



SUMMARY



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- 1 article on carbon market
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8. EVENTS

- No upcoming events on sustainability



1. POLICY & LEGAL

[PM urges agriculture sector to promote digital and green transformation](#)

VietnamPlus – January 3

Addressing a conference of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) to review the sector's operation in 2023 and launch its tasks in 2024 on January 3, the PM praised the agriculture sector for its success in overcoming challenges, thus reaping outstanding results such as setting new records in the export of vegetables and fruits and rice, contributing to affirming its increasingly important role and position.

Besides, the Government leader required the ministry to exert utmost efforts to have the European Commission (EC)'s "yellow card" against Vietnamese seafood exports removed as soon as possible, adding that localities must have plans to create livelihoods for fishermen and provide them with legal education for the benefit of themselves, as well as their responsibilities and obligations to the nation and the international community.



[New regulations on HFCs export, import licences take effect from January 1, 2024](#)

VietnamPlus – January 1

Starting from January 1, 2024, the issuance of licences for the export and import of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) will be conducted in accordance with the Government's Decree No. 06/2022/ND-CP dated January 7, 2022, announced the Ministry of Industry and Trade's Export and Import Department.

HFCs, composed of hydrogen, fluorine, and carbon, serve practical purposes in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, food, refrigeration, and firefighting.

According to the Government's Resolution No. 50/NQ-CP dated April 8, 2023, the department is set to issue HFCs export and import licences to merchants in line with Circular No. 05/2020/TT-BCT until December 31, 2023./.

[Vietnam Tax Updates for the New Year 2024](#)

Vietnam Briefing - January 5

In April 2023, in response to several challenges, the EPT on fuels and lubricants was cut to stimulate the economy. This cut has now been extended through to the end of 2024 by Resolution 42/2023/UBTVQH15. It has been estimated that this cut to the EPT will see tax revenue decrease by about VND 42,822 billion (US\$1.76 billion).

EPT tax rate, fuels and lubricants, to December 31 2024

Description	Unit	Tax per unit (VND)
Gasoline, except ethanol	liter	2,000
Jet fuel	liter	1,000
Diesel oil	liter	1,000
Fuel	liter	600
Fuel oil	liter	1,000
Lubricant	liter	1,000
Grease	kilogram	1,000

[PM to highlight Vietnam's ideas, commitments in sustainable development at WEF-54: Ambassador](#)

Vietnam Plus – January 12

Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh's participation at the 54th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF-54) in Davos, Switzerland from January 16-18 will provide a chance for Vietnam to highlight ideas, commitment and solutions to realise the country's strategy on sustainable socio-economic development and international integration.

The diplomat stressed that the Vietnamese Government leader will directly tell leaders of states, international organisations and multinational enterprises about Vietnam's efforts to renovate the growth model, promote green economy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, speed up innovation and digital transformation on an equal and inclusive principle and enhance capacity to deal with climate change, showing the country's determination and attempts to deliver on the commitment it had made at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) to achieve net-zero emission by 2050.



2. RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY

[Electricity prices highly unlikely to decrease](#)

Vietnam Plus - January 3

Nguyen Anh Tuan, General Director of Vietnam Electricity (EVN), said at a conference organized by EVN in Hanoi on January 2, electricity production requires natural resources, which are finite and being depleted, including hydropower. Coupled with the financial challenges faced by EVN, minor decreases in fuel prices do not have an effect significant enough to bring electricity prices down. According to Tuan typically Vietnam's hydropower output accounted for 35% of total output. However, due to droughts in 2023, many hydropower reservoirs were at dead water levels, resulting in hydropower accounting for just 28.4% of total output.

[Vietnam's renewables need long-term strategy](#)

VietnamPlus - January 4

In a recent study by UK-based think tank Ember, Việt Nam accounted for 69 per cent of all solar and wind power output in ASEAN in 2022, which was estimated at 50TWh.

According to experts from CASE, the current supply capabilities of domestic enterprises in the renewable energy sector are limited, with the onshore wind sector in Việt Nam lacking the production of nacelles (wind turbine housing), hubs, rotor blades, and underwater cables have not been produced. Statistics show that 90% of equipment for renewable energy projects is still imported.

A case study that may be useful for Việt Nam is China. When European wind turbine manufacturers went to China, the country also required them to meet a certain level of localisation and transfer specific technologies.

[Green energy - A trend in sustainable development](#)

Vietnam Plus - January 6

The project is a significant effort by the PetroVietnam Technical Services Corporation, which has utilised its core services and extensive experience in offshore oil and gas to participate in the global offshore renewable energy supply chain.

