

Plan to implement JETP Declaration approved

VBF Power & Energy Working Group – September 13



SUMMARY



1. POLICY & LEGAL

- 1 new legislation on JETP
- 1 new legislation on carbon footprint
- 1 new legislation on emissions reporting
- 1 new legislation on power pricing
- 1 new legislation on PDP8 Implementation Plan
- 1 new legislation on the EU's RE target



5. SUSTAINABLE CITIES & BUILDINGS

- 2 articles on net-zero buildings
- 1 report on guidelines for sustainable construction
- 2 articles on sustainable cities



2. RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- 2 articles on solar power
- 2 articles on LNG
- 1 article on power supply
- 1 article on RE businesses



6. SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

- 2 articles on green credit
- 3 articles on SF framework and products
- 2 articles on sustainability metrics



3. CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- 1 article on CE policy mechanism
- 1 article on the EU recycling
- 2 articles on CE techniques
- 1 article on greenwashing



7. OTHERS

- 5 articles on G20



4. WATER

- 2 articles on water management
- 1 article on water financing
- 1 article on wastewater
- 1 article on water utilities



8. EVENTS

- 5 upcoming events on sustainability



1. POLICY & LEGAL



[Plan to implement JETP Declaration approved](#)

VBF Power & Energy Working Group – September

Deputy Prime Minister Tran Hong Ha has signed a decision approving a plan for the implementation of the Political Declaration on establishing the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP Declaration).

- MONRE is tasked to complete the JETP Resource Mobilization Plan by November 2023. The Draft Resource Mobilization Plan was shared by MONRE with the relevant stakeholders for comments in mid-August.
- CMSC and #MOIT are tasked to promote the transition from coal to clean energy.
 - Review and halt the operation of coal-fired power plants aged over 30 years if they are unable to switch to alternative fuels.
 - Develop a roadmap for transitioning to alternative or co-firing fuel sources for coal-fired power plants that are under construction and operational from now until 2030 and 2050. Establish a GHG emissions reduction roadmap for coal-fired power plants, in line with the development roadmap of the carbon market in Vietnam.
- MOIT is tasked to establish an International Center for Renewable Energy in Vietnam by 2030.
- The Implementation Plan also prioritizes 3 groups of projects for the JETP Implementation, with investments from IPG, other development partners, and Vietnamese commercial banks:
 - Projects on transmission grid system
 - Projects on #BESS
 - Projects on offshore wind power development

[Guidelines for Calculating Carbon Footprint for Businesses in Vietnam](#)

Vietnam Briefing – September 07

Vietnam has clear guidelines for businesses to effectively calculate and report the carbon footprint of their products. The country's Ministry of Science and Technology officially adopted ISO standards in 2020, which supports its efforts to meet net zero carbon emissions goals.

[Draft Circular on GHG Emissions Reporting](#)

MOIT - September 06

This is the translation of the user's message into English:

The Ministry of Industry and Trade is organizing a consultation to collect opinions from agencies, units, organizations and individuals on the Draft Circular on Technical Regulations for Measurement, Reporting and Verification of Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction and Greenhouse Gas Inventory in the Industry and Trade Sector.

[Draft on new green power pricing structure expected in November](#)

Vietnam Investment Review – September 03

The draft is expected to suggest that the pricing structure be similar to that which has been applied to transitional projects specified in Circular No.15/2022/TT-BCT, but will differ on input parameters. This circular only applies to new solar and wind projects that have signed power purchase contracts, and does not apply to transitional wind and solar power projects as specified in Circular 15.

[Investment in the Power Plan VIII: No public investment capital would be used](#)

Newspaper of industry and Trade – September 05

In the document 6046/TTr-BCT proposing to issue the Plan for implementing the Power Plan VIII sent to Deputy Prime Minister Tran Hong Ha on August 31, 2023 by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the capital allocation for power source development in the period 2021-2025 is 57.1 billion USD, of which power source is 48.1 billion USD, transmission grid is 9.0 billion USD; while investment capital for the period 2026-2030 needs about 77.6 billion USD, of which power source is 71.7 billion USD, transmission grid is 5.9 billion USD. Thus, the total investment capital for power sources by 2030 is 134.7 billion USD.

