standard to guide automakers and suppliers in setting science-based targets. The proposal builds on stakeholder consultations and seeks to replace elements of earlier land-transport guidance. The framework focuses heavily on emissions from vehicle use, which account for the majority of automakers' carbon footprints. Companies may set targets linked to zero-emission vehicle sales or lifecycle emissions reductions. The draft enters a new public consultation phase before finalization.

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IPSASB Establishes Global Climate Disclosure Baseline for Public Sector Entities



The International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB) issued Sustainability Reporting Standard 1, Climate-related Disclosures (IPSASB SRS 1), introducing a unified global approach to climate disclosure for public-sector organizations. The standard was developed with support from the World Bank. The standard mirrors IFRS S2 concepts, including governance, strategy, risk management and metrics, adapted to government operations. Public institutions will be required to disclose material climate risks and opportunities within general purpose financial reports.

[Read more](#)

EU Parliament Endorses 90% Emissions Reduction Goal for 2040

The European Parliament voted to support amendments to the EU Climate Law that would require greenhouse gas emissions to fall by 90% by 2040. The agreement introduces limited flexibility, including partial use of international carbon credits and periodic reviews tied to energy prices and technological progress. The measure builds on the EU's legally binding 2050 climate neutrality goal and the interim 2030 target of at least a 55% reduction.

[Read more](#)

European Commission Clears EUR 3bn German Aid Package to Expand Clean Technology Manufacturing

The European Commission approved a EUR 3bn German state-aid scheme aimed at scaling manufacturing capacity for hydrogen, batteries and renewable technologies. The support will include grants, tax incentives and interest subsidies to accelerate investment in net-zero technologies. Approved under the Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework (CISAF), the program seeks to strengthen Europe's industrial decarbonization strategy. The scheme will remain open to companies operating across Germany until 2030.

[Read more](#)



New Water Sustainability Index Aims to Close ESG Reporting Gap on Water Use

A new academic study published in Nature Water introduces the Water Sustainability Index (WSI), a quantitative framework designed to standardize corporate water-use reporting within ESG disclosures. Led by researchers from Stanford University and Korea University in collaboration with the International ESG Association (IESGA), the index addresses the lack of comparable water metrics across industries. The model integrates watershed conditions, discharge quality, consumption levels and water reuse to align reporting with UN SDG 6 priorities. Researchers argue that the index can reduce greenwashing risks by shifting ESG reporting toward measurable and science-based indicators.

[Read more](#)



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