ESG Newsletter

August 2026

Your Knowledge Digest

From Carbon to Constraints: Why Sustainability Is Becoming a Growth Strategy

Most Companies Still Struggle to Quantify Impact of Sustainability Risks and Opportunities

News | Regional

UAE leads Arab world in 2026 Environmental Performance Index

The United Arab Emirates ranked first among Arab countries in the 2026 Environmental Performance Index, driven by strong performance in climate action, renewable energy, waste management, biodiversity protection, and technology-enabled environmental governance.

Oil prices rise slightly after US announces new round of strikes on Iran

Escalating tensions in the Middle East pushed oil prices upward as markets responded to ongoing military exchanges, rising geopolitical uncertainty, and growing risks to key crude oil export routes.

UAE launches Companies for Good 2031 Strategy

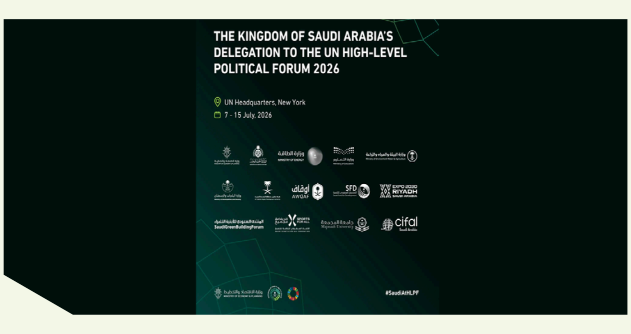
The UAE introduced the Companies for Good 2031 Strategy, establishing a national framework to expand private sector engagement in ESG initiatives and sustainable impact aligned with the country's long-term development goals.

Egypt implements USD 4.26 billion in green public investments during FY2024/25

Egypt invested approximately EGP 215.5 billion in green public projects during FY2024/25, with 71.5% allocated to sustainable transport, reflecting the country's commitment to expanding green investment, climate action, and its transition toward a sustainable economy.

Saudi Arabia set to participate in 2026 UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Saudi Arabia presented a comprehensive review of its sustainable development progress at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum in July 2026, highlighting national achievements, challenges, and future priorities while reaffirming its commitment to integrating Vision 2030 with global sustainable development goals.



Turkey unveils climate-funding action plan ahead of COP31

Turkey launched a three-pillar Green Finance Strategy ahead of COP31 to boost climate investment through stronger data, expertise, and sustainable finance markets, with success hinging on data credibility.

News | International

European Commission adopts finalized corporate sustainability reporting standards

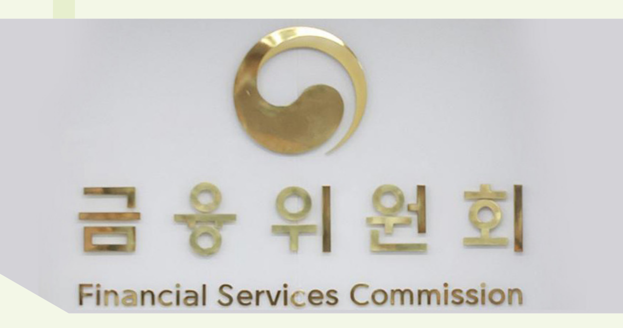
The European Commission adopted revised sustainability reporting standards that significantly streamline corporate disclosure requirements while maintaining transparency and improving alignment with global reporting practices.

Canada proposes new oil and gas production decarbonization category for Sustainable Finance Taxonomy

Canada proposed a sustainable finance framework to guide capital toward net-zero aligned investments, including emissions-reduction activities in high-emitting industries and establishing clearer criteria for credible sustainable investment opportunities.

EU launches plan to double electrification of economy, cut fossil fuel reliance

The European Commission has unveiled an Electrification Action Plan to increase electricity's share of final energy consumption to 46% by 2040 through lower electricity costs, improved grid access, and support for electrification technologies, helping reduce fossil fuel dependence and accelerate the clean energy transition.



South Korea expands mandatory sustainability reporting to more companies

South Korea has expanded mandatory sustainability reporting to cover over 290 companies from 2028 and more than 3,100 from 2029, aligning disclosures with international standards in response to growing investor demand for ESG data.

California eases initial Scope 3 emissions reporting requirements

California regulators have proposed a phased approach to value-chain emissions reporting from 2027, requiring disclosure of five key emissions categories while easing compliance burdens and strengthening climate reporting requirements.

EU Commission launches legal action against all 27 member states for failing to implement zero emission building law

The European Commission has opened infringement procedures against all 27 EU member states for failing to fully implement new building decarbonization rules aimed at achieving a zero-emissions building stock by 2050.

Singapore releases proposed International Sustainability Standards Board-aligned sustainability reporting standards

Singapore has released proposed sustainability reporting standards aligned with International Sustainability Standards Board requirements, forming the basis for mandatory climate disclosures and voluntary broader sustainability reporting for companies.

NBK ESG Highlights of the Month

VPBank and 15 international financial institutions sign USD 1.44 billion sustainability-linked syndicated loan facility

NBK was among 15 international financial institutions supporting VPBank's landmark USD 1.44 billion sustainability-linked loan, one of the largest ESG-linked financing transactions in Vietnam's banking sector.

NBK reaffirms its leadership across diverse areas of banking with five prestigious Euromoney awards

NBK was awarded five Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2026, including Kuwait's Best Bank and Kuwait's Best Bank for ESG, recognizing its strong financial performance, sustainable finance leadership, corporate responsibility initiatives, and innovative banking services.

NBK contributes USD 5 million to the Kuwait Emergency Response Fund

NBK contributed USD 5 million to Kuwait's Emergency Response Fund and KD 1.3 million to Kuwait International Airport development projects, supporting national resilience, emergency preparedness, and strategic infrastructure enhancement.

Advancing sustainability through smarter resource use

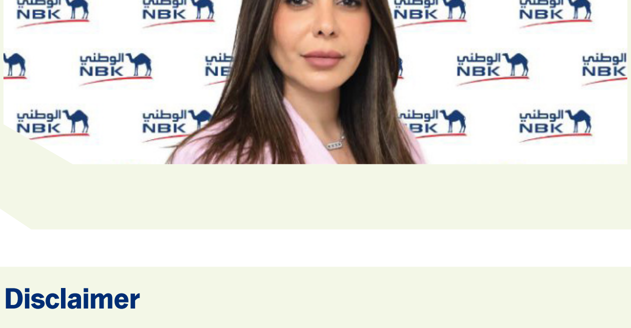
The Administration Services Group's sustainability initiatives continue to deliver results, with the Envelope Reuse campaign reducing envelope consumption by 15% and the Think Before You Print campaign reducing paper consumption by 8% over the past year, supporting sustainable resource use across the Bank.

NBK launches the NBK Grow program to foster the development of promising technical talents

NBK launched the 18-month "NBK Grow" mentorship program to develop future technology and data leaders, strengthen digital transformation capabilities, and accelerate the growth of high-potential technical talent within the Bank.

NBK wins five prestigious awards from MEED

NBK earned five prestigious MEED MENA Banking Excellence Awards 2026, recognizing its market-leading performance, innovative banking solutions, and excellence in serving retail and SME customers.



The Fintech Times: NBK Leads Kuwait's FinTech Market

NBK strengthened its leadership in Kuwait's FinTech ecosystem by providing advanced banking infrastructure, digital solutions, and strategic partnerships that support innovation, financial inclusion, and the growth of fintech companies.