For the first time, Vietnam has an LNG terminal, facilitating importation to support the development of its energy industry.

With the goal of comprehensive development from upstream to downstream stages to maximise the efficiency of natural gas power generation, many power plants have been built to anticipate "flows" of LNG.

[It takes 7 - 10 years to complete the LNG gas power project](#)

Newspaper of Investment - January 7

According to examination by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the time to complete and approve the Feasibility Report and necessary legal documents for the LNG gas power project takes about 2-3 years. It will take 2-4 years to negotiate the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) and arrange loans, depending on the capacity, experience and finances of the investor. The construction and operation time for a plant with a capacity of about 1,500 MW is said to be 3.5 years.

In fact, gas power projects are facing challenges such as the minimum committed electricity offtake ratio, the mechanism for transferring gas prices to electricity prices, and the long-term LNG purchasing mechanism in accordance with international practices. economic and other issues.

[Clean electricity is at risk of missing appointments due to the mechanism](#)

Dong Nai Newspaper - January 8

Dong Nai has the advantage of developing clean electricity

types: gas, garbage, and solar. In fact, many projects have been implemented and completed, contributing to adding energy sources to the province and region.

Regarding gas power, there are 2 projects in operation, 2 projects about to be completed. Regarding solar energy, there are more than 5.9 thousand systems installed. signed contracts and many systems have not or have not signed power purchase contracts.

Regarding hydropower, the province has the Tri An Hydropower Plant in operation, the newly completed Phu Tan 2 Hydropower project and 1 project not yet implemented. For waste electricity, the province is promoting a project, and at the same time orienting to convert to waste incineration technology to recover energy at 4 operating treatment zones.

[The unexpected twist in Vietnam's renewable energy saga](#)

Eco Business - January 8

According to Vietnam Electricity (EVN), the state-owned utility company, this led to a significant increase in Vietnam's renewable energy output, rising from a mere 997 GWh in 2018 to an impressive 37,865 GWh in 2022. Vietnam therefore emerged as Southeast Asia's renewable energy leader, accounting for 69 per cent of the region's solar and wind power generation by 2022.





3. CIRCULAR ECONOMY

How the EU can secure a sustainable supply of critical minerals

Eco Business - January 2

More recently, while addressing world leaders at this year's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), UN Secretary-General António Guterres focused on how best to meet soaring demand for copper, lithium, cobalt, and more.

This means that the mining industry, which the UN has categorised as a high-risk sector for human rights, will play an indispensable role in the energy transition. In this context, many European leaders are willing to turn a blind eye to the industry's human-rights violations and environmental destruction. But neglecting these issues could undermine the EU's efforts to secure access to raw materials and to mitigate climate change.

With the Critical Raw Materials Act, the EU intends to create mutually beneficial partnerships with resource-rich countries and promote strategic projects for critical-mineral mining, processing, and recycling.

EPR Policy: The recycling turning point

Newspaper of Natural Resources and Environment - January 1

With the beginning of the Environmental Protection Law 2020, especially the regulation that from 2024, producers and importers (EPR) are required to carry out extended producer responsibility, has opened a new turning point for the growth and prosperity of the recycling industry.

The Prime Minister has issued a series of documents to strengthen waste management, reuse and recycling, including Directive No. 33/CT-TTg on strengthening management and reuse, recycle, treat and reduce plastic waste; Decision No. 1746/QĐ-TTg promulgating the National Action Plan on ocean plastic waste management until 2030. In particular, the recycling responsibility will take effect from January 1, 2024.



Ministry expands scale of minerals exploitation

Vietnam News - January 15

The "Planning for exploration, exploitation, processing and use of minerals as construction materials for the 2021-30 period, with a vision to 2050" approved by the Prime Minister in Decision 1626/QĐ-TTg on December 25 last year released on Friday by the Ministry of Construction (MOC).

Việt Nam will explore 518 mineral areas and issue mining licences for 931 others in the period. In the period to 2050, the industry will explore 177 mineral areas and grant mining licences to 931 others.

Talking about reasons for expanding the exploitation scope, Deputy Minister of Construction Nguyễn Văn Sinh said that to well manage the exploitation, processing and use of resources in the right direction and based on legal regulations, updating the planning was necessary and appropriate.





4. WATER

[The race to destroy the toxic 'forever chemicals' polluting our world](#)

The Guardian - January 4

"Forever chemicals" are in our drinking water sources, sea foam and spray, rain and groundwater, sea ice, and even human blood – so now efforts are increasing to detect, remove and destroy them.

With increasing evidence linking per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) with cancers, birth defects and negative effects on the immune systems of humans and animals, pressure is growing to restrict these handy waterproofing chemicals that are in everything from Teflon pans and medical devices to cosmetics and pizza boxes.

