

MONTHLY ZCA CLEANTECH NEWS



The Cleantech Insight You Need

June 2025

Vol. 5

Editors note

As climate pressures intensify, innovation isn't just desirable—it's essential. Ofwat's £42 million investment in 16 cutting-edge water projects—leveraging AI, robotics, and satellite data—proves bold ideas can and must become operational realities. These projects reflect a growing trend: industry and infrastructure aligning with climate ambition.

Yet progress brings challenges. Rising energy costs are rattling businesses, prompting a shift to on-site renewables, storage, and smarter systems. AI and electrification are fuelling demand but also offer powerful solutions—if we have the courage to scale them fast. Policy momentum is growing. The UK's move to explore solar canopies in car parks follows smart global examples like France. It's a promising sign—but ambition must be matched by speed and infrastructure.

At ZCA, we believe cleantech must push boundaries and challenge convention. The climate crisis demands no less. The future depends on how boldly we act—and how urgently we respond—starting now.

This belief drives the **ZCA Cleantech Awards 2025**. By spotlighting groundbreaking technologies and visionary leadership, we aim to accelerate the shift to a cleaner, more sustainable world.



Cleantech Awards 2025

The ZCA is proud to launch the **second annual Cleantech Awards 2025**—celebrating the innovators, disruptors, and pioneers driving the clean technology revolution.

Are you transforming the future of food, energy, water, transport or industry? This is your chance to be recognised among the leading climate-tech changemakers. Register your interest [here](#)

UNSTABLE ENERGY COST IMPACTING PROFITABILITY

EY surveyed more than 2,400 decision-makers at large to mid-sized organisations across eight global markets to assess business attitudes towards the energy sector. It highlighted the pressing challenges faced by both providers and their customers alike, given that electricity demand is expected to double by 2050, with businesses set to drive three-quarters of this growth.

OFWAT WINNERS REVEALED

In the UK more than \$56m granted in funding to innovative projects. ZCA outlines some of the winning projects below:

Project	Technology	Amount Awarded
Smart Skies, Healthy Waters	Drones, on-site laboratory	£6 million
Space Eye	Satellites, ML	£1.3 million
SandSCAPE	Robotics	£2 million
Pedal	Remote sensing using satellites & drones, AI	£2 million
TORCH	AI	£1 million

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► SPOTLIGHT

INARI

ZCA Agtech & Food Industry award winners 2024

Inari is a biotechnology company that aims to transform agriculture and its impact on society and the environment.

In January 2025, Inari announced that it had secured an additional \$144 million in investment in its latest funding round. This was followed by news in March that the company had also been certified by My Green Lab, a globally recognised organisation driving sustainable practices in scientific research. This also included My Green Lab's first-ever certification of a greenhouse.

Since then, Inari has added more than 2,000 square meters of new greenhouse space at its Belgian site, tripling the company's indoor plant growth capacity in the region, and further accelerating research and development of step-change seed products.

Read more [here](#)



UK EXPLORES SOLAR CAR PARK CANOPIES

The UK government is exploring the feasibility of installing solar canopies in public and

private car parks through a new call for evidence. This initiative aims to generate clean energy, reduce electricity costs for businesses and consumers, and support EV charging, following successful implementation of similar measures in France.

SOLAR SURGES IN LANDMARK YEAR

2024 marked a record-breaking year for solar energy, with 597 GW of new capacity added—up 33% from 2023. Solar comprised 81% of new renewable additions, driven mainly by China. While growth is strong, experts warn of grid strain and call for urgent investment in energy flexibility to sustain momentum globally.

CHANGAN TARGETS SOLID- STATE BREAKTHROUGH

Changan plans to debut prototype cars with all-solid-state batteries by end-2025, offering 1,500 km range; BYD and CATL target production by 2027.

