





# PRESS-CUT

Week 3&4 April 2024







- 1 article on biodiversity
- 1 article on self-consumption rooftop solar projects
- 1 article on purchasing nenewable energy mechanisms
- 1 article on ESCAP's 80th annual session



- 1 article on clean energy investment
- 1 article on power supply
- 1 article on offshore wind power
- 1 article on gas-to-electricity price



- 1 article on solid waste
- 1 article on EPR
- 1 article on waste power plant project
- 1 article on technology
- 1 article on clean water access
- 1 article on Yen Xa wastewater treatment
- 2 articles on water shortage
- 1 article on To Lich River wastewater
- 1 article on Xuan Mai water supply system
- 1 article on waterways volunteer work



#### **5. SUSTAINABLE** CITIES & BUILDINGS

- 1 article on planning for airports
- 1 article on metro trial runs
- 2 articles on infrastructure investment
- 1 article on North-South Expressway
- 1 article on smart airport in Da Nang



#### 6. SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

- 1 article on green finance
- 1 article on carbon market
- 1 article on green capital flow
- 1 article on CBAM
- 1 article on green credit
- 3 articles on ESG



- 7. OTHERS
- 1 article on European Solar Charter
- 1 article on interest rates and energy transition
- 1 article on China' wind power
- 1 article on World Future Energy Summit
- 1 article on climate change in Asia
- 1 article on Week in ASEAN



5 upcoming events





#### <u>Vietnam works to prevent biodiversity degradation</u>

Vietnam Plus - April 16

Vietnam is recognised as one of the countries with the richest biodiversity in the world with different ecosystems including tropical forests, marine and coastal ecosystems. However, experts from the World Wide Fund for Nature in Vietnam said that Vietnam's biodiversity is degrading.

To reduce biodiversity loss, <u>Vietnamese Government</u> promulgated the <u>National Biodiversity Strategy</u> to 2030, with a vision to 2050, which aims to increase the acreage of protected ecosystems and promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

This year, the Nature Conservation and Biodiversity Department will conduct assessment of the 15-year implementation of Law on Biodiversity and create foundation for proposing amendments to the 2008 Law on Biodiversity.

Meanwhile, research will be conducted to propose mechanisms, policies, and management measures for protecting natural landscapes, establishing management mechanisms for conservation areas beyond protected areas./.

## Propose: Self-consumption rooftop solar projects are exempt from electricity licensing requirements. The Saigon Times – April 16

As per the draft, generating and consuming your own solar power at the rooftop level is exempt from electricity operating licenses. Building projects with self-generated and self-consumed rooftop solar power installations do not need to modify or add to energy land and must adhere to the draft relevant laws. The also encourages organizations and individuals to combine selfproduced and self-consumed rooftop solar power with the investment, installation, and operation of electricity storage systems. This proactive approach allows for better control over production, business activities, and electricity use. Moreover, priority is given to allocating budget for developing rooftop solar power systems installed at the headquarters of administrative agencies, public service units, and other agencies and units that are considered public property. Additionally, the draft defines rooftop solar power as solar power generated by photovoltaic panels installed on the roof of a construction project and connected to equipment and structures that directly serve the electricity generation activities. This definition includes the roofs of construction works such as residential houses, offices, industrial parks, industrial clusters, enterprises, production facilities, and existing business establishments, if they are built in accordance with the provisions of law.

Organizations and individuals who construct selfproduced and self-consumed rooftop solar power systems can manage documents and procedures through the interconnected one-stop mechanism, as stated in this Decree.

## Ministry proposes purchasing renewable electricity mechanisms

Vietnamnet – April 21

The Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT) has proposed that the government allow manufacturing businesses to purchase electricity directly from renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar power plants, either with or without the involvement of the Vietnam Electricity Corporation (EVN).

This approach is outlined in a draft decree on the Direct Power Purchase Agreement (DPPA) mechanism developed by the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT).

The draft decree stipulates that buyers must be organizations or individuals using electricity for production purposes at a voltage level of 22 kV or higher, with an average monthly consumption of 500,000 kWh. Suppliers must be grid-connected renewable energy plants (wind or solar) with a capacity of over 10 MW. Direct transactions for households are not permitted.

The MoIT has developed a direct power purchase model based on two options: through a private power line and the national grid via EVN.

