TOKYO TO ISSUE WORLD'S FIRST CERTIFIED CLIMATE RESILIENCE BOND

Tokyo is preparing to issue the world's first climate resilience bond certified under the Climate Bonds Initiative's (CBI) new Resilience Criteria and Taxonomy, marking a major evolution in sustainable finance. The bond, verified by Rating and Investment Information, Inc. (R&I), is part of the TOKYO Resilience Project, a sweeping municipal effort to fortify the capital against escalating climate risks.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG) aims to use the TOKYO Resilience Bond to channel investment into long-term urban safety and climate preparedness. Proceeds from the issuance will fund key investments including upgrading river systems, developing coastal protection around Tokyo Bay and nearby islands, reinforcing storm barriers, and undergrounding utility poles to prevent collapse during extreme weather events. Other financed projects include sediment disaster prevention systems and the renovation of port facilities to shield remote island communities particularly vulnerable to typhoons.

The certification marks a structural shift in how the Climate Bonds Standard, historically focused on emissions mitigation, can now accommodate adaptation and resilience projects with equivalent scientific rigor. For institutional investors, the certification provides clarity and credibility in a fast-growing but still nascent segment of sustainable finance. Resilience-linked projects have often struggled to attract mainstream capital due to the lack of standardized verification mechanisms. By integrating the new criteria into the globally recognized Climate Bonds framework, CBI's taxonomy now offers measurable thresholds and independent verification for adaptation outcomes.

Source: https://tinyurl.com/tokyobonds

GRI, CDP ALIGN CLIMATE AND ENERGY REPORTING TO STRENGTHEN GLOBAL DISCLOSURE CONSISTENCY

Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) have released a new alignment tool connecting their respective climate and energy disclosure frameworks in a bid to simplify sustainability reporting for thousands of companies worldwide. The mapping, published on October 28, details how CDP's 2025 corporate questionnaire aligns with the newly issued GRI Climate Change and Energy Standards.

The joint resource builds on a 2023 Memorandum of Understanding between GRI and CDP, aimed at harmonizing disclosure standards to reduce reporting burden and improve data usability. The mapping identifies where data points between GRI's Climate Change 2025 (GRI 102) and Energy 2025 (GRI 103) correspond with CDP's environmental metrics, supporting the principle of "write once, read many."

With the proliferation of disclosure requirements globally, from the EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) to the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB), corporates face growing pressure to meet multiple frameworks. The GRI-CDP mapping offers practical guidance to help organizations maintain consistency across reports, reducing duplication while ensuring that investors, regulators, and other stakeholders receive comparable, high-quality information.

The collaboration reflects a wider movement toward interoperability across sustainability frameworks. The GRI-CDP effort parallels similar initiatives between GRI and the ISSB, as well as between CDP and the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), all aimed at ensuring comparability across overlapping regimes. As ESG data becomes increasingly integrated into financial regulation and investment analysis, alignment efforts such as the GRI-CDP mapping will play a central role in building trust and efficiency across global reporting ecosystems.

Source: https://tinyurl.com/GRI-CDP

UK PLAN TO CREATE NEW ROLES IN CLEAN ENERGY JOBS BY 2030

The UK government has released its first comprehensive Clean Energy Jobs Plan, forecasting 400,000 new clean-energy jobs by 2030 as part of its mission to make Britain a "clean energy superpower." The strategy sets out how government, industry, and trade unions will collaborate to deliver a workforce capable of building, maintaining, and operating the country's rapidly expanding renewable and low-carbon infrastructure. The plan estimates that employment across clean-energy sectors will rise from around 440,000 in 2023 to 860,000 by the end of the decade, reflecting sustained growth in wind, nuclear, solar, carbon capture, and energy-efficiency projects. These industries already advertise average salaries exceeding £50,000, about 35% higher than the national average.

