



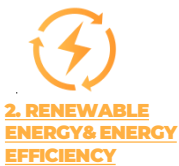
Circular economy in Vietnam needs long-term policies

Sep 16th, 2024

SUMMARY



- Circular economy needs long-term policies
- Legal framework for green credit
- Green finance
- Green economy



- Offshore wind power
- Green energy
- Rooftop solar power
- Renewable energy



- Green economy
- Green consumption
- Circular economy policies



- Water treatment
- Environmental sanitation during floods



- Green transportation
- Eco-industrial parks
- Green buildings



- ESG
- Green finance
- Green capital market
- Reports



- Green energy transition
- EU energy policy
- Green Energy reach
- ESG



- 2 GGSC events
- 3 other events
- 9 upcoming sustainability events



1. POLICY & LEGAL

[Circular economy in Vietnam needs long-term policies](#)

September 16 – Con Số Sự Kiện

At the "Circular Economy Development Forum: Global Trends and Policy Directions in Vietnam," Deputy Minister Trần Quốc Phương emphasized that Vietnam needs long-term policies to develop a circular economy. Since the early 2020s, Vietnam has actively researched and established key directives, including Decision No. 687/QĐ-TTg, which approved the Circular Economy Development Scheme. While there have been positive results, implementation remains slow due to incomplete and inconsistent policies.

Successful efforts include increased investment in renewable energy and waste recycling, but Vietnam lags behind global standards. To improve, six key tasks were highlighted, such as refining legal frameworks, integrating into global trade flows, and encouraging sustainable business practices, which are essential for fostering a circular economy in Vietnam.



[Legal framework critical to boosting green credit](#)

September 16 2024 – Thời Báo Tài Chính

The recent amendment of the plan on green banking development in Vietnam is expected to create favorable conditions for credit institutions to promote green credit effectively. From 2017 to 2023, green credit in the banking system grew by about 22% annually. However, as of early 2024, outstanding green credit accounted for only 4.5% of total banking credit, highlighting the need for further progress.

Key barriers include the absence of a green taxonomy, which is essential for the State Bank of Vietnam (SBV) to evaluate credit solutions and guide sustainable finance. Additionally, a clear legal framework is lacking. Decision 1663/2024, issued in August, aims to address these issues by updating regulations on green banking and detailing responsibilities for state agencies, creating a consistent legal basis for green credit implementation. Experts emphasize that improving the legal framework is critical to unlocking the full potential of green finance.

[Implementing the National Green Growth Strategy](#)

Sept 10 2024 – Đảng Cộng sản Việt Nam

On September 10, 2024, the "Realizing the National Green Growth Strategy in Vietnam: Promoting Green Capital Flows" forum took place in Hanoi, highlighting the importance of mobilizing financial resources to meet green growth goals. Vietnam needs an estimated \$330–370 billion to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Discussions emphasized the need for effective financial resource allocation from both domestic and international sources, including green credit and public-private partnerships.

Experts pointed out challenges in accessing green finance, such as vague project criteria and high financial costs. To address these, participants proposed improving financial mechanisms and policies to support green finance, aiming to advance sustainable development and Vietnam's green growth strategy:



[Developing the Green Economy: From Policy to the Formation of Green Growth Pillars](#)

September 6 2024 – Doanh nghiệp Kinh tế Xanh

In Vietnam, green growth and sustainable development have been prioritized by the government, evident through strategic policies such as Decision No. 1393/QĐ-TTg, which affirms that green growth is crucial for sustainable economic development.

The country has set ambitious targets, including transitioning to a low-carbon economy, promoting renewable energy, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As part of its green strategy, Vietnam aims to reduce carbon intensity by 15% by 2030 and 30% by 2050. However, challenges such as climate change, resource limitations, and post-pandemic economic difficulties hinder progress. Despite these challenges, Vietnam's commitment to green transformation remains firm, with key pillars of green finance, green production, and sustainable consumption taking shape, driving the country toward a greener, more resilient economy.





2. RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY



[Rooftop solar power industrial parks to meet green energy demand](#)

September 3 – Vietnam+

Industrial parks in Vietnam are increasingly embracing rooftop solar power as a sustainable and cost-effective energy solution. On November 30, 2023, the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT) approved the power supply and power system operation plan for 2024, which determines that the total produced and imported electricity nationwide in 2024 should be 306.26 billion kWh.

At a forum on solar power for rooftops in industrial parks, a Deep C Industrial Park representative said that while rooftop solar systems were allowed under Decision No. 13/2020/QĐ-TTg and Circular No. 18/2020/TT-BCT, their scale was limited to 1 MW or 1.25 MWp, hindering their full potential and increasing administrative burdens for larger installations.

[Vietnam's renewable energy holds significant growth potential](#)

September 6 – VnEconomy

Vietnam has immense renewable energy potential, estimated at 1.2 terawatts, far exceeding its current capacity. The country is transitioning towards renewable energy sources, with electricity generation from renewables expected to grow significantly in the coming years.

Global electricity demand is also increasing, and renewable sources are poised to play a major role in meeting this demand. At COP28, Vietnam made commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, developing renewable energy, and addressing climate change aligns with global trends and offers a promising future for sustainable energy development.

[Green energy opportunities abound for Vietnamese firms](#)

September 4 – Vietnam+

At a series of seminars on energy held in Ho Chi Minh City on September 4, some experts said that Vietnamese firms have a promising opportunity to invest in green and clean projects, especially in renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure. Vietnam requires 25 billion USD annually to meet its infrastructure needs. However, the national budget can only cover around 15 billion USD, presenting both challenges and opportunities for both private and public sectors in investment promotion and strategic project development.



With a growing demand for infrastructure and a commitment to reducing carbon emissions, there is a significant need for investment in these areas. The government's focus on renewable energy and the nation's position as a regional leader in infrastructure investment provide favorable conditions for businesses to contribute to a sustainable energy future.

[Offshore wind power - new driving force for oil and gas industry](#)

September 5 – Vietnam+

Vietnam seeks a clean energy future by ramping up offshore wind power. They target 6,000 MW by 2030, with potential for more. Oil and gas firms' expertise in offshore projects is crucial, as noted by the International Energy Agency (IEA). Their experience in construction, exploration, and services can optimize investment and make offshore wind a major industry.

Vietnam's energy giants, Petrovietnam and EVN, are leading the charge. Petrovietnam's experience and resources have secured them agreements with international investors. Their subsidiary Petrovietnam Technical Services Corporation (PTSC) has won contracts for over 10 projects, creating thousands of jobs.

PTSC is also partnering with Sembcorp Group to build a massive 2.3 GW wind farm in Vietnam, potentially exporting electricity to Singapore. Legal hurdles remain, but PTSC aims for commercial power generation by 2035. Vietnam leverages its oil and gas expertise to propel its offshore wind industry towards a clean and sustainable energy future.





3. CIRCULAR ECONOMY

[Economic growth models innovation an essential step for sustainable development: Experts](#)

September 3 – Vietnam+

Vietnam must innovate its growth model by focusing on high technology, supporting startups, and transitioning to a green economy. Last week, Politburo member and Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, head of the sub-committee for socio-economic affairs of the 14th National Party Congress, slated for early 2026, chaired the third meeting of this sub-committee.



The event reviewed the sub-committee's work since its last meeting and discussed a draft report on the first five years of implementing the 2021-2030 socioeconomic development strategy. The Prime Minister emphasized the need for revitalizing traditional growth drivers and advancing new sources of growth. While Vietnam's economy has shown strong growth, it still relies on an outdated model and needs to focus on increasing TFP and labor productivity.