#### <u>Vietnam vows to achieve Sustainable Development</u> <u>Goals: Diplomat</u>

Vietnam Plus – April 25

Vietnamese Ambassador-designate to Thailand and head of the Vietnamese delegation to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Pham Viet Hung highlighted Vietnam's commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while delivering a speech at the ESCAP's 80th annual session in Bangkok, Thailand, on April 25.

Hung said Vietnam is strongly committed to the timely completion of the SDGs. In this endeavor, Vietnam has integrated the 2030 Agenda into national development strategies; performed a series of policies on education and social welfare and has made significant progress, particularly in poverty eradication, clean water and sanitation, improving access to quality education, ensuring universal healthcare coverage, employment opportunities, and enhancing the coverage of the social security industrialisation, innovation and infrastructure development, as well as building peace, justice and fine-tuning institutions.



### 2. RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY

<u>USAID, Standard Chartered Bank Vietnam Forge</u>
<u>Partnership to Boost Clean Energy Investments In</u>
<u>Vietnam</u>

Vietcetera – April 16



## Stable power supply must be ensured during peak period: PM

LuatVietnam – April 17

Under the PM's Telegram 38/CD-TTg dated April 15, the Minister of Industry and Trade was asked to direct the drastic implementation of the Government's resolutions, the PM's directives, telegrams and guidelines, and the approved plan for electricity supply and operation of the national power system for 2024.

This includes enhancing State management, and intensifying inspection and supervision over the management and operation of the national power system to ensure its safety and effectiveness.

Specific tasks were also assigned to other ministries, Vietnam Electricity, chairpersons of the centrally run municipal and provincial People's Committees.

Mechanisms and policies for direct electricity trading between power generation units and major electricity consumers; development of rooftop solar energy installations at residential houses, government buildings, and self-producing, self-consuming industrial parks; gas power, offshore wind and coastal wind energy; must be promptly completed and submitted to competent authorities before April 30.

## What can be done to realize the goal of 6,000 MW of offshore wind power?

Labor News – April 18

Mr. Mark Hutchinson. Chair, Southeast Asia Task Force, Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) said that Vietnam needs more detailed guidelines and support mechanisms to fully exploit its potential. offshore wind power. He also highlighted the current barriers to the development of offshore wind power such as: Clearer Marine Spatial Planning (Current regulations lack specific details on suitable wind farm locations, hindering

essential surveys and project development); Enhanced Inter-Ministry Coordination (Improved collaboration between government departments will streamline the approval process); Pilot Projects (Demonstrating the viability of offshore wind through pilot projects will attract investor confidence); Transparent Power Agreements --- PPAs (Fair and clear PPAs are crucial to ensure project revenue and minimize investment risks); Effective Auction Mechanism (A well-designed auction system will foster healthy and competition accelerate project implementation). Among these, expediting Marine Spatial Planning is most critical for progress in 2024.

## Ministry refines gas-to-electricity price mechanism

Saigon Liberated Newspaper - April 17

On April 17, the Ministry of Industry and Trade informed the press that it has just completed drafting a mechanism for buying and selling gasfired power to report to the Government before seeking widespread opinions. Regarding gasfired power, the Ministry has convened several meetings to discuss and gather input from relevant ministries, local authorities, experts, associated business communities, and these organizations. Through discussions. consensus has been reached on the need to establish a framework for gas-fired electricity development, aimed at addressing key challenges hindering the progress of this energy source. The framework proposed encompasses generating units owning gas-to-power plants connected to the national electricity grid, as well as power utility companies such as the Vietnam Electricity Group, the Vietnam Oil and Gas Group, and EVN National Load Dispatch Center.

Additionally, the draft outlines mechanisms for gas-to-power plants utilizing imported LNG, emphasizing that enterprises must proactively negotiate, sign, and bear responsibility for contracts and commercial agreements. The competent authority has endorsed the principle of transferring gas prices to electricity prices for power plants.





#### 3. CIRCULAR ECONOMY

#### Tighten the management of domestic solid waste

Nhan Dan Newspaper - April 18

Hanoi produces approximately 7,000 tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) daily from industrial parks and residential areas, due to its large population of over 8 million people and rapid urbanization and industrialization. This has led to an increase in waste from construction projects and large-scale production facilities.

To address this issue, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NONMT) recently issued Document No. 2387/STNMT-QLCTR, dated April 3, 2024, to district, town, and city People's Committees, the Technical Center for Natural Resources and Environment, and environmental hygiene maintenance units. The document emphasizes the need to maintain environmental hygiene, particularly in the collection and transportation of MSW.

