

MONTHLY ZCA CLEANTECH NEWS



The Cleantech Insight You Need

August 2025

Vol. 7



Cleantech Awards 2025

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Editor's note

The UK is making impressive strides in its clean energy journey, marked by a significant policy push to ramp up onshore wind projects and an all-time high in home solar installations. The government's newly unveiled 40-step plan paves the way for cleaner energy by promoting onshore wind and unlocking thousands of jobs, while a surge in solar installations reveals growing public enthusiasm for sustainable energy solutions. Alongside these developments, E.ON Next is set to pilot an innovative "Next Gen Home" package, providing low-cost, no-upfront technology options like solar panels and heat pumps, ensuring that green energy is accessible to more households.

Additionally, exciting breakthroughs are happening in sustainable manufacturing, with microbial technology transforming industrial waste into valuable products. With new projects and partnerships in place, the UK is on track to redefine clean energy and sustainability. Stay tuned for more insights into the rapidly evolving world of cleantech.

UK GREENLIGHTS WIND POWER, SOLAR BOOMS

The UK is accelerating its clean energy efforts with a new 40-step plan to expand onshore wind, aiming for 29 GW by 2030 and creating up to 45,000 jobs. The government also plans to unlock £70 million in community funding for rural areas. Meanwhile, home solar installations have surged to their highest level in a decade, with a 22% increase in the first half of 2025. The government's Solar Roadmap aims for 45-47 GW of solar by 2030.



E.ON NEXT LAUNCHES CLEANTECH BUNDLE PILOT

E.ON Next has introduced its 'Next Gen Home' pilot scheme in the UK, offering solar panels, batteries, heat pumps, and EV chargers with no upfront costs. Available initially to 20 customers in the Midlands, the plan includes a 10-year finance option, with customers paying a fixed monthly fee based on their energy use. The goal is to make low-carbon tech affordable, with nationwide expansion expected by 2026, depending on pilot success.

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► SPOTLIGHT



Real Estate, Construction & Building Materials winners 2024

Massachusetts-based Boston Metal is developing Molten Oxide Electrolysis (MOE), to decarbonise steelmaking and transform metal production. It uses electricity to remove contaminants from iron ore, producing a small fraction of the emissions generated by traditional fossil fuel-fired blast furnaces.

Since winning an award in the ZCA 2024 Cleantech Awards, Boston Metal has commissioned an industrial-scale cell, marking a crucial milestone in achieving scalability for efficient steel decarbonisation. Further, in July the company announced it had raised \$51 million as it looks to scale up operations. This includes its MOE Critical Metals business in Brazil, which is expected to begin generating revenue later this year. The Minas Gerais facility uses MOE to recover high-value materials like niobium, tantalum and tin from mining waste.

More information [here](#)

MICROBES POWER GREENER INDUSTRIAL FUTURE

The UK's new Carbon-Loop Sustainable Biomanufacturing Hub (C-Loop) will use microbes to transform industrial waste into valuable, sustainable materials like pharmaceuticals and cosmetics. Backed by £14 million funding, including £11 million from UKRI, the initiative brings together leading universities and over 40 industry partners. C-Loop aims to defossilise manufacturing, support the circular economy, and reduce reliance on unsustainable chemical processes, positioning the UK as a leader in engineering biology and clean innovation.

SMALL TWEAKS SLASH AI ENERGY USE



New research from UNESCO and UCL shows that simple changes to AI models can cut energy use by up to 90% without

sacrificing performance. Techniques like using smaller, task-specific models, concise prompts, and model compression significantly reduce power demands. These findings are crucial as AI's energy consumption surges and global data centre demand is projected to more than double by 2030.

Automotive Cleantech news

WOOD-BASED SUPERCAPACITORS DOUBLE PERFORMANCE

Allotrope Energy's new wood pulp-based supercapacitors deliver twice the energy density of current tech, enabling better hybrid vehicle performance at lower cost and weight.