[Contributing to the green consumption movement](#)

September 6 – Tài Nguyên & Môi trường

In Vietnam, 'green consumption' is an important part of the National Green Growth Strategy for the period 2021-2030, with a vision extending to 2050. According to the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the demand for green products in Vietnam has been growing at an average rate of 15% per year between 2021 and 2023. Notably, approximately 72% of Vietnamese consumers are willing to pay more money for green products.

Following the commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, the government has introduced regulations such as the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), which is detailed in Decree 08/2022/ND-CP. Additionally, regulations on greenhouse gas emission reduction and ozone layer protection require businesses to report their greenhouse gas inventories and establish reduction roadmaps starting from 2026, as outlined in Decree 06/2022/ND-CP.

Domestic and foreign enterprises, organizations, and institutions have been actively responding to this trend. They are adapting to government policies and guidelines, driving long-term changes in production and business operations.



[A strong policy push is needed to drive the circular economy](#)

September 6 – Thời báo Ngân hàng

in Vietnam, the Circular Economy (CE) has been gradually incorporated into various strategic documents, plans, and projects, such as the 10-year Socio-economic Development Strategy for 2021-2030. Notably, Article 142 of the Environmental Protection Law of 2020 and Decree 08/2022/ND-CP provide detailed guidance on criteria, roadmaps, implementation methods, responsibilities, and incentives for promoting the CE.

While the CE has been integrated into production, distribution, and consumption activities, its implementation has not been synchronized on a broad scale. Therefore, Vietnam needs a comprehensive policy framework and unified approach to effectively implement the CE.

According to Dr. Tran Thi Thuy Hang from the National Economics University, it is essential to first complete the legal framework and specify the responsibilities of producers and distributors in product recovery, sorting, and recycling. In addition, Vietnam should establish eco-industrial parks to connect producers and enable them to share infrastructure. Dr. Nguyen Danh Nam suggests that circular economy policies should be developed based on four stages: production, consumption, waste management, and transforming waste into raw materials to maximize the value of input materials.





4. WATER



[Việt Nam's largest wastewater treatment plant opens in Ho Chi Minh City](#)

September 1 – Vietnamnews

On August 30, HCM City inaugurated the Bình Hưng wastewater treatment plant and collection network expansion, the largest of its kind in Vietnam. This Phase 2 project, with a nearly VNĐ1.3 trillion (US\$452 million) investment from Japanese ODA and domestic funds, enhances the plant's capacity to 469,000 cubic meters per day and extends wastewater management to over 2,500 hectares across eight districts, serving around 1.8 million people. The facility includes over 10 hectares of green space and serves as an environmental monitoring and training center. The expanded plant will boost the city's wastewater treatment rate from 20.6% to 40.8%, with a goal of 71.3% by 2025, and aims to treat all domestic wastewater by 2030. The city also plans to start Phase 3 of the water environment improvement project in 2026.

[Ensuring clean water and environmental sanitation during floods](#)

September 11 – Vietnam.vn

To ensure clean water and environmental sanitation during floods, the Ministry of Health has issued guidelines emphasizing pre-storm preparations and post-flood actions. Before storms and floods, health sectors should develop plans for environmental sanitation, clean water, and medical waste management, including public education, resource allocation, and preparation for water treatment. During floods, regular monitoring, provision of water treatment chemicals, and disinfection of water containers are crucial. Post-flood, authorities should guide cleanup efforts, manage medical and dead animal waste, and ensure water quality and sanitation. Ongoing inspection and supervision of water and medical waste management are essential to prevent health risks and ensure compliance with regulations.

[Collecting and processing e-waste must be carried out professionally and systematically](#)

September 10 – Vietnamnews

Electronic waste (e-waste) is becoming a significant environmental issue in Vietnam, with the country generating about 100,000 tonnes annually, projected to reach 250,000 tonnes by 2025. The rise in e-waste is driven by the increasing affordability and disposability of electronic devices. Inadequate recycling practices and outdated technology exacerbate the problem, leading to soil, water, and air pollution from hazardous substances like lead and mercury. To address this, experts suggest adopting a comprehensive strategy that includes raising public awareness, enhancing state management, implementing product recovery models, and investing in advanced recycling technologies. Some businesses in Vietnam have begun e-waste recovery programs, but broader and more effective solutions are needed to manage this growing problem.





5. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND BUILDINGS

[Vietnam eyes green solutions for transportation sector](#)

September 1 – Vietnam+

The transportation industry in Vietnam is transitioning towards environmentally friendly practices to align with global sustainability trends. Nguyen Thi Phuong Hien, Deputy Director of the Transport Development & Strategy Institute, said that the transportation development strategy aimed to promote green logistics toward sustainable growth in Vietnam.

Despite challenges posed by infrastructure limitations, the government is implementing strategies to promote green logistics and reduce carbon emissions in the transportation sector. Key focus areas include investing in electric vehicles, improving infrastructure, and adopting digital technology. The ultimate goal is to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.



[Vietnam counts over 400 green buildings](#)

September 4 – Vietnam+

Vietnam has exceeded its target for green buildings, reaching 400 with a combined certified area of 10 million sq.m. While this is average for ASEAN, the country aims to develop more green buildings to reduce environmental impacts and greenhouse gas emissions. In 2023, Vietnam ranked 28th in the world in the number of green buildings certified under the LEED system by the US Green Building Council.

Deputy Minister of Construction Nguyen Tuong Van said that with Government's support policies and voluntary applications, the development of green buildings in Vietnam had achieved positive results.

As people and organizations are encouraged to develop green buildings, it is necessary to have solutions to allocate resources to support and promote related stakeholders to develop sustainable and effective green buildings, the Ministry of Construction.

[V-Green deploys first EV charging station franchise model in Vietnam](#)

September 5 – Vietnam+



[Eco-industrial parks vital to achieving net zero emission target by 2050](#)

September 7 – Vietnam+

Vietnam aims to develop eco-industrial parks to meet its net-zero emissions goal by 2050. The rapid development of industrial parks has put great pressure on the living environment of residents. Up to 13% of operating IPs have not built wastewater treatment plants, threatening the health of the surrounding communities.

The Swiss government and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) are supporting Vietnam in developing eco-industrial parks. They are working on projects in several provinces to promote circular economy and energy efficiency. However, Vietnam lacks specific policies for eco-industrial parks, which may hinder their development, according to Bruno Jaspaert, Executive Director of the Deep C Industrial Park in Hai Phong.

[Experts propose advancing green transportation in various regions](#)

September 3 – Sài Gòn Giải Phóng

The Green Transport Development workshop in Ho Chi Minh City advocated for expanding green transportation initiatives to meet the Net Zero target by 2050. Can Gio district stands out as a potential area for green transport. The Action Program for a Green Can Gio includes plans for a "Green Port" and transitioning from fossil fuels to clean energy.

Can Gio's road density is low, with most personal transport relying on gasoline motorbikes. Public transport usage is minimal. The Green Transport Pilot Program aims to promote electric vehicles and clean fuels. Surveys show that many visitors to Can Gio are tourists who use gasoline vehicles. The program recommends offering transit parking and high-frequency bus services to encourage tourists to switch to green transportation options.



6. SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

Vietnam adapts to global trends in environmental, social and governance practise

September 4 – VietnamPlus

Only 25% of SMEs have committed to ESG, showing a gap between large firms and smaller businesses. With global trends prioritizing green development, products tied to deforestation or high emissions may face export restrictions by 2025. While Vietnam has enacted laws to support ESG, SMEs hesitate due to costs and compliance challenges, making collaboration and adherence to international standards essential for competitiveness.

Green finance critical to realise green growth targets: conference

September 11 - Vietnamnews

The UNDP estimates that Vietnam needs \$330-370 billion to meet its green growth targets and achieve Net Zero by 2050, with \$68.75 billion specifically required for emissions reduction. By June 2024, Vietnam's green loans totaled VNĐ680 trillion (\$27.5 billion), just 4.5% of total loans, and green bond issuance reached \$1.16 billion since 2019. However, limited green finance policies, weak environmental taxes, and the lack of a green taxonomy hinder progress. Experts urge tax reforms, stronger legal frameworks, and a carbon credit market, emphasizing the need to develop green finance products and ecosystems for sustainable development.

Green financial tools crucial for developing green capital market

September 12 – VnEconomy

During a discussion about the development orientations of green financial instruments Vietnam – particularly from the perspective of the stock market development strategy to 2030. On August 15, 2024, the Ministry of Finance issued Decision No 1934/QĐ-BTC, outlining the ministry's Action Plan to realize the National Green Growth Strategy. Accordingly, the Stock Market Development Strategy to 2030 set targets to “develop green financial instruments”. These tools will be important pillars in developing a green and sustainable capital market. They will contribute to promoting its role as a channel for mobilizing mid-and long-term capital, a necessary source of finance for projects related to renewable energy, green and clean technologies, and other environmental protection projects.



Sustainable bond market update

September 4 - ICMA Report

New Guidance from the Principles

September 4 - ICMA Report

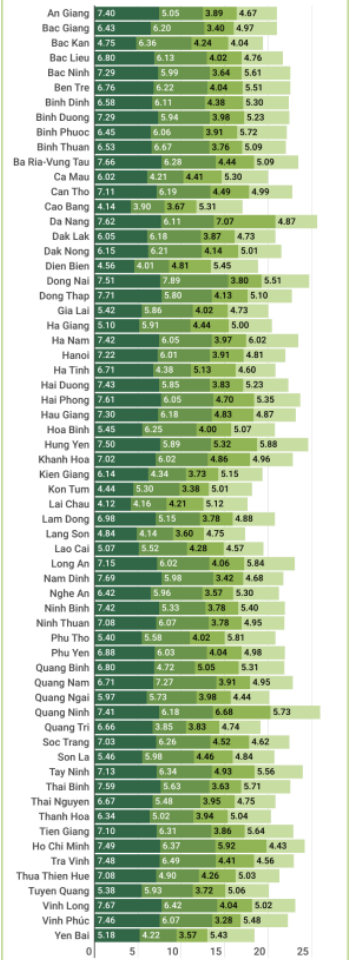
ESAs' Joint Opinion on the assessment of the SFDR

September 4 - ICMA Report

PROVINCIAL GREEN INDEX IN VIETNAM'S 63 LOCALITIES

The Provincial Green Index (PGI) helps provincial governments with assessing and improving the quality and efficiency of environmental governance. It includes four indicators:

- Minimising environmental pollution and the negative impacts of climate change.
- Ensuring compliance with minimum environmental standards.
- The leadership role of provincial authorities in promoting green practices.
- Policies and support services for businesses in environmental protection.



Source: VCCI USAID TTXVN

Green finance brings both new opportunities, challenges to Vietnam: Experts

September 3 – Dantrinews

Vietnam is making strides in green and sustainable finance but still faces significant challenges. The country lags in green and digital finance due to capital shortages, with green credit making up only about 4.5-5% of total loans in Ho Chi Minh City, though it is growing rapidly. The State Bank of Vietnam (SBV) is advancing green finance by promoting green credit for projects and developing action programs aligned with national strategies. Experts recommend increased investment in green industries, mandatory Fintech regulations, and policies to support green bonds and carbon emission reduction to enhance sustainability and attract foreign investment.