The City People's Committee and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment have directed district and town People's Committees in Son Tay to ensure environmental hygiene during the collection, gathering, and transportation of MSW. They have also instructed relevant units to strictly implement these guidelines and ensure that MSW transportation vehicles meet technical requirements and do not negatively impact environmental hygiene during the collection and transportation process.



## How to Ensure Transparency in the Plastic Waste Market for EPR Implementation

Vietnam Economic News - April 19

Digital transformation strategies have already provided effective solutions across the recycling value chain, making recycling easier for consumers, increasing collection, improving material identification, supporting compliance with regulations, and creating markets for recycled materials.

However, Vietnam still lacks a reliable and transparent online market for secondary materials trading. Existing platforms often fail to guarantee the origin, quality, and sustainability of materials, while large corporations with high demand for recycled materials have strict requirements for

input materials to meet responsible and sustainable supply strategies.

To address this gap, the United Development Program (UNDP) aims to promote online markets for secondary raw materials in Vietnam, starting with the plastic and textile industries. According to Ms. Fanny Queramp, Senior Expert of UNDP's Program to Promote Online Markets for Secondary Materials in Vietnam, digital technology can improve processes and logistics at different stages of the value chain, such as through smart waste management systems that enable more efficient collection, tracking, tracing, and/or recycling. Additionally, the parties will determine the needs between recyclers and suppliers for postindustrial and post-consumer waste. For sellers without an existing web platform, the Marketplace offers an opportunity to sell new products online without any investment, while for sellers with a web platform, the Marketplace model allows them to significantly reduce shipping and storage costs and sell out faster.

Hai Phong starts selecting investors for the Dinh Vu waste power plant project with a total investment of nearly VND 2,500 billion.

VnEconomy - April 20

The Hai Phong City authorities have announced that they will be entrusting the Management Board of Economic to oversee the selection of investors for a waste-to-energy project in Dinh Vu. The project, valued at VND 2,499 billion, involves the construction of a solid waste treatment plant that utilizes waste incineration technology to generate electricity.

The plant, to be built on a 10.56-hectare site in Hai An district, will have a daily capacity of 1,000 tons of domestic waste and produce approximately 20MW of electricity. The facility will be equipped with advanced technology that ensures thorough disposal of waste, conserves resources, and protects the environment. The project aims to support sustainable development in Hai Phong City and surrounding areas, while also contributing to Vietnam's power grid.

## Enterprises innovate technology, develop circular economy

Ministry of Industry and Trade - April 24





#### Vietnam needs 20-30 billion USD investment for universal clean water access

Vietnam Investment Review - April 16

Vietnam will need to invest 20-30 billion USD on water supply and drainage to make sure that 100 per cent of the population has access to clean water, according to experts.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment forecasts that water use demand by 2030 is about 122.47 billion cubic metre per year.

Urban development, discharge of untreated industrial wastewater, and use of fertilisers and pesticides in agriculture, are putting great pressure on river basins, affecting clean water sources. This is particularly the case for large cities where clean water sources are a concern.

#### Hanoi: Ensuring progress and quality of Yen Xa wastewater treatment system project

Vietnam.vn – April 17

#### Water factory suspended over drought, affecting 700 families

VnExpress - April 18

#### Third Vietnam province declares emergency over river salinity, water shortage

VnExpress – April 18

Long An Province in the Mekong Delta and next door to HCMC has declared an emergency after saltwater intrusion up its rivers has affected 20,000 people.

Saline levels of 1-4 parts per 1,000 have been found 72-80 km in land in its Vam Co Dong and Vam Co Tay Rivers. Forecasters said a level of 4/1,000 would soon reach far inland of the two rivers. River salinity levels usually hover around 0.25/1,000.

Water with higher than salinity levels should not be used for cooking, and once very high levels (around 3/1,000) are reached, the water should not be used for showering or laundry either as it can ruin water heaters and washing machines.

#### Close-up of the giant underground pipe, collecting all wastewater to revive To Lich river

Tuoi Tre – April 19

#### Commencement of Phase 1 of Xuan Mai water supply system construction investment project

VWSA – April 19

The total investment reaches 5,130 billion VND, with the capacity of 300,000m3/day and night for both Hoa Binh and Hanoi components. In particular, phase 1 of the project is implemented according to the following roadmap: From 2024 to 2026, completing phase 1A to operate water generation of 150,000m3/day and night and by 2030, completing phase 1B to increase capacity to 300,000 m3/day and night.

