

MONTHLY ZCA CLEANTECH NEWS



The Cleantech Insight You Need

July 2025

Vol. 6

Editors note

This edition of the ZCA Cleantech newsletter arrives at a pivotal moment in the UK's clean energy transition and the global shift toward sustainable industrial systems.

In the UK, Rolls-Royce leading the small modular reactor rollout marks a significant step in enhancing energy resilience and promoting British low-carbon innovation. Meanwhile, a new alliance between Honeywell, Johnson Matthey, Samsung E&A, and Gidara Energy seeks to accelerate sustainable aviation fuel production, despite ongoing cost and supply challenges. The launch of Geothermal UK highlights fresh ambition to harness this stable, underutilised renewable energy, offering baseload power to complement solar and wind.

The emerging 'industrial sunbelt' nations like India, Egypt, and Brazil are drawing over half of clean industry investments, reshaping energy trade and geopolitics.

Although the EU has [paused the Green Claims Directive](#) amid regulatory challenges, the demand for credible environmental standards remains critical.

We're also pleased to announce that [entries are now open for the second ZCA Cleantech Awards](#)—an opportunity to celebrate innovation driving the net-zero transition.



Cleantech Awards 2025

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](#)

Free to enter

ROLLS-ROYCE TO DELIVER UK SMALL MODULAR REACTORS



Rolls-Royce has been selected to lead the development of the UK's first small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs) as part of the Great

British Nuclear competition. The project will see three SMR units built, expected to create thousands of jobs and boost supply chains. With deployment targeted for the 2030s, the factory-built reactors promise low-carbon, affordable energy, marking a major milestone in the UK's clean energy and energy security strategy.

GLOBAL ALLIANCE TARGETS SCALABLE SAF PRODUCTION

Honeywell, Samsung E&A, Johnson Matthey, and Gidara Energy have formed a new alliance to develop end-to-end Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) production from waste and biomass. The collaboration aims to cut development time and costs while expanding viable feedstock options. However, SAF mandates face growing criticism over costs, scalability, and environmental trade-offs.

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► SPOTLIGHT



Waste Management & Water winners 2024

Enerkem is a cleantech company transforming waste into transportation biofuels, renewable chemicals, and everyday products. In October last year, Enerkem announced a new partnership with Technip Energies to advance waste-to-sustainable fuels and circular chemicals technology. Most recently, in January 2025, Enerkem announced that it had received approval for its Ecoplanta project.

Located in El Morell, Spain, the Ecoplanta facility will help tackle major environmental challenges by diverting around 400 000 tonnes of non-recyclable municipal waste from landfills and incineration. Using Enerkem's advanced gasification technology, the facility will convert this waste into 240,000 tonnes methanol per year. It is hoped that the plant will begin operations by 2029.

Find out more [here](#)

UK COALITION BACKS GEOTHERMAL ENERGY PUSH

Geothermal UK, a new coalition including TownRock Energy, Causeway Geothermal, and Eden Geothermal,



has launched to champion geothermal energy as a vital part of the UK's net-zero transition. The group aims to unify the sector, drive investment, and advocate for supportive policy. With global momentum growing and proven potential to supply clean, continuous energy, the coalition sees geothermal as a scalable, underused solution ready to help decarbonise the UK economy.

'SUNBELT' NATIONS SURGE AHEAD IN CLEANTECH

Emerging economies like India, Brazil, and Egypt—dubbed the “new industrial sunbelt”—are set to lead the clean industrial revolution, according to Mission Possible Partnership. These nations are attracting major investment due to abundant renewable resources, cost advantages, and supportive policies. Hosting 59% of the global clean industry pipeline, they are rapidly advancing in sectors like green ammonia and sustainable aviation fuels, potentially outpacing the US, EU, and even China in clean production leadership.