7. OTHERS



[Landmark EU report embraces green energy transition - but advocates for softer rules on PFAS](#)

September 11, 2024 – Euronews

[The achievements and future of EU energy policy](#)

September 6, 2024 – Open Access Government

[Green Energy Research: Collaboration and Tools for a Sustainable Future](#)

September 6, 2024 - Nature Research Intelligence

[New levels of urgency around ESG – why businesses are being forced to take action now](#)

September 9, 2024 – InsiderMedia





8. EVENTS

GGSC WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES



Sep 10th: REEE WG excited to organize the monthly meeting in September

REEE WG organized the monthly meeting in September

GGSC BOARD ACTIVITIES



Sep 10th: Mr Khuất Quang Hứn, VC GGSC, shared insights about sustainable corporate governance at Vietnam Corporate Sustainability Forum 2024

Mr Hùng shared insights in breakout session 2 "Realizing business's sustainable goals through fostering sustainable corporate governance and social impact creation"





8. EVENTS



Sep 6th: [Hanoi launched a campaign to promote green and sustainable consumption, along with a collaborative program between retailers and suppliers to increase the availability of eco-friendly products](#)



Sep 5th: [A high-level travel forum on green transformation held in Ho Chi Minh City](#)



Sep 4th-6th: [2024 International Container Management Symposium \(CMS 2024\) in Ho Chi Minh City](#)



Upcoming Events in September - October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					20 Partnering for Success: Distributor Insights Workshop (LinkedIn Post)	21
22	23	24	25	26 [Lunch & Learn Workshop] Scaling Businesses for Sustainable Growth & Profit Beyond Zero: Global Film Screening Tour - First time come to Vietnam	27	28
29	30	1	2 [Private Luncheon] Southeast Asia's Green Economy 2024: Moving The Needle METALEX Vietnam 2024 under the theme of "FROM LINES TO CYCLE – BUILDING A CARBON NEUTRAL MANUFACTURING LEGACY"	3 Vietnam Green Building Week 2024 Toward Circular Economy Workshop	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 CBAM and the Carbon Market Challenges and Opportunities for HCMC enterprises	12
13	14	15	16 International Forum Franconomics-2024: "Renewable Energy: Scenario For A Green Future"	17	18	19

Partnering for success
Distributor Insights Workshop

- Learn about innovative solutions for storm water, sewer & treatment plant management
- Discover business opportunities as a distributor for HST Systemtechnik
- Networking with water people

Time: 9:00-12:00
Date: 20th September 2024
Venue: waterhub office- No. 1 street 34, An Phu Ward, Thu Duc City, Ho Chi Minh City

REGISTER

MORE INFORMATION
028 62862310
0969 160988 (Trang)

LUNCH & LEARN WORKSHOP

Scaling Businesses for SUSTAINABLE PROFIT & GROWTH

Details
Thu | 26 Sept 2024
11:30AM - 02:00PM
Sofitel Saigon
17 Le Duan, DL, HCMC

Speakers
 • **Jan Heines**
Senior Partner
Transition Management Practice
Linn-Lugen & Heines

• **Philippe Le Bourhis**
General Manager
Ecofys Asia Pacific
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Registration members
200,000 VND/seat
100,000 VND/seat

PRIVATE LUNCHEON: SOUTHEAST ASIA'S GREEN ECONOMY 2024 MOVING THE NEEDLE

WEDNESDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2024
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM (GMT+7)

VENUE: SOFITEL LEGEND METROPOLE HANOI
58 Ly Thai To Street, Hoan Kiem District, Hanoi

Speakers:
 • **Mr. Andrew Cartwright**
Managing Director of Asian Services
Bain & Company

• **Ms. Gisle Nordstalle**
Environmental Sustainability
Coordinator of Hanoi District
Government of Hanoi

• **Ms. Nguyen Thuy Minh**
Managing Director of Energy &
Change, Sustainable City Vietnam

• **Ms. Anant Liberty**
CEO of Green Growth Hub
Hanoi District

For more information, please contact: Ms. Hoang Anh via: haanganh@bain.com

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