The document states: "The entire investment capital for power sector projects would use sources of capital other than public investment".

[EU Approves Deal to Raise Renewable Energy Target to 42.5% of Total Consumption by 2030](#)

ESG News – September 13

The update of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED), already agreed upon between MEPs and Council, raises the share of renewables in the EU's final energy consumption to 42.5% by 2030. Member states should strive to achieve 45%.



2. RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY

[Renewable energy companies report lower earnings, burdened with bond debts](#)

VietnamPlus – September 13

According to ACBS Securities Company, the poor business results of renewable energy businesses stem from many reasons, including businesses using financial leverage by mobilizing large amounts of capital through bond issuance. Many businesses have a debt-to-equity ratio of more than four times. In the context of high interest rates, businesses have to use many resources to pay bond interest.

[LNG conversion strategy ramps up to ensure power sources for Vietnam](#)

Vietnam Investment Review – September 07

Meetings between the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT) and 13 liquefied natural gas (LNG)-to-power plants will be held every three months starting September. According to Minister of Industry and Trade Nguyen Hong Dien, the meetings will review the implementation progress of projects as committed and submit reports to the prime minister and the national steering committee for electricity development in accordance with current regulations.



[ADB financing the rooftop solar power projects \(for business part\) in Vietnam](#)

Vietnam Energy – September 13

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a loan agreement worth 13.8 million USD to finance Vietnam Green Yellow Smart Solutions Company (Green Yellow) to deploy the rooftop solar power system for increasing the clean energy supply at affordable prices for business and manufacturing customers.

[Vietnam prioritises solar energy development in the north](#)

Vietnam Investment Review – August 31

The nation is introducing a revised pricing structure to boost solar energy projects in its northern regions, reflecting the area's lower solar radiation intensity compared to its central and southern counterparts.

[Vietnam's impressive vision for a cleaner energy future](#)

Vietnam Investment Review – September 12

Vietnam's power development plan outlines a comprehensive energy blueprint for the country. A diversified energy mix with supporting infrastructure will be crucial in meeting environmental commitments and energy security.

[Phu My 3 to rely on costlier LNG](#)

Vietnam Investment Review – September 07

Energy experts suggest that if PetroVietnam prioritises cheaper domestic natural gas for the power plants it has direct

and indirect stakes in, these plants will have a significant competitive advantage over other regional plants that rely on pricier imported LNG.

This approach would stifle innovation and optimisation in power plants using imported LNG, as fuel costs account for 70-80 per cent of electricity prices. The disparity in gas costs translates to a difference of more than VND1,100 per kWh in electricity prices.

Given this, it is imperative for regulatory authorities to ensure consistent gas pricing for electricity in the Southeast region.

[EVN presents scenarios for power supply in 2024](#)

Newspaper of Industry and Trade – September 08

The Vietnam Electricity (EVN) has developed two scenarios for power supply in 2024, based on the projected demand growth of 8.96% and the water inflow to the hydropower reservoirs.

EVN is focusing on solutions such as ensuring the availability and readiness of its plants and subsidiaries; minimizing failures and breakdowns; implementing remedial measures for capacity reduction due to environmental factors; coordinating with coal, gas and renewable energy suppliers to ensure sufficient fuel for power production; accelerating the progress of grid projects to facilitate power evacuation and distribution; requesting permission to store water in hydropower reservoirs early; and promoting power saving measures among customers.



3. CIRCULAR ECONOMY

[How is the circular economy project 'tested' with new mechanisms?](#)

The Saigon Times – September 13

The Ministry of Planning and Investment is currently seeking comments on a draft decree on experimental mechanisms for developing a circular economy. There are 6 groups of policies included in the mechanism, including: Policy on industrial zones and economic zones; Green classification policy; Policy on technology consulting and technology transfer; Green credit policy, green bonds; Labor training policy; Land policy.

[Parliament raises recycling goals in EU Critical Raw Materials Act](#)

Euractiv – September 07

The EU will aim to recycle at least 45% of each “Strategic Raw Material” contained in the Union’s waste under plans voted on by the European Parliament’s industry committee. The Parliament wished to ensure the EU recycles directly from its own waste streams.