To meet the projected demand, the UK government will establish five new Clean Energy Technical Excellence Colleges and invest more than £100 million in engineering skills. A further £1.2 billion per year will expand training for 1.3 million young people, including 65,000 additional learners annually by 2028–29. For young people, entry-level clean-energy roles pay on average 23% percent more than comparable occupations in other industries, offering a route to higher wages and long-term security

The plan's broader ambition is to ensure the benefits of decarbonisation are evenly distributed across regions, income levels, and generations. By embedding collective bargaining, training access, and fair-pay standards, the UK positions its clean-energy transition not just as an environmental imperative but as a cornerstone of inclusive economic renewal.

Source: https://tinyurl.com/UKcleanenergyjobs

NEW ZEALAND LIFTS CLIMATE REPORTING THRESHOLDS TO REVIVE CAPITAL MARKETS

New Zealand is easing its climate-reporting requirements as part of a wider effort to revive capital markets and reduce regulatory burdens on smaller listed companies. The government will lift the market capitalisation threshold for mandatory climate disclosures from NZ$60 million to NZ$1 billion (about US$573 million), a sixteenth-fold increase that will sharply reduce the number of firms required to report climate-related financial risks.

New Zealand was among the first countries to legislate mandatory climate-related financial disclosures, requiring large firms to report in line with Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) principles. The first reports were published in 2024. Legislation for the reforms will be introduced through the Financial Markets Conduct Amendment Bill, expected to pass by 2026.

The changes come amid sluggish activity on the New Zealand Stock Exchange. Since 2020, only 34 companies have listed, including six IPOs, while 37 have delisted. The government sees compliance costs and reporting obligations as among the factors deterring smaller firms from entering the market. Under the new climate-reporting rules, only the country's largest firms, those with market caps above NZ$1 billion, will be required to file annual climate-related disclosures. Smaller companies will be exempt, while larger entities must continue to report on their exposure to climate risks and opportunities.

Source: https://tinyurl.com/NewZlandclimate

INDIA PLANS HYDROPOWER EXPANSION AS STRATEGIC BUFFER TO CHINA'S UPSTREAM DAMS

India has outlined an ambitious $77 billion hydropower transmission plan to harness the Brahmaputra River's vast energy potential and bolster its energy security in a geopolitically sensitive region. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) said the plan aims to transmit more than 76 gigawatts (GW) of hydroelectric capacity from India's northeast by 2047.

The projects will span 12 sub-basins of the Brahmaputra River, which flows from Tibet through India into Bangladesh, a waterway that has become increasingly strategic as China accelerates upstream dam construction. The investment aligns with India's target of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil power generation by 2030 and reaching net-zero emissions by 2070.

Hydropower, though slower to develop than solar or wind, offers round the clock clean electricity that supports grid stability and storage integration. Brahmaputra plan would serve as a "green backbone" of India's future energy mix, reducing fossil dependence while providing a strategic counterweight to upstream developments in Tibet.

Source: https://tinyurl.com/hydrotibet

KERALA BECOMES FIRST INDIAN STATE TO APPROVE COMPREHENSIVE ESG INVESTMENT POLICY

The Kerala Government has approved a state-wide environmental, social and governance (ESG) policy, making it the first Indian state to formally embed ESG principles into its investment framework. The decision aims to position Kerala as a preferred destination for ESG-compliant industries. Policy was crafted after assessing the types of industries compatible with the state's ecological and social landscape. Sectors that are low in emissions and pollution are identified as most suitable, aligning with both Kerala's climate priorities and its economic ambitions.

ESG lens will apply across new industrial projects and infrastructure proposals to tilt approvals and incentives toward renewable energy, green manufacturing, sustainable agriculture, and digital service industries, while placing restrictions on highly polluting sectors.

The move echoes international regulatory trends, from the European Union's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) to emerging disclosure rules in Asia. By acting at a subnational level, Kerala is signalling that Indian states can build competitive advantage through climate-aligned governance, even ahead of federal mandates.

Kerala's step into ESG-driven governance is as much a message to global markets as it is to local industries: sustainable growth is no longer optional, but foundational to its economic strategy. If successfully implemented, the policy could enhance Kerala's competitiveness in attracting international investment and set a template for other regions in India.

Source: https://tinyurl.com/KeralaESGPolicy