INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ISO) RELEASES DRAFT NET ZERO STANDARD

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has released a draft of its new **ISO 14060 Net Zero Aligned Organizations Standard**, aimed at helping organizations create credible and comprehensive net-zero transition plans.

Key points:

- It provides principles and requirements for setting emissions reduction targets, implementing strategies, and tracking progress toward net zero.
- Developed over two years, it offers globally consistent guidance aligned with the Paris Agreement.
- The standard addresses full value chain emissions (Scope 1, 2, and 3), prioritizing deep reductions first, with limited use of carbon removal for residual emissions.
- Organizations must set interim and long-term targets and publish a transition plan within two years, including timelines, strategies, and reporting methods.
- It also covers carbon credits, governance, monitoring, validation, and verification.
- Additional guidance is included for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
- The standard applies to organizations such as companies, NGOs, and academic institutions, but not governments or regions.

Overall, the draft aims to ensure organizations adopt **transparent, verifiable, and science-aligned pathways** to reach net zero.

https://www.esgtoday.com/iso-releases-draft-net-zero-standard/

AUSTRALIA OPENS FIRST CARBON REFINERY TO TURN CAPTURED CO_2 INTO CONCRETE, PAPER AND GLASS

Australia has launched its first carbon refinery, capable of capturing up to 2,500 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually from Orica's ammonia operations in New South Wales. The facility employs mineral carbonation technology to convert the captured CO_2 into useful materials for industries such as concrete, paper, and glass. This initiative comes as the country intensifies its efforts to meet its climate goals, aiming to reduce emissions by 62% to 70% by 2035 compared to 2005 levels.

https://esgnews.com/australia-opens-first-carbon-refinery-to-turn-captured-co2-into-concrete-paper-and-glass/

EU COUNCIL BACKS EXPANSION OF CBAM CARBON IMPORT TAX TO FINISHED GOODS

The EU Council has agreed on a stronger version of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), moving it toward broader coverage as negotiations with the European Parliament begin. Originally focused on raw materials like steel, cement, and aluminium, CBAM is now set to expand to certain downstream (finished) products to prevent loopholes and unfair competition.

The reform aims to stop "carbon leakage," where production shifts outside the EU to avoid stricter climate rules, and to protect EU industries from cheaper, carbon-intensive imports. The Council also proposes regularly reviewing and adding more products over time.

For businesses, CBAM is evolving from a narrow border tax into a wider industrial policy tool. Companies will need better emissions data, deeper supply-chain transparency, and stronger cross-functional coordination (procurement, finance, legal, and risk). Investors are likely to scrutinize how firms manage these risks, with potential impacts on costs, compliance, and long-term investment decisions.

https://esgnews.com/eu-council-backs-expansion-of-cbam-carbon-import-tax-to-finished-goods/

ENVIRONMENTAL NGOs CHALLENGE EU CARBON REMOVAL RULES OVER BIO-CCS, BIOCHAR INTEGRITY

Environmental NGOs have urged the European Commission to reassess the carbon removal rules under the EU's Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming Regulation, raising concerns about the effectiveness of certain approaches. In particular, they caution that Bio-CCS and biochar methodologies may not guarantee permanent CO_2 removal from the atmosphere. The outcome of this review could have significant implications for the credibility of the EU carbon market, shaping investor confidence and influencing whether carbon removals are incorporated into the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) in the future.

https://esgnews.com/environmental-ngos-challenge-eu-carbon-removal-rules-over-bio-ccs-biochar-integrity/