

ESG Newsletter

November 2025

Your Knowledge Digest

The water reckoning: why water stress is the next big financial risk 🖱️

Why major banks are backing out of net zero commitments 🖱️

News | Regional

Kuwait reaffirms commitment to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

Kuwait is committed to pursue its development agenda through national policies that foster active participation of all citizens on the principles of equality and non-discrimination, ensuring a fair distribution of resources and opportunities.



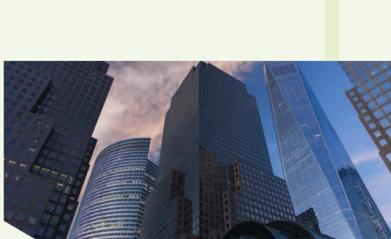
Prime Minister chairs meeting on major development projects

Kuwait is committed to strengthening cooperation with nations that share strategic partnerships with the country, including People's Republic of China, to advance major development projects and open wider avenues for investment, economic, commercial and industrial collaboration in efforts to achieve the objectives of Kuwait's vision.

News | International

Net Zero Banking Alliance ceases operations

The decision was made following a series of high-profile departures from the coalition, leading to a vote by its member banks to restructure the initiative from a membership-based alliance to a framework providing guidance for banks on setting decarbonization targets, and to support their climate transitions plans.



ISO launches new biodiversity standard

ISO introduced ISO 17298, a new standard to help organizations manage biodiversity impacts and risks. It provides a unified framework to address growing nature-related pressures and integrate biodiversity into business strategies.

GHG Protocol releases draft update to framework for reporting scope 2 emissions

GHG Protocol launched consultations to update its Scope 2 Guidance and methods for estimating avoided emissions from electricity-sector actions. These updates aim to improve corporate emissions reporting and reflect evolving practices in purchased electricity accounting.



Ahead of COP30, UN report warns 1.5°C breach as countries commit to just 10 percent emissions cut

According to the recent UN report, governments' current climate pledges would reduce emissions by just 10% by 2035 compared to 2019 levels, far below the 57% reduction scientists say is necessary to keep the 1.5°C threshold within reach.

Norway's \$2 trillion wealth fund to expand climate-focused engagements with portfolio companies

NBIM's new plan includes a series of changes to its company-level actions, including expanding its climate focus list to include companies with the highest Scope 3, or value chain, emissions, as well as companies with heightened vulnerability to physical climate and nature risk.



EU reduces GHG emissions 37%, but faces growing climate, nature risks: Report

The EU has cut emissions by 37% since 1990 despite economic growth, driven by renewables, but fossil fuels still dominate energy use. Climate risks are rising, with €738 billion losses since 1980 and biodiversity is declining, with 81% of habitats in poor condition.

Singapore releases anti-greenwashing guidance for companies

Singapore's Competition and Consumer Commission released a new guide to help businesses avoid greenwashing by making clear, accurate, and evidence-based environmental claims. It outlines five principles, including using plain language, verifying claims, and providing meaningful, substantiated information.



Tokyo plans first-ever climate resilience bond offering

Tokyo plans to issue the world's first certified climate resilience bonds, aiming to raise USD 330 million to fund disaster and climate adaptation projects. The funds will support infrastructure upgrades to protect against floods, earthquakes, and other climate-related risks.

South Korea mandates use of sustainable aviation fuel on flights beginning 2027

Under the new mandate international departing flights from Korea in 2027 will be required to use fuel with a 1% SAF blend, with blend mandates increasing to 3-5% in 2030 and 7-10% in 2035.



U.S. Federal Reserve, FDIC scrap climate risk management framework for Banks

U.S. banking regulators have withdrawn their climate risk management principles for large financial institutions, stating that existing safety and soundness standards already require effective risk management. The framework, introduced in 2023, aimed to guide banks in addressing climate-related financial risks but is now deemed unnecessary.

U.S., Qatar warn EU States of energy, trade consequences of Supply Chain Sustainability Law

The U.S. and Qatar have expressed strong concerns over the EU's Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), warning it could impact trade and energy ties. Despite recent efforts to narrow the directive's scope, both countries are urging its repeal or major revision.



Renewables growth sets to double by 2030, led by solar PV

Global renewable power capacity is on course to double between now and 2030, adding about 4,600 gigawatts (GW), equivalent to the combined electricity generation capacity of China, the EU, and Japan, according to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) latest Renewables 2025 report.

Global green hydrogen market set to hit \$31bln by 2030

The market is experiencing rapid growth, driven by global efforts to reduce carbon emissions and advancements in renewables. Government support through policies and investments is also boosting growth. Its versatility and scalability make green hydrogen a key player in the transition to sustainable energy.



Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage market could worth \$17.75bln in 2030: report

The market for CCUS is experiencing strong growth owing to a combination of factors. Key drivers include a growing trend of partnerships and collaborations among major industry players, which enhance innovation and efficiency.

NBK ESG Highlights of the Month



Inauguration of Shuwaikh beach development project: a milestone in Kuwait's touristic infrastructure and Vision 2035

The Shuwaikh Beach Development Project was inaugurated following its completion, offering a modernized and sustainable recreational space for the public. Funded by NBK, the initiative reflects the bank's commitment to social responsibility and aligns with Kuwait Vision 2035.

NBK's Consumer & Digital Banking Group unveils ambitious five-year 2030 Vision

The Consumer and Digital Banking Group unveiled its five-year strategy aiming to redefine customer experience and accelerate digital innovation. The strategy is built on four pillars: empowering employees, modernizing digital infrastructure, enhancing payment systems, and upgrading branch experiences.



NBK celebrated the graduation of the second cohort of NBK RISE

NBK celebrated the graduation of the second cohort of NBK RISE, a pioneering initiative aimed at empowering women leaders. The nine-month program provided participants with advanced training, mentorship, and leadership development opportunities.

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