[Revolutionising sustainability: Technology and circular economy](#)

CircularOnline – September 06

Disruptive technologies, characterised by their transformative impact on industries and societies, are playing a pivotal role in redefining the circular economy. While disruptive technologies offer immense potential for advancing the circular economy, their successful integration is not without challenges. Privacy concerns regarding the collection and use of data, the high upfront costs of implementing advanced technologies, and the need for regulatory frameworks that support circular practices are just a few of the hurdles that must be overcome.



[Emissions accounting key to unleashing power of circularity](#)

WeForum – September 11

About 22% of emissions are embedded in internationally traded products, and their decarbonization is key to reaching global net-zero targets. The lack of accurate, verifiable, and comparable emissions data throughout supply chains is hampering efforts in driving the decarbonization of industries. Embedded emissions accounting frameworks can support circularity, which could reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2050.

[Companies are claiming to be 'plastic neutral.' Is it greenwashing?](#)

Grist – September 11

A growing number of companies are claiming “plastic neutrality” through the purchase of so-called plastic credits, tradable units that typically each represent 1 metric ton of plastic waste that’s been removed from the environment. The current reality, however, is that most parts of the world don’t have EPR laws — which leads to the third and perhaps most salient reason companies are interested in plastic credits: for their marketing value.



4. WATER



[Water management crucial to urban growth in Mekong Delta: experts](#)

Vietnam News – September 05

The region is also witnessing faster sea level rise than forecast, with all 13 cities and provinces of the delta are at high risk of flooding due to climate change. A control system for urban flooding should also be put in place, including detention basins, drainage routes and embankments, in addition to relocating residences at risk and developing flood and storm resistant constructions.

[Funds Hunting for Water Assets Left With Few Good Options](#)

Bloomberg – September 14

Once associated mostly with developing countries, water scarcity is now also morphing into a rich-world crisis as climate change fuels both droughts and storms that threaten the supply of clean water. For now, there aren't enough big companies devoting resources to addressing these challenges. Funds targeting strategies tied to water preservation are running out of assets to invest

in, as a serious lack of supply in one of the most sensitive corners of ESG distorts valuations.



[Vietnam aims to ensure national water resource security](#)

VietnamPlus – September 10

Violations in the field of water resources remain widespread, showing the weak enforcement of laws related to water resources management. There are several reasons for this, i.e.: inconsistent legal regulations, the lack of clarity regarding water resource management, slow progress in planning, the inadequacy of the information systems for water resource management, limited public awareness, and the weak enforcement of water resource laws

[Wastewater - Turning Problem to Solution. A UNEP Rapid Response Assessment](#)

SEI – September 08

The “Wastewater – Turning Problem to Solution” report challenges the view that wastewater is an end-of-pipe problem to be disposed of and, instead, repositions it as a circular economy opportunity: a renewable and valuable

resource to be conserved and sustainably managed with the potential to drive new jobs and revenue streams.

The authors have defined three key areas for action and six necessary building blocks to help policy and decision makers lead transformational change in sustainable wastewater management. The three actions call for reducing how much wastewater we produce, being more careful about what goes into the water we use, and considering how to better collect and treat wastewater so that we can recover and safely use its valuable resources.

[Equipping water utilities to meet SDG6](#)

D+C – September 10

If water utilities are not professionally managed, additional funding can even have negative consequences: it can encourage corruption, lead to the deterioration of equipment and networks after initial improvements and cause customers to become increasingly frustrated. According to a World Bank study, nine out of ten utilities are not creditworthy. Access to banks and capital markets therefore remains closed.

Most utilities must first better maintain existing infrastructure and manage it more professionally. This means, for example, connecting additional customers to the existing networks, installing water meters, fully utilising the capacities of the existing wastewater-treatment plants and reducing electricity consumption and the sometimes serious water losses by 50% or more. More money will only have an impact if the utilities are able to do these things.



5. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND BUILDINGS

[Green buildings: Necessary prerequisites for green growth](#)

Newspaper of Industry and Trade – September 13

Building green, energy-saving buildings is a development trend that the construction industry is aiming for. In the world as well as in Vietnam, there are more and more buildings designed smartly, environmentally friendly, and energy-saving.

Green building means reducing carbon emissions to zero from construction to operation. This standard can be implemented synchronously through two solutions: electrification from renewable energy (using wind, solar, battery storage sources...) and through digitalization (building automation, energy management system) for buildings.

[Circular economy, smart cities, urban transport – What past G20 declarations have had in store for cities](#)

The Indian Express – September 08

India's presidency has focused on cities more, including in discussions of climate finance and mainstreaming the informal sector in other working groups, he said. "We live in an increasingly urbanised world, and it is evident that cities are a crucial constituency for addressing global developmental agendas and shaping a better future. G20 national governments can support cities to become

principal agents in addressing the pressing challenges faced by our planet, achieving safe, resilient and just human societies, and delivering on the commitment of global climate action," Vaidya said.

[UN plan promises massive emission cuts in the construction sector – the most polluting and toughest to decarbonise](#)

UNEP – September 12

The report, Building materials and the climate: Constructing a new future, offers policy makers, manufacturers, architects, developers, engineers, builders and recyclers a three-pronged solution to reduce "embodied carbon" emissions and the negative impacts on natural ecosystems from the production and deployment of building materials (e.g., cement, steel, aluminium, timber, biomass):

- Avoid waste through a circular approach
- Shift to ethically and sustainably sourced renewable bio-based building materials, including timber, bamboo, and biomass.
- Improve decarbonisation of conventional materials that cannot be replaced. This mainly concerns the processing of concrete, steel, and aluminium – three sectors responsible for 23 per cent of overall global emissions today – as well as glass and bricks. .

[Green cities set off a virtuous cycle of climate action](#)

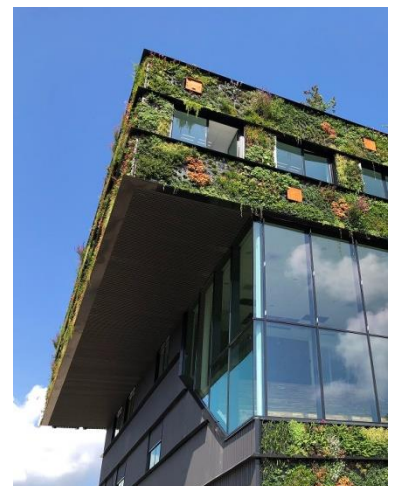
Anthropocene Magazine – September 12

Green infrastructure and other nature-based solutions such as parks, greenbelts, and natural stormwater treatment swales could reduce carbon emissions in European cities by an average of 17.4%, according to a new study.

[Net-zero buildings: how to create the buildings of tomorrow](#)

Climate Home News – September 11

Modern buildings are one of the most carbon intensive products in human society. Cutting carbon emissions from buildings can be made easier with simple, energy efficiency measures. A recent report from the WGPC identifies some of the solutions to achieving net zero in buildings. These include setting strong targets, access to sustainable finance, accurate data collection, and deep retrofitting of existing buildings.





6. SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

[Green credit balance accounts for about 4.2% of total: Central bank](#)

VietnamPlus – September 11

Vietnam's green credit balance accounted for about 4.2% of the economy's total credit balance by June 30, 2023, according to the State Bank of Vietnam (SBV).

[Banks join in promoting green credit](#)

VietnamPlus – September 06

The supervision and risk management when granting green credit still has problems due to the lack of regulations and criteria for evaluating projects' impacts on the environment. According to experts, if Vietnam has a standardised management framework, and a clearer definition of green projects, international banks can support the Vietnamese Government in promoting the green economy.

[Vietnam to introduce criteria for national green development](#)

Vietnam Investment Review – September 08

The new criteria would serve as a foundation for governmental ministries, agencies, local authorities and industry to filter and select investment projects, as well as to allocate resources. Investors should refer to the criteria as a guideline for governmental preferential policies and available financial resources.