#### Volunteers work to revive Hanoi's lifeless waterways

Vietnamnet – April 20



#### 5. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND BUILDINGS

#### Planning for 30 airports to complete by 2025

Vietnam Plus - April 15

The Ministry of Transport recently proposed the Prime Minister approve plans, policies, and solutions to materialise the master plan.

Accordingly, the ministry will focus on major projects and prioritise investments in those that play a crucial role in the Hanoi capital region's socio-economic development, and international integration, specifically Noi Bai International Airport, and the Ho Chi Minh City region, referring to Tan Son Nhat and Long Thanh International Airports.

Among the 30 airports, 14 are international, namely Van Don, Cat Bi, Noi Bai, Tho Xuan, Vinh, Phu Bai, Sa Nang, Chu Lai, Cam Ranh, Lien Khuong, Long Thanh, Tan Son Nhat, Can Tho, and Phu Quoc.



#### \$4.3M proposed for HCMC metro trial runs

Vn Express - April 17

## <u>Vietnam among top domestic infrastructure investors: Ambassador</u>

Vietnam Plus - April 19

Addressing a high-level debate on promoting sustainable development through infrastructure connectivity as part of a 'Sustainability Week' held by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on April 18, Giang emphasized that building a modern and harmonious infrastructure system is one of the three strategic breakthroughs identified by the Vietnamese government for sustainable development.

So far, Vietnam has put into operation 1,729 km of expressways and aims to lift the total to 3,000 km by 2025, he said, adding that Vietnam continues it is continuing to develop infrastructure connectivity with neighboring countries, including Laos, thus promoting regional and inter-regional connectivity.

The Vietnamese Government continues to prioritize the development of sustainable infrastructure through investment in renewable energy, and green transportation systems, as well as promoting the production and use of electric public vehicles, he noted.

<u>Construction starts on final sub-project of North-</u> South Expressway

Saigon Liberated News - April 21

<u>Da Nang to have first smart airport terminal in</u> Vietnam

Saigon Liberated News - April 23

## <u>Ho Chi Minh City needs US\$30 billion for</u> infrastructure investment

Saigon Liberated News - April 23

In the period 2024-2030, Ho Chi Minh City prioritizes investment in 59 projects with an estimated capital of VND231,048 billion (US\$ 9,083,223,845), of which the city budget capital is about VND 156,560 billion. Specifically, Ho Chi Minh City has been calling for investment in four expressway projects, three national highway projects, five ring road projects, three inter-regional connection road projects, eight major bridge traffic projects., 52 main road projects, four waterway projects, and six other projects.

Between 2024 and 2025, it is expected that Ho Chi Minh City will need about VND 33.1 105 billion, of which additional capital to invest in 15 projects is expected to be about VND46.8 billion. In the period 2026 - 2030, Ho Chi Minh City needs about VND115,271 billion including about VND 70,126 billion for 21 projects under the form of the public-private partnership.

## MoC promotes construction of social housing projects

Vietnam News – April 28

Ministry of Construction (MoC) is working with relevant sectors and localities to review and accelerate construction of social housing projects.

That will ensure to gain the target of completing 130,000 social housing units this year assigned by the Prime Minister, Deputy Minister of Construction Nguyễn Văn Sinh said at the ministry's regular press conference held in Hà Nội on April 26.

According to Sinh, completing these social housing projects will solve many problems, including the imbalance among housing segments.





#### **6. SUSTAINABLE FINANCE**

#### <u>Opportunities to unlock in Vietnam's green</u> <u>finance arena</u>

Net Zero Vietnam – April 17

## <u>Suitable roadmaps can help SMEs in the ESG mission</u>

Vietnam Investment Review – April 17

There are several steps that companies can take to access green finance. One of the first and most important steps is engaging with financial institutions that offer green financing to understand their specific requirements. Similarly, companies can network with industry associations and participate in forums to acquire insights into emerging green finance opportunities.

## <u>Carbon market demonstrates Ho Chi Minh City's</u> commitment

Saigon Liberated News – April 20

At the conference, Director Nguyen Toan Thang of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment in Ho Chi Minh City said that while implementing Resolution No. 98, Ho Chi Minh City is also carrying out two potential projects to create carbon credits. They are the LED street light replacement project and the project of installing solar power on office roofs.



