

# ESG Newsletter

February 2025

## Your Knowledge Digest

**Rethinking corporate decarbonization | Strategy & Middle East**  
**Green Hydrogen poised for unprecedented growth in 2025**

## News | Regional

### 2025 a pivotal year for Kuwait's Vision 2035: Finance Minister | arabtimes

Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment affirmed that 2025 will be a pivotal year for Kuwait as the government works to implement ambitious plans within a clear strategy to achieve the New Kuwait 2035 vision. Kuwait is increasingly focusing on sustainable projects, especially in the field of renewable energy.



### Zain achieves major milestone in climate action with SBTi approvals of net-zero targets

The approved targets include Zain's overarching goal to achieve net-zero GHG emissions across its entire value chain by 2050. Additionally, the SBTi has validated Zain's updated near-term and new long-term targets, which are aligned with limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

### UAE eyes big role in GCC voluntary carbon market by 2025

The UAE is seeking to strengthen its regional and global position in the voluntary carbon market, anticipating investment opportunities within government initiatives aimed at achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. The regional voluntary carbon market is expected to be worth between \$10 billion to \$40 billion by 2030.



### Ethihad Rail launches region's first carbon emission avoidance, reduction certificates

The certificates - powered by EcoTransIT, a globally recognized tool for assessing the environmental impact of transport - quantify and validate the carbon savings businesses achieve by choosing rail over alternative transport modes, directly contributing to the UAE's decarbonization goals.



### Egypt: FRA forms advisory group to support oversight committee on carbon emission reduction

The advisory group will offer technical consultations on the work of the Supervision Committee for Carbon Emission Reduction Units, assess and develop policies, and advise on relevant topics as assigned. This is part of the Financial Regulatory Authority (FRA) broader efforts to promote carbon neutrality.



### Egypt: Ministry of Environment unveils guide to support afforestation plans

The initiative is designed to be completed within seven years, with each ministry contributing to planting a designated number of trees to reach 100 million trees. The primary goal of the project is to improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gases, expand green spaces, and ensure the health of citizens.



### OPEC Fund contributes to co-financing Africa's largest onshore wind power project

The OPEC Fund for International Development is co-financing Africa's largest onshore wind power project, contributing US\$30 million to the construction of two 550 MW wind farms with a total capacity of a 1.1 GW in Egypt's Gulf of Suez region.



## News | International

### Bloomberg pledges to cover U.S. Paris Agreement obligations after Trump exits deal - ESG Today

The new pledge follows an executive order signed by Trump on the day of his inauguration, ordering the U.S. to notify the UN of the U.S.' withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, the landmark multi-nation pact to combat climate change and limit global warming.



### London's Heathrow Airport targets 3% SAF use in 2025, 11% in 2030 - ESG Today

The incentive scheme comes as the UK brings into force its new Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) mandate this year, requiring the introduction of SAF in the UK's jet fuel mix, starting at 2% in 2025, and ramping up to 10% by 2030, and 22% by 2040.



### EBA issues final ESG risk guidelines, mandating financial institutions' compliance by 2026 - ESG News

The European Banking Authority (EBA) released comprehensive guidelines on managing ESG risks. These regulations target EU financial institutions, requiring robust governance to mitigate risks related to climate change, social issues, and governance structures. The guidelines will apply from January 2026.



### EBA launches consultation on ESG guidelines to assess climate and business risks - ESG News

The European Banking Authority (EBA) is seeking public input on draft guidelines for incorporating ESG scenario analysis into risk management frameworks. The consultation aims to ensure financial institutions are resilient to ESG-related shocks, including the transition to a low-carbon economy, gases in the energy system.



### Shanghai Stock Exchange issues new guidance on ESG reporting - Chinadaily

The exchange encourages listed companies to prepare ESG reports based from the newly released guidance. The SSE has been earnestly implementing new concepts to spur comprehensive socio-economic green transition and deliver growth in green finance and inclusive finance.



### Sustainable bond issuance to top US\$1 trillion | Investment Executive

Despite the growing backlash against ESG, and the recent withdrawal of major banks and asset managers from climate-focused initiatives, the global issuance of sustainable bonds is still expected to top US\$1 trillion this year, according to Moody's Ratings.



## NBK ESG Highlights of the Month

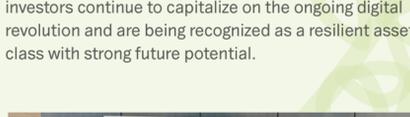


### Kuwait: NBK executive management tours new airport T2 project

NBK is an active partner in achievements and successes in Kuwait by financing the country's mega infrastructure projects, including the new Kuwait Airport project, which will form the new Kuwait gateway with a capacity of 25 million passengers annually and an area of 708,000 square meters.

### NBK Wealth: The world's most important digital infrastructure in today's world

Investment in digital infrastructure has grown significantly within the private infrastructure industry. Driven by economic changes, the accelerating shifts towards digitization and the increased demand for AI, investors continue to capitalize on the ongoing digital revolution and are being recognized as a resilient asset class with strong future potential.



### NBK celebrates Most Valued Team Players and Most Collaborative Teams of 2024

Aligned with its corporate culture and strategy of valuing employee contributions and fostering a positive work environment, NBK honored its Most Valued Team Players and Most Collaborative Team for 2024. The Recognition spanned Kuwait, international branches, and for the first time NBK Wealth.

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