

National energy master plan for 2021-2030 approved, targeting 15-20% renewables by 2030

Vietnam News – July 14



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1. POLICY & LEGAL

Approving the National Planning Infrastructure reserve for the petrol, oil and gas in Vietnam

Vietnam Energy – July 20

The plan aims to revamp existing oil warehouses and increase capacity from 2.5-3.5 million m³ in the 2021-2030 period to 10.5 million m³ after 2030. It also looks to raise the capacity of gas storage warehouses to 800,000 tons in the 2021-2030 period and 900,000 tons after 2030.

The infrastructure must ensure the reserve capacity of crude oil and petroleum products nationwide to reach 75-80 days of net import, striving to achieve 90 days of net import.

Decision to establish a Secretariat to implement the JETP declaration

Prime Ministerial Decision – July 14

The Secretariat's responsibilities include developing and implementing a Resource Mobilization Plan for JETP, compiling reports and recommendations, advocating for financial and technical support, facilitating program proposals, coordinating with international partners, conducting communication activities, and reporting to the Prime Minister.

The Secretariat is hosted under the MONRE. There are 04 working groups:

- General WG led by MONRE
- Governance, Policy & Investment WG led by MPI
- Technology & Energy WG led by MOIT
- Finance WG led by MOF

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The plan sets a target for total primary energy supply to reach 155 million tons of oil equivalent by 2030 and between 294 and 311 million tonnes by 2050. It also sets a target for the share of renewable energy in the total primary energy to be 15-20 per cent by 2030 and about 80-85 per cent by 2050.

The capacity of green hydroelectricity production is estimated at about 100,000-200,000 tonnes per year by 2030 and about 10-20 million tonnes annually by 2050.



Vietnamese province advocates for renewable energy law

Vietnam Energy – June 30

Representatives from Gia Lai province emphasised the urgency of enacting a dedicated Renewable Energy Law to overcome regulatory challenges and promote sustainable growth in the country's renewable energy sector.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade presents PDP8 Implementation Plan

Industry and Trade Magazine – July 20

On 12 July, the MOIT sent the Official Letter 4548/TTr-BCT to the PM and DPM Ha to submit the Draft Decision on PDP8 Implementation Plan for review and approval.

The PDP8 Implementation Plan will have 9 chapters, covering the following topics:

- Forecast power demand
- Investment plan for power generation and grid projects
- Land use plan for power projects
- Solutions and resources for implementation



1. POLICY & LEGAL

Some solutions to complete the offshore wind legal framework in Vietnam

Industry & Trade Magazine - July 24

1. Research and develop a system of legal documents for wind power development.
2. Create a support mechanism for localization of equipment for the development and use of offshore wind power sources.
3. Consult with countries with strengths in offshore wind power development. Develop short and long-term cooperation plans with international organizations in human resource development.
4. Develop supportive policies and breakthrough mechanisms for offshore wind development in association with the implementation of the Vietnam Maritime Strategy, especially green credit policy, carbon policy with offshore wind.



EU freight emissions are the next climate target

Energy Monitor - July 26

The EU freight package contains three pieces of legislation: creating incentives to vehicle manufacturers to make zero-emission trucks, changing rail capacity management to give more access to freight and improve cross-border connections, and developing the 'CountEmissionsEU' metric for shipping companies to calculate their GHG emissions in a uniform way.

The climate law the EU (conveniently) forgot

Politico - July 26

Talks on revising the 20-year-old Energy Taxation Directive, proposed as part of the European Commission's Fit for 55 climate package that aims to slash emissions by 55 percent by 2030, have stalled.



2. RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY

17 transitional solar and wind power projects connects to the grid, generating 165.5 million kWh

Thanh Nien Newspaper – July 26

Data from Vietnam Electricity (EVN) also revealed:

- 72/85 transitional RE projects sent documents to negotiate electricity prices and signing contracts.
- 60 projects proposed temporary prices equal to 50% of ceiling price of the price framework according to Decision No 21/QĐ-BCT
- 58/60 projects completed price negotiations and initiated a power purchase agreement (PPA).

PM urges development of carbon credits and hydrogen energy mechanisms

The Saigon Times – July 17

A draft plan for JETP implementation has been taking shape under the coordination of the MONRE.

10 key task groups for implementing JETP have been identified:

- Completion of institutional and policy frameworks to drive energy transition.
- Promotion of the shift from coal to clean energy.
- Development of the ecosystem for renewable energy industries and services.
- Emphasis on energy efficiency.
- Upgrading power transmission and distribution systems, with a focus on

smart grids and energy storage.

- Transition to green energy and reduction of GHG emissions in the transportation sector.
- Innovation, development, and technology transfer.
- Ensuring a just energy transition process.
- Communication and awareness-raising activities.
- Enhancing international cooperation for a just energy transition.

The prime minister also requested the ministry to issue regulations to complete the strategy for hydrogen production in Vietnam and propose specific programs on renewable energy as part of the amended Electricity Law.



Vietnam emerges as attractive market for distributed solar energy developers

Vietnam Economic News – July 22

Key milestones being hit for LNG prospects

Vietnam Investment Review – July 26



Experts weigh in on effective implementation of new power plan

Vietnam Plus – July 28

Experts said that the delays in projects implementation, lack of a clear roadmap, and lack of strict management are issues that need to be resolved so that PDP8 can achieve the highest efficiency and avoid repeating the mistakes of previous electricity plans.

Many participants agreed that the orientation of solar self-consumption development in the new plan is sound, but it is necessary to specify the concept, scale of development, and connectivity, especially in industrial parks and clusters.

Regarding offshore wind power development, they stressed the need to consider the issue of national sovereignty as the situation of buying and selling projects back-and-forth between units may occur.



2. RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY

[Decades-long delays trigger power supply shortages](#)

Vietnam Investment Review – July 31

Many traditional power projects have been delayed or were unable to proceed due to a variety of issues including difficulty in capital mobilisation, fuel supply constraints due to a shortage of domestic coal, regulatory obstacles and management hurdles. In addition, some project owners have been slow to execute, altering shareholdings or entering into joint ventures due to insufficient technical and financial capacities.



[Ministry of Industry and Trade: Only encouraging rooftop solar power for self-consumption at offices and residential buildings](#)

VN Express - July 30

Various ministries and sectors have suggested expanding the installation scope of rooftop solar power systems for self-consumption, not only for residential houses, offices, and business premises but also for other facilities such as schools, hospitals, industrial zones, and hotels.

In response to these suggestions, the Ministry of Industry and Trade cited the guidance of Deputy Prime Minister Tran Hong Ha, stating that this mechanism would only apply to rooftop solar systems installed at residential houses and offices. The expansion of eligible objects will be considered in future regulations.



[The policy of electricity prices is no longer appropriate](#)

Industry & Trade Magazine - July 26

A recent study by the Vietnam Energy Transition Initiative (VIET.SE) predicts that the total cost of electricity production and business, especially electricity prices, will increase significantly, leading to a corresponding increase in average retail electricity prices. In this context, if the management and operation of retail electricity prices continue as they are currently, EVN (Electricity of Vietnam) will continue to face significant losses, eroding and weakening the financial situation of EVN. As a result, this could severely hinder the ability to mobilize capital for investment in electricity generation and transmission for the economy.





3. CIRCULAR ECONOMY

EuroCham advocates for gradual Extended Producer Responsibility approach at consultation

EuroCham - July 28

EuroCham recommends the government allow a hybrid approach with both self-recycling and recycling support payments. She also suggested the first two years of EPR implementation be considered a “pilot” period for companies to adapt before penalties are applied.

The Chamber also emphasized the importance of establishing a recycling value chain in Vietnam, saying the recycling support payment should be kept below two percent.



The recycling cost in Vietnam is higher than in Europe, causing difficulties for businesses

Tuoi Tre Online - July 28

Vietnam's recycling standards (Fs) are still higher than the average of 14 Western European countries, which are highly developed nations. For example, the proposed recycling standard for aluminum is 1.26 times higher, and for glass, it is 2.12 times higher.

In addition, packaging made of metal, paper, and hard plastics are almost entirely recyclable without posing a risk to the environment, and recycling facilities are already profitable. Therefore, businesses proposed applying an adjustment factor of 0 or 0.1 to packaging and

products with higher material recovery value than the recycling cost, such as metal, paper, and hard plastics, following the principles of a circular economy.



High upfront costs remain a barrier for cooperatives to the circular economy

Viet Nam News – July 24

More preferential loans are called for cooperatives to help them go green without hindrances. In addition, the establishment of a common norm applicable to the conversion of agricultural waste into animal feed could avoid substandard feed that is inadequate for export.

Could Vietnam become the world's tungsten recycling hub?

The Leader - July 31

The current recycling strategy of Vietnam is still an aspiration. Samsung uses tungsten tools to make phones. Those tungsten tools can be recycled with scrap recycling facilities in Vietnam. Businesses will have to work with the government to help them frame the decrees that will enable importing tungsten scrap for recycling in an economical, viable and sustainable way.