#### <u>Vietnam Needs Strategic Approach to Green</u> <u>Capital Flow</u>

Vietnam Business Forum – April 21

As of June 2023, 43 credit institutions had participated in financing green and sustainable projects as of June 2023. Compulsory environmental, social, governance (ESG) disclosures and the launch of the Vietnam Sustainability Index (VNSI) for listed companies have partly resolved problems in transparency and information asymmetry. From 2019-2023, Vietnam issued over US\$1 billion worth of green bonds to fund projects in renewable energy, waste, and agriculture.

## What does Vietnam need to prepare to 'resolve' the CBAM?

The World and Vietnam – April 21

According to a World Bank report from 2022, the GHG emission levels of Vietnam have rapidly increased over the last 30 years along with the rapid economic growth of the country. The economic expansion, urbanization, and industrialization of Vietnam have been mainly driven by a coal-dependent energy supply that

creates significant GHG emissions. Hence, the CBAM will definitely have a significant impact on Vietnamese exports to EU.

However, the CBAM will not uniformly impact all of Vietnam's exports to the EU. Its effects will predominantly be felt in four main export industries: iron and steel, aluminum, cement, and fertilizer. For Vietnamese businesses exporting to the EU, the implementation of the CBAM presents several challenges.



## <u>Green transformation and ESG practice to participate in the global competition</u>

Customs News - April 21

With Europe's carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM), many hiah-emittina industries in Vietnam have had to start reporting to Europe. In the next 3 years, a carbon tax mechanism will be applied within the CBAM framework. This means that businesses currently exporting to Europe will have to bear equal responsibility with businesses producing here. If you do not lower your emissions level, you will have to pay a relatively large tax. Along with that, Europe also introduced regulations to prevent natural forest loss (EUDR) which has a relatively large impact on Vietnam's major export industries, including wood, rubber, and coffee. Meanwhile the US Clean Competition bill is passed, it will also have a greater impact on businesses than CBAM. Meanwhile, the US is Vietnam's major export market.

## ESG rules must be tightened to unlock green capital flows: HSBC exec

The Investor - April 23

Mechanism for attracting green credit for sustainable development VOV - April 29





#### 7. OTHERS



<u>European Solar Charter</u> European Commission – April 17

<u>Higher interest rates pose risk to renewable sector, hurting energy transition, say analysts</u>

Reuters, April 18

China widens wind power lead with new generation record: Maguire

Reuters – April 18

World Future Energy Summit 2024 In Abu Dhabi Showcases Cutting-Edge Solar Innovations

Solar Quarter – April 18

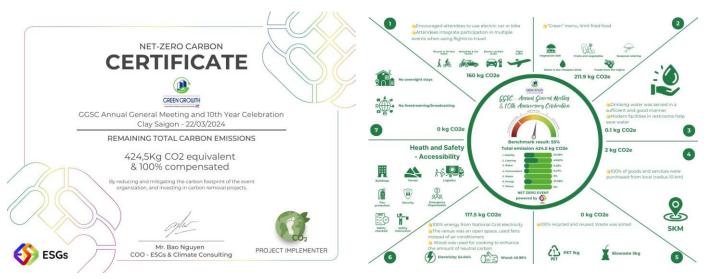
Climate change and extreme weather impacts hit Asia hard

WMO – April 23

Week In ASEAN: Gurīn Energy Approves Final Investment Decision for Capas Solar Power Project In The Philippines; ADB and Buskowitz Solar Inc. Sign \$12 Million Deal To Boost Solar Energy In The Philippines; And More

Solar Quarter – April 27





#### The First GGSC Net-Zero Event



MORNING SESSION OF THE INNOVATIVE FINANCE CLINIC: Scaling up Green Finance for Buildings in Vietnam



"Energy and Green Energy" Workshop by the Vietnam Power Association in collaboration with Hadifa Company



Consultation Workshop "Public Awareness Campaign on Energy Transition



VC Sergio Pereira Da Silva at the Business Luncheon "CSRD and Its Impacts on Businesses in Vietnam"



#### 8. EVENTS

Upcoming Events in May						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Nordic Business Briefing	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Holistic Solutions To Achieve Your Decarbonization Target	<b>15</b> DxHub™, FPT Digital	Vietnam ESG Investment Conference (16-17 <sup>th</sup> May)	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Tall Building Forum 2024





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