

MONTHLY ZCA CLEANTECH NEWS



The Cleantech Insight You Need

February 2026

Vol. 13

Editor's note

January 2026 kicked off with momentum: new renewable records, a major energy security deal, and bold moves from Big Tech in the carbon credits space.

For ZCA, the year opened with the release of our Top Trends for 2026 report. This free resource highlights the five biggest shifts shaping the year ahead and is available now on our website.

We also launched our updated ZCA membership tiers, giving individuals and organisations access to the materials they need to stay informed, make confident choices, and take the lead in a fast-changing green economy.

With green skills shortages ranking second in our 2026 trends, the upcoming release of ZCA's latest green skills research will be essential reading for businesses and policy makers. This year's edition cuts through the noise with focused recommendations and detailed insights into sector-specific challenges.

ZCA'S TOP TRENDS FOR 2026

New research from ZCA sets out the biggest trends set to impact the world of sustainability and cleantech in 2026.

These are the top 5 trends that we feel will define the coming 12 months. This year's offering includes climate adaptation, green skills, and EV battery improvements.

- 1 Sustainability regulation becomes operational
- 2 Green skills in short supply
- 3 Climate adaptation
- 4 Tackling AI's sustainability problem
- 5 EV battery advancements

Access the full research now to read our deep-dive analysis, and to view our heatmap and scoring methodology: [ZCA's Top Trends for 2026](#).

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Join ZCA and unlock the insights and tools you need to navigate the transition to a zero-carbon future.

Tiered subscriptions range from essential news and weekly digests, to in-depth research, historical analysis and expert support.

ZCA equips individuals and organisations to stay informed, make confident decisions, and lead in a rapidly evolving green economy.



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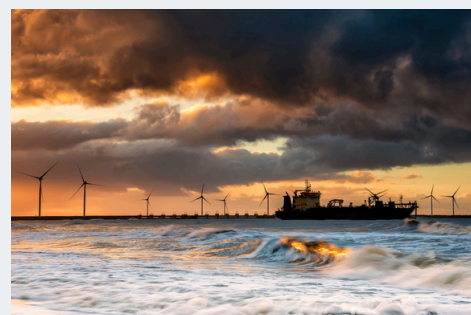
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HAMBURG DECLARATION: UK AND EUROPE SIGN HISTORIC ENERGY SECURITY PACT

North Sea countries have signed a new agreement to bolster energy security by delivering 100 GW in offshore wind energy. The signing of the 'Hamburg Declaration' marks a shift in how offshore wind will be deployed across Europe.

The plans include new 'offshore wind hybrid assets', wind farms at sea that are directly connected to more than one country through interconnectors. It means that rather than a patchwork of national projects competing for seabed, grid access, and capital, the ten signatory countries will jointly deliver 100 GW of offshore wind through cross-border projects.



'MILESTONE MOMENT' REACHED IN THE EU, AS RENEWABLES OUTPACE FOSSIL FUELS

New research from think tank Ember has found that for the first time, wind and solar generated more electricity than fossil fuels in the EU. The latest European Electricity Review reports that in 2025 solar and wind combined to produce a record 30% of power, ahead of 29% from fossil fuel sources.

"This milestone moment shows just how rapidly the EU is moving towards a power system backed by wind and solar," said report author Dr. Beatrice Petrovich. "As fossil fuel dependencies feed instability on the global stage, the stakes of transitioning to clean energy are clearer than ever."



BIG TECH RAMPS UP CARBON CREDIT PURCHASES, AS MICROSOFT ANNOUNCES RECORD DEAL

Big Tech continues to ramp up carbon credit purchases, as Microsoft kicks off 2026 with the announcement of a major new deal. The corporation has struck a record agreement with agricultural credits specialist Indigo Carbon. Microsoft will purchase 2.85 million soil carbon removal credits generated under the 'Carbon by Indigo' program, a United States-based project linked to regenerative agriculture. Whilst the total value of the deal has not

been disclosed, experts have priced the cost of the credits at between \$60 and \$80 per tonne, meaning it could be worth up to \$228 million. The credits are linked to regenerative agricultural practices, such as reducing tilling, along with methods to improve soil carbon capture and water retention.