Scientists are working on more techniques. Dr Madeleine Bussemaker, a senior lecturer in chemical engineering at the University of Surrey, wants to start a first commercial pilot for an ultrasound method, sonolysis, that can completely degrade the strong carbon-fluorine bonds of PFAS into relatively harmless carbon dioxide and fluoride.



[Ensuring water security in the Dong Nai river basin](#)

Ministry of Construction - January 9

Deputy Prime Minister Tran Hong Ha has just signed Decision No. 22/QĐ-TTg dated January 8, 2024, approving the General Planning of Dong Nai River basin for the period 2021 - 2030, with a vision to 2050.

The overall goal is to ensure water security in the river basin and the entire planning area; Store, regulate, and distribute water resources in a fair and reasonable manner, exploit and use water resources economically and effectively in association with protection and sustainable development of water resources to meet water needs for people, people's livelihood, socio-economic development, ensuring national defense, security, environmental protection, preserving ecosystems, vegetation cover and biodiversity.



[The proportion of rural people accessing centralized clean water sources reach about 90% in 2023](#)

Ministry of Construction - January 10

According to statistics from the Hanoi New Rural Construction Program Coordination Office, by the end of 2023, the proportion of rural people with access to centralized clean water sources will reach about 90%.

The total number of communes receiving investment in centralized water supply systems in 2023 has increased by 15 communes compared to 2022.

Implementing Program No. 04-CTr/TU of the City Party Committee and City People's Committee. Hanoi is directing the socialization of clean water supply to serve the needs of local people.

Hanoi is adjusting the Capital's General Plan until 2045, with a vision to 2065 with new directions for spatial development and urban technical infrastructure.

[Vietnam: Drought And Salinity In The Mekong Delta Threatens Food Security – Analysis](#)

Eurasia Review - January 6

At the present stage, many dams built in China, Laos, and Cambodia are limiting water sources from upstream, saltwater intrusion due to rising sea levels, and the El Niño drought phenomenon also causes hefty losses of water for cultivation.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam has proposed many short-term and long-term solutions to support farmers in overcoming the harmful effects of drought and salinity on agricultural production. These include actively creating freshwater storage works for daily life and production and building salinity prevention works at river mouths to limit the encroachment of salinity boundaries.



5. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND BUILDINGS

[Developing Lam Dong into a "green paradise"](#)

Construction Newspaper – January 1

Deputy Prime Minister Tran Hong Ha signed Decision No. 1727/QĐ-TTg dated December 29, 2023 approving the Lam Dong Provincial Planning for the period 2021-2030, with a vision to 2050 with the goal that by 2030, Lam Dong will become "green paradise" for tourism.

Lam Dong province will take agricultural and forestry development as the focus; processing industry development is the driving force; tourism development is a breakthrough. Also, they put attention to transform the regional economic structure towards a green economy and circular economy associated with transforming the growth model towards improving efficiency based on high technology, digital transformation and high added value; prioritize the sustainable development of the mining and processing industry of bauxite, alumina, aluminum processing industry and aluminum products...; invest in a synchronous, modern infrastructure system connecting regions; and effectively develop urban space, form dynamic economic regions and economic centers.

To 2050, Lam Dong province meets the standards to become a modern, centrally run city with identity, green, smart and worth living.



[HCM City eyes developing green spaces along Sài Gòn River](#)

Vietnam News - January 2

The spaces along the Sài Gòn and Đồng Nai rivers are oriented to develop green-ecological areas to foster regional connectivity for mutual development.

This is a key element of the Southeast Regional Planning by 2030, with a vision to 2045, which was approved by the Regional Planning Appraisal Council under the Ministry of Planning and Investment in mid-December.

On December 23, the People's Committee of Thủ Đức city officially launched a riverside park along the Sài Gòn River, attracting thousands of visitors for sightseeing and photographing.

This showed that parks and riverside paths along the Saigon River are apt for creating green spaces and fulfilling the needs of the city's residents.

According to the city's Department of Planning and Investment, there are plans for the revitalization and enhancement of the Sài Gòn River corridor in the city Centre from now until 2025. These plans are closely tied to economic and service development initiatives.

From 2025 to 2045, projects will be implemented to invest in green infrastructure integrated with tourism, economic activities, and entertainment services.

[The draft revised Land Law has reached consensus on 18 key provisions and is poised for approval.](#)

Reatimes – January 14

According to the recently released press release of the National Assembly, after being received and revised, the revised Draft Land Law presented to the National Assembly at the 5th Extraordinary Session includes 16 chapters, 260 articles, removing 05 articles, Amending and supplementing 250 articles (both in content and technique) compared to the Draft Law presented to the National Assembly at the 6th Session.



6. SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

[Many start-ups integrate sustainable development goals into operations](#)

Vietnam Plus - January 5

Up to 85% of Vietnamese businesses under a survey reported they have fully or partially integrated the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into their operations. In particular, the number of businesses in the fields of technology, communications and marketing, e-commerce or AI, blockchain, accounts for nearly 100%. Vietnam is increasingly demonstrating its determination to associate national development with the SDGs through integrating these goals into national development activities and policies.

[Việt Nam to develop synchronous and comprehensive carbon credit market: Deputy PM](#)

Vietnam News - January 9

Chairing a conference on a project to establish a carbon credit market in Việt Nam on Monday, the Deputy PM said that the project needed to update global policies, agreements, strategies and plans with the orientation of responding to climate change, equitable energy transition and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. "The carbon credit market establishment will create green financial resources for technological innovation enterprises," he said.

The MoF should fully research policies related to the carbon credit market in other countries. From there, it must propose approaches, perspectives, goals, objectives, requirements, tasks and a roadmap for the project.

[Vietnam has great potential in development of carbon credit market](#)

Vietnam Net - January 16

2023 marked a significant milestone for the forestry sector as Vietnam successfully sold 10.3 million forest carbon credits (10.3 million tonnes of CO₂) for the first time through the World Bank (WB) for US\$51.5 million.

The sale was part of the Emission Reductions Payment Agreements (ERPA) in the north central region signed on October 22, 2020 between the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) of the WB and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD).

According to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), with more than 14.7 million hectares of forests, including about 10 million hectares of natural forests, Việt Nam's forests can generate huge financial resources from the carbon credit market to re-invest in forest protection and development.





7. OTHERS

[Will carbon markets go from a year of reckoning to one of redemption in 2024?](#)

Eco Business – January 2



[How a flexible, cross-border power grid can help decarbonise Asean](#)

Eco Business - January 5

Despite efforts since the 1990s to develop and maintain interconnections across national electricity grids via the APG, the region's energy demand is expected to triple by 2050 from its 2020 level, according to the 7th Asean Energy Outlook, a 2022 report by the Asean Centre for Energy. Asean will need stronger policies to encourage renewable energy development in line with the regional renewables target of 23 per cent of the total primary energy supply by 2025, the outlook report notes.



[Poland's new government commits to join EU 'fight' against climate change](#)

Euro News - January 15



[NatWest launches new energy-saving tool for small businesses](#)

Business Green - January 15



[Ministry to take measures to boost exports to European-American markets](#)

Vietnam News - January 16

Tạ Hoàng Linh, Director of the European-American Market Department under the MoIT, said to maximise advantages and minimise challenges to both exports and imports, the ministry will keep a close watch on market developments, as well as changes in terms of politics and policies in the regions and the world in order to give timely warnings to businesses and consultancy to the Government.





8. EVENTS

[VietCycle toasts success of recycling scheme](#)

Vietnam Plus - January 12

The event was attended by senior representatives from VietCycle- a pioneering business in the establishment of a circular waste ecosystem in Vietnam, the Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW), relevant management agencies, and about 100 representative waste collectors from Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

In addition to collecting, transferring, and recycling plastic waste, the project promoted better living conditions for vulnerable waste collectors, dubbed 'the green warriors', by raising issues surrounding their social and legal security and championed the value of their profession while also helping them pay for health insurance and rent.

[Trading through commodity exchanges can bring benefits to stakeholders](#)

Vietnam Plus - January 15

At the seminar "Buying and Selling through Commodity Exchange - Sustainable Business Solutions, Multiplying Profits" held by Doanh nghiệp & Hội nhập (Business and Integration) magazine, Pham Hai Tung, Vice Chairman of the Vietnam Association of Small and Medium Enterprises, said commodity exchange is popular around the world. Indices of a number of reputable commodity exchanges have become benchmarks for the world market, he said. While it is possible to trade in physical commodities, it is far more common to trade in financial contracts based on commodity prices, known as derivatives.

[Launch of the EuroCham 2024 White Paper: Towards a green and sustainable economy](#)

Newspaper of Natural Resource and Environment - January 16

On January 16, in Hanoi, the European Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam (EuroCham) announced the 15th annual White Book edition. Within the framework of the event, relevant parties also participated in the conference, joined the open dialogue and exchange on many areas affecting domestic and foreign businesses, including administrative procedure reform, on-site import and export, extended producer responsibility (EPR)...



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