[What are green debt swaps?](#)

Climate Home News – September 04

Government debts are rocketing to untenable levels while the need for huge investments in climate and nature becomes ever clearer. Swap is a “cutting-edge climate solution” that “sets a new precedent which we are actively looking to replicate across our focus markets of Africa, Asia and Latin America”.

[ASEAN stock exchanges publish core sustainability metrics](#)

Eco-Business – September 13

Ten new governance metrics have been added to previously published sets of environment and social metrics, which together are aimed at encouraging more consistent disclosure of ESG information.

[Efficient green financing the answer to global pressures](#)

Net Zero – September 13

“While nations like the US have shied away from carbon taxes, some of our neighbours have taken the plunge,” she said. “For example, Singapore’s \$5 million investment in a data centre focused on carbon credits and green finance serves as a benchmark. Such infrastructural commitments can offer invaluable metrics for sustainable project evaluations. The investment for such an initiative is not exorbitant. Funding avenues are available, provided we genuinely commit.”

Economist Nguyen Tri Hieu delved deeper into the realm of green finance. “We observe a marked limitation in environmental protection lending and a dearth of such bonds in Vietnam,” he said. “Issuers must focus on capital deployment, project scrutiny, transparent capital management, and utmost clarity in reporting”.



[Explainer: Why has blended finance not lived up to its promise?](#)

Eco-Business – September 13

The innovative cocktail of public, private and philanthropic money was first touted as a solution to close the funding gap for the sustainable development goals in 2015. But eight years on, its promise to close a trillion-dollar financing gap rings hollow. Scaling problems include lack of investable projects, standardisation and transparency.



7. OTHERS



[G20 leaders strike renewables deal, stall on fossil fuels](#)

Climate Home News – September 09

[UK Pledges Record \\$2 Billion Climate Action Funding for GCF at G20](#)

ESG News – September 11

[G20 rifts threaten global climate goals for warming, clean energy](#)

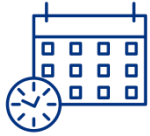
Eco-Business – September 13

[G20 stops short of fossil fuel phase out as 'dark cloud' looms](#)

Eco-Business – September 13

[We need the G20 – but what is it for?](#)

Financial Times – September 12



8. EVENTS

[HCM City Economic Forum 2023 eyes green growth+](#)

Activities that are a part of this year's Ho Chi Minh City Economic Forum, to be held from September 13-17, will focus on green growth, with the aim to collect experience and feasible solutions to be applied in the city.



[Further Gov't support needed for foreign investors in green growth development](#)

Difficulties in securing investment capital, advanced technologies and inadequate skilled labour resources are some of the challenges faced by Vietnam in the implementation of the National Strategy for Green Growth for the 2021-2023 period, with a vision to 2025, discussed at a seminar on Vietnam-Japan green growth cooperation in Hanoi on September 12.

[Workshop kicks off course on emissions trading](#)

The Southeast Asia Energy Transition Partnership, in coordination with the Department of Climate Change (DCC), held a workshop to promote awareness of the forthcoming Emission Trading System (ETS) on September 14.

[Foreign community pushes initiatives for Ho Chi Minh City's green development](#)

More than 100 CEOs from global corporations gathered on September 14 in Ho Chi Minh City to push forward their initiatives and cement their commitment to collaboration with the city to implement its green development and zero carbon goals.

Upcoming Events

[Green Drinks | Green Growth Sector Committee - European Chamber of Commerce](#)

October 4, 2023 – Runam D'or, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

[14th International Water Supply, Sanitation, Water Resources and Purification Exhibition](#)

October 11-13, 2023 – Saigon Exhibition and Convention Centre (SECC), Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

[\[Breakfast Seminar\] Renewable Energy - Growth Opportunities and Insurance Challenges in Viet Nam | European Chamber of Commerce](#)

October 25, 2023 – Sofitel Plaza Saigon, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

[Green Economy Forum 2023 – European Chamber of Commerce](#)

November 02, 2023 - JW Marriott, Hanoi, Vietnam

[Vietnam Circular Economy Forum 2023](#)

Theme: Develop the National Action Plan on Circular Economy in Viet Nam

December 05, 2023 – Melia Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam and Online

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