New EU regulation plans for smartphones to include replaceable batteries

Euronews - July 25

The goal of this regulation is to make repair, collection and recycling easier.

By 2027, 63% of device batteries must be collected, the Eu regulation stipulates. This should help reduce e-waste, as more than 150 million smartphones are thrown away each year.



4. WATER



[Rural households using clean water in Mekong Delta double after five years](#)

Vietnam Plus - July 31

The rates of rural households in Mekong Delta provinces having access to clean water rose from 26-75% in 2018 to 53-94% in 2023, heard the Congress of the Mekong Delta Rural Supply Association for the 2023-2028 tenure in Can Tho city on July 29.

[World Bank Project to Strengthen Flood Resilience, Improve Livability in Vietnamese Regional Hub](#)

Relief Web - July 28

The US\$ 129.6 million Nghe An Province Vinh City Priority Infrastructure and Urban Resilience Development Project will directly benefit a quarter of a million residents in Vinh City's urban core by reducing flood risk and improving public health. Once completed, the project, will connect 30,000 households to new or rehabilitated secondary and

tertiary sewers, and reduce the time women spend on unpaid housework after flooding, including cleaning, by half.

['Solution' to 'problem' of sustainable management of water resources](#)

Newspaper of Natural Resources and Environment - July 28

Key discussion points about the draft revised Law on Water Resources includes:

- Strengthening water resource protection and restore water resources
- Lack of awareness of water scarcity and pollution
- Managing the 'lifecycle' of water
- Ensuring access to water for all people

[Do not push the responsibility in handling and overcoming pollution in river basins](#)

Newspaper of Natural Resources and Environment - July 26

Deputy Prime Minister Tran Hong Ha emphasized that the

Bac Hung Hai system has become a "wastewater channel". The causes are lack of wastewater collection system or treatment plant. The Deputy PM emphasized that the Bac Hung Hai irrigation system case can be a pilot model for overcoming pollution with joint responsibilities among multiple government departments and localities.

[Fostering Water-Sensitive Urban Planning in G20 Cities](#)

Observer Research Foundation - July 25

Urban water systems form a crucial element of cities. Contemporary approaches to urban water planning and management focus not just on the provisioning of services but on wider aspects, including participatory governance, catchment management and capacity building, among others.



5. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND BUILDINGS

[Vietnam's tough journey to reduce urban emissions](#)

Net Zero - July 27

In addition to adequate energy supply, the demand for smart energy in urban areas is viewed as a qualitative change in energy mobility in Vietnam. With the current infrastructure conditions in Vietnam, the air conditioning treatment system will affect the emission goal. Better building standards, better use of material must go hand-in-hand with the increasing use of cooling.

[Rebuild or renovate: the embodied carbon conundrum](#)

Financial Times – July 21

Prioritising operational carbon over embodied carbon misses a crucial point: the emissions generated by construction materials such as a new concrete foundation are already released into the atmosphere, whereas savings made by using a heat pump rather than a gas boiler, or by improved insulation, might take decades to accrue to the same level.

Nudging homeowners away from building new and towards renovation is an essential part of addressing households' contribution to climate change.

[How cities can respond to extreme heat](#)

The Economist – July 20

It is crucial to work out where the people at greatest risk live. One thing that can help is deciding where to plant trees, which both provide shade and, as water evaporates through their leaves, cool the air. There are smart choices to be made about the built environment, from the best sort of pavement and courtyards designed for passive cooling to the prevalence of white roofs; there are building codes to update so as to make those choices easier, as well as regulations to change so that workers are not endangered by midday heat.

[Strategy 2030 Urban Sector Directional Guide Summary: Making Cities More Livable in Asia and the Pacific](#)

Asian Development Bank – July 2023

The guide highlights ADB's Operational Priority 4, under its Strategy 2030: helping DMCs to build more livable cities—by developing effective infrastructures, institutions, and policies for urban areas to become greener, more inclusive, resilient, and globally competitive. It outlines the bank's guidance on tackling complex urban challenges through integrated means and applying seven guiding principles to foster 18 innovative development solutions that can enhance the quality of life for city dwellers.

[A beacon guiding the way to more sustainable European cities](#)

European Commission - July 28

The ambitious EU-funded IRIS project demonstrated approximately 60 tailor-made solution packages in 3 lighthouse cities. The solutions integrated smart homes and buildings, electric mobility, renewables, energy management, energy storage and active citizen engagement/co-creation.





