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EcoWorld and Johor investment arm explore green utilities for data centres and industrial parks



Eco World Development Group Bhd (EcoWorld) has entered into a collaboration agreement with Permodalan Darul Ta'zim (PDT), Johor's state investment arm, to explore supplying renewable electricity and reclaimed water to data centres and industrial parks in the state. The proposed arrangement would bring together PDT Energy Sdn Bhd (PDTEN) and Johor Special Water Sdn Bhd (JSW) to provide an integrated green utilities offering to EcoWorld's industrial customers.

PDT will explore facilitating renewable energy and reclaimed water supply, while EcoWorld will promote the offering to its network of industrial and data centre customers. The developer will also share prospective customers' anticipated electricity load profiles, demand forecasts and project timelines, subject to the necessary consent. Pricing and commercial terms have yet to be agreed and will be determined through subsequent definitive supply agreements. Johor recorded RM110 billion in approved investments in 2025, the highest among Malaysian states.

The agreement reflects growing demand for sustainable electricity and water resources as Johor expands its data centre and industrial sectors. Access to renewable power and reclaimed water could help businesses meet sustainability requirements while easing pressure on conventional utilities. However, the collaboration is exploratory and does not yet constitute a confirmed supply contract or committed project investment.

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EcoWorld and NS Corp explore desalination plant to support industrial water supply in Negeri Sembilan



Eco World Development Group Bhd (EcoWorld) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Negeri Sembilan's state investment agency, NS Corporation (NS Corp), to explore alternative industrial water supply solutions for its industrial parks. The agreement, signed on November 12, covers Eco Business Park VII (EBP VII) within Malaysia Vision Valley 2.0 (MVV 2.0), as well as other industrial parks EcoWorld may develop in the state.

Under the MoU, both parties will conduct feasibility studies into developing a desalination water treatment plant. The proposed facility would provide an alternative and supplementary source of industrial water, helping meet the requirements of high-value manufacturing and technology businesses, including data centres. The agreement will run for one year, with an option to renew by mutual agreement. Negeri Sembilan recorded RM41.5 billion in approved investments between 2023 and June 2026, comprising RM24.2 billion in domestic investment and RM17.3 billion in foreign investment. EBP VII itself has achieved approximately RM2 billion in sales since launching in November 2025.

The collaboration highlights the growing importance of reliable water infrastructure in attracting industrial investment, particularly as manufacturing and data centre developments place greater demands on utilities. If commercially and technically viable, desalination could diversify water supply and support further industrial expansion in MVV 2.0. However, the project remains at the feasibility stage, with no confirmed plant capacity, construction cost or implementation timeline.

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UK envoy says Malaysia needs commercially viable green projects to attract investment



Malaysia is attracting investor interest in its green transition, but a shortage of commercially viable projects is limiting the flow of funding into the sector, according to British High Commissioner to Malaysia Ajay Sharma. Speaking at the Climate Finance Accelerator (CFA) Malaysia investor engagement event on November 12, he emphasised that environmental ambitions must be supported by investable businesses, suitable financing structures and effective cooperation between governments, investors and companies.

The CFA is a UK government-funded programme, supported by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and implemented locally by PwC Malaysia. Its first Malaysian cohort comprised 12 businesses across waste management, circular economy, energy, manufacturing, transport and construction, which completed a nine-month programme to prepare low-carbon investment proposals. PwC Malaysia executive chair Nurul A'in Abdul Latif cited an estimated US$570 billion (RM2.4 trillion) investment requirement over the next two decades to support Malaysia's climate and energy transition, based on UNDP projections.

The programme highlights the importance of developing projects that can demonstrate financial viability alongside environmental benefits. Greater access to financing could help Malaysian businesses scale low-carbon technologies, generate employment and attract international investment.

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Gading Kencana and Intel partnership highlights growing corporate investment in solar energy



Malaysia's renewable energy transition is receiving growing support from private-sector partnerships, highlighted by the commissioning of a 43-megawatt-peak (MWp) solar farm developed by local renewable energy company Gading Kencana Sdn Bhd in collaboration with Intel. The project operates under the Corporate Green Power Programme (CGPP), which enables corporate consumers to support renewable electricity generation through structured power arrangements.

Deputy Prime Minister and Energy Transition and Water Transformation Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof officiated the solar farm on November 16. Intel has entered into a 15-year agreement to purchase 53,000 renewable energy certificates (RECs) annually through the collaboration. Fadillah said the project demonstrated the ability of Malaysian companies, including Bumiputera-owned businesses, to participate in the development of the country's clean energy ecosystem and build capabilities in higher-value industries.

The project illustrates how corporate demand can support investment in renewable energy infrastructure while providing companies with access to renewable energy certificates to support their sustainability objectives. It also demonstrates opportunities for local developers to work with multinational corporations as Malaysia seeks to expand its renewable energy capacity and develop domestic expertise.

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Polaris Bio's Terengganu biogas project becomes Malaysia's first Article 6.2 project



South Korean bioenergy company Polaris Bio has registered its Terengganu Biogas project as Malaysia's first project under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement. Its Malaysian joint venture, MTCO Polaris Sdn Bhd, received an acknowledgement letter from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES) during the COP31 climate summit in Türkiye on November 13. The project has been recognised as a candidate for bilateral carbon cooperation under Malaysia's National Carbon Market Policy.

The development will capture biogas from palm oil mill effluents in Terengganu, upgrade it into biomethane and supply the resulting fuel to local industries. The developers estimate that it could reduce emissions by approximately 32,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent annually. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2027. Polaris Bio has also indicated plans to use the project as a model for expansion to between 30 and 40 palm oil mills across Malaysia, with potential applications in landfill gas recovery.

The registration represents a potential milestone for Malaysia's carbon market, providing a framework for internationally recognised emissions-reduction cooperation. If successfully implemented and expanded, the project could turn palm oil industry waste into a lower-carbon industrial fuel while generating opportunities for carbon-credit development.

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Malaysia to launch carbon capture and storage roadmap by end-November



Malaysia is expected to introduce a roadmap for the development of its carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) industry by the end of November 2026, according to Economy Minister Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir. Announced in Parliament on November 12, the roadmap will outline the phased development of the industry through to 2050, supporting the country's broader energy transition and ambition to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by the same year.

The government intends to continue engaging stakeholders, including state governments, to ensure that future CCUS development takes account of local requirements and potential. The technology involves capturing carbon dioxide emissions from industrial facilities or other sources, before transporting them for utilisation or long-term storage. It could be particularly relevant to emissions-intensive sectors where direct electrification or other decarbonisation measures are more difficult to implement.

The roadmap is an important policy development for Malaysia's longer-term decarbonisation strategