

MONTHLY ZCA CLEANTECH NEWS



The Cleantech Insight You Need

September 2025

Vol. 8



Cleantech Awards 2025

Shaping the Future of Clean Technology

Meet the changemakers transforming our world — **the shortlist will be announced soon.**

Stay tuned and help spread the word.

Editor's note

This month, we're reminded that the biggest barrier to a clean energy future isn't technology—it's access. OVO's findings that UK households could save over £23,000 by 2040 with cleantech should be a rallying cry. But for most, those savings remain locked behind unaffordable upfront costs.

It's encouraging to see companies like E.ON Next rethinking the model. Making green homes a reality shouldn't be a privilege—it must become the norm. Meanwhile, innovation surges forward. From SunHydrogen's solar modules to MIT's aluminium-seawater breakthrough, green hydrogen is finally beginning to step out of the lab.

Yet, the rise of AI is adding serious strain. Copper shortages, soaring energy use, and water stress point to a future where digital progress could undercut climate goals—unless reined in responsibly.

We also welcome the mCDR Coalition, a much-needed move to explore the ocean's potential in climate repair.

GREEN HOMES, REAL SAVINGS, BIG BARRIERS



Installing clean technologies like heat pumps and solar panels could save UK households over £23,000 by 2040, according to OVO.

Yet high upfront costs remain a major barrier—especially for low-income families. New models, such as E.ON's zero-upfront-cost pilot, aim to make green home upgrades more accessible and equitable.

GREEN HYDROGEN EDGES TOWARD REALITY

Green hydrogen has long faced cost and scalability challenges—but new breakthroughs show promise. SunHydrogen's solar-powered module and MIT's aluminium-



seawater method both offer cleaner, lower-emission hydrogen production. With significantly reduced carbon footprints, these innovations could help accelerate the shift away from fossil-based hydrogen and bring truly green alternatives closer to commercial reality.

MONTHLY ZCA CLEANTECH NEWS



The Cleantech Insight You Need

September 2025

Vol. 8

► SPOTLIGHT

Cleantech For Change award winner 2024

Husk is the leading net-zero energy company serving rural Africa and Asia and operator of the largest fleet of community solar minigrids. In January, Husk announced that since closing a \$103 million Series D funding at the end of 2023, the company electrified 200 new communities in rural Africa and Asia, doubling its fleet in under 12 months. This means that Husk now owns and operates the world's largest portfolio of private sector minigrids and has achieved the industry's fastest rate of deployment. In addition, in May 2025 subsidiary 'Husk Nigeria' announced that it had received \$5 million in investment from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Government of Canada, to expand access to reliable, renewable energy in underserved communities across Nigeria.

More information [here](#)

AI BOOM STRAINS COPPER SUPPLY



The AI-driven expansion of data centres is fuelling a surge in copper demand, risking a 6-million-tonne supply shortfall by 2035, warns BloombergNEF. With each

centre requiring vast amounts of copper, and usage in power and renewables also rising, supply lags behind. Copper costs and environmental concerns—especially around energy and water—are set to intensify.

COALITION BACKS OCEAN CARBON REMOVAL

A new coalition has launched to support marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR), a nascent but vital cleantech sector. The group unites scientists, businesses, and NGOs to advance research, policy, and responsible deployment. With oceans covering 71% of Earth, mCDR could play a critical role in climate goals—while also boosting ocean health and coastal ecosystems. Let me know if you'd like a variation with a different angle (e.g., business, climate urgency, or tech).

Coming Soon: ZCA's 2025 'Cleantech Top 50'

ZCA's 2025 '**Cleantech Top 50**' returns, featuring updated global investment insights and key industry trends. Building on this analysis, the **ZCA Cleantech Awards** celebrate outstanding innovators across seven categories and three special awards, with nominees drawn from the report and new entries driving sustainable progress. Read more [here](#)