6. SUSTAINABLE FINANCE



[Vietnam considers domestic carbon credit exchange to enhance efficiency in green transactions](#)

Vietnam News - July 20

Currently, Vietnam has 4 existing carbon credit mechanisms, including the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), Joint Credit Mechanism (JCM), Gold Standard (GS), Verified Carbon Mechanism (GCS). The total number of carbon-related credits issued in Vietnam as of December 2022 is about 40 million, with approximately 50 projects seeking issuance of carbon credits under the Global Carbon Council (GCC) mechanism. The establishment of a domestic carbon market with an exchange will significantly enhance the centralisation, transparency, and efficiency of transactions involving carbon credits.

[Making the most of Vietnam JETP](#)

The Saigon Times – July 26

There is a huge potential for shifting in energy and transportation, the top two emitting sectors in Vietnam, in implementing Vietnam JETP. However, key barriers to financing to flow into the energy transition is the bankability of the PPA, and to transportation transition is the pace of the transition, which in turn is a result of the absence of any regulatory-push and limited availability of charging infrastructure.

[Global benchmark launches to define what 'high quality' carbon credits are](#)

Eco-Business - July 28

[Will the voluntary carbon market survive mistrust and regulation?](#)

Eco-Business - July 17

[Companies with good ESG scores pollute as much as low-rated rivals](#)

Financial Times - July 31

[EU carbon credits: when supplies are short, positions should be long](#)

Financial Times - July 18

If energy prices keep declining this summer, carbon prices should do the same.

[UK government cuts cost of polluting in latest anti-green move](#)

Financial Times - July 31

Whitehall recently quietly announced changes to the UK's carbon trading scheme, including offering more allowances than expected to polluting industries. The move has pushed carbon prices to trade at a steep discount compared with those in Europe, sparking warnings from industry that it will undermine green investments and increase fossil fuel use.



7. OTHERS

Q&A: The shipping industry climate goals backed – and blocked – by China

Eco-Business – July 17

Will the EU's deforestation law keep forests standing?

Eco-Business – July 18

G20 deal on fossil fuels blocked after Saudi opposition

Financial Times – July 23

G20 climate talks fail to deliver emission cuts in line with 1.5C

Climate Home News – July 28

Climate Policy Implementation Check: Decarbonization of Transport.

Climate Transparency – July 2023

As El Niño fuels fire risk, Southeast Asia braces for haze crisis

Eco-Business – July 31





8. EVENTS

Standard Chartered Vietnam spearheads initiative on voluntary carbon credit exchange

On July 20, Standard Chartered Vietnam, together with the Department of Climate Change under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) and Climate Impact X (CIX), has organised a seminar on establishing and operating a voluntary carbon credit exchange in Vietnam.

EuroCham Green Growth Sector Committee (GGSC) shared an insightful presentation on sustainability towards urbanization at UEH Technical Workshop

On July 24, 2023, the Institute of Innovation and Institute of Smart City and Management of University Of Economics Ho Chi Minh City (UEH) organized a Technical Workshop on sustainable city design for the future in Vietnam. GGSC emphasized challenges in the construction sector and recommendations for sustainable and resilient urbanization in Vietnam.



Green Growth Sector Committee (GGSC) advocates for gradual Extended Producer Responsibility implementation approach at consultation workshop

On July 28, 2023, Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), the National EPR Council, and the Vietnam Alcohol-Beverage Association (VBA) co-hosted the consultation workshop on draft recycling cost norms (Fs) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) implementation in the Decree 08 of Vietnam. EuroCham Vietnam stressed several key points for EPR implementation plan.

Việt Nam supports the global treaty on plastic pollution

On July 26, at the conference on regional cooperation towards the global treaty on plastic pollution, Việt Nam strongly advocated for active participation as a responsible member of the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA).

Upcoming Events

Long-term energy scenarios for developing national energy transition plans in Asia

August 02 – September 20, 2023

Green Economy Forum 2023

August 18, 2023 – Rex Hotel Saigon, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

World Water Week 2023

Theme: Seeds of Change - Innovative Solutions for a Water-Wise World

August 20-24, 2023 - Stockholm, Sweden and Online

Roundtable: The future Role of Blue-Green Infrastructure in Vietnam

August 25, 2023 – Deutsches Haus Ho Chi Minh City

Vietnam Socio-Economic Forum 2023

Theme: Unlocking resources, creating new momentum for growth and sustainable development

September 2023 - National Conference Center, Hanoi, Vietnam

ISESG Webinar: ESG regulatory update (Asia-Pacific)

Sep 26, 2023, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

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