

MONTHLY ZCA CLEANTECH NEWS



The Cleantech Insight You Need

March 2026

Vol. 14

Editor's note

February saw a number of developments relating to Artificial Intelligence, as issues around the technology's environmental impact and energy demand continue to build. Likewise, growth in the use of carbon credits is being observed, as corporations seek to offset increased emissions driven by AI uptake.

The energy sector is just one industry faced with a looming skills gap. The upcoming third edition of ZCA's annual green skills research should deliver a warning to businesses and policy makers alike, as we reveal that slowing growth in green skills adoption is set to impact the global economy from next year.

In this March edition of our cleantech newsletter, ZCA includes an overview of the major cleantech-related events coming over the course of the next 12 months, as well as a snapshot of some of the recent cleantech innovations hoping to drive change.

SKILLS GAP AND AGING WORKFORCE **TOP ENERGY SECTOR WOES**

The 10th annual edition of the Global Energy Talent Index (GETI) has found that skills shortages and an ageing workforce remain two of the biggest challenges for employers in the energy sector. unclear career progression was found to be the top driver of job dissatisfaction, yet only half of professionals said they have a Personal Development Plan in place.

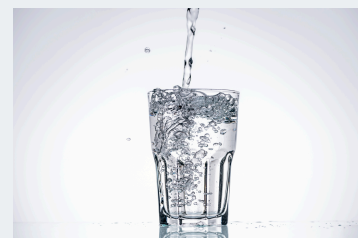


The study finds that the traditional energy sector is faced with a shrinking talent pool—fewer young people are entering the workforce, experienced professionals are harder to find, and global mobility is declining. Meanwhile, in the clean energy sector, hiring managers are under pressure to solve existing skills shortages, while also planning for a world with significantly more energy infrastructure.

Turning humidity into drinking water:

Founded in 2010, Israeli firm Watergen turns air into water, using atmospheric water generators (AWGs)—technology that pulls moisture from air, purifies it, and turns it into clean, drinkable water. The company offers rooftop devices that can supply 1,000 litres of water a day, alongside larger installations offering up to 6,000 litres to support multiple households. Watergen's tech can even be used in heavily polluted urban areas.

CLEANTECH INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT



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'WORLD FIRST' AS EU SETS VOLUNTARY STANDARD FOR PERMANENT CARBON REMOVALS

The European Commission has unveiled new rules to cover direct air capture with carbon storage (DACCS), biogenic emissions capture with carbon storage (BioCCS), and Biochar carbon removal, in what it claims is a world first.

CLIMATE GAINS FROM RENEWABLES RISK BEING WIPED OUT BY RISING AI AND DATA CENTRE DEMANDS

Recent climate gains achieved by renewable energy expansion are at risk of being wiped out, as AI and data centre energy demands soar. Researchers from Sussex and Vienna's Central European University have found that the rapid expansion of renewable energy is being used to meet rising electricity demand, rather than displacing fossil fuels.



CLEANTECH INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT

Bio-based concrete substitute:

NIOZ researchers have created Xiriton and eco-friendly biomaterial made from local grass species including cordgrass and elephant grass. Used in coastal restoration as a greener alternative to concrete, it has already proven successful in tests as

a substrate for shell banks, salt marshes, and other tidal area restorations. Xiriton is easy to make and can be created from a range of other source materials including reed, bamboo, chopped dried grass, volcanic pozzolan, slaked lime, shells, sand and seawater.

UPCOMING CLEANTECH EVENTS

Event Title	Location	Date
TU Delft Clean Tech Conference 2026	Netherlands	17 March 2026
ChangeNOW Summit 2026	Paris, France	19–21 March 2026
Economist Sustainability Week 2026	London, UK & Online	April 2026 (TBD)
ICLEI World Congress 2026	Malmö, Sweden	May 2026 (TBD)
Cleantech Forum Asia	Singapore	20–21 May 2026
Bloomberg Green Summit 2026	New York, USA	June 2026 (TBD)
25th Annual Cleantech International Exhibition	Israel	7 July 2026
Future of Climate Tech Summit 2026	Berlin, Germany	July 2026 (TBD)
ZCA Cleantech Awards 2026	Online	October 2026 (TBD)
VERGE 26 — Climate Tech Conference	San Jose, USA	27–30 October 2026
The Climate Tech Summit 2026	San Francisco, USA	3–4 November 2026
CleanTech Forum Europe 2026	TBD	November 2026 (TBD)
COP31 – UN Climate Change Conference 2026	Antalya, Turkey	November 2026 (TBD)
Cleantech Forum North America	TBD	25–27 January 2027

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ROBOTAXIS SET TO HIT LONDON'S STREETS

US firm Waymo has announced plans to launch electric 'robotaxis' on London's streets by the end of this year. The firm, which is owned by Alphabet, has said that it is already trialing the technology in the capital using cars equipped with human safety drivers to map the city. It comes ahead of planned legislation changes by the UK government which would allow autonomous vehicles to operate.

Waymo executives have said they are aiming to launch a fully driverless ride-hailing service in the fourth quarter of 2026, it means we should see the service operating before the end of September, subject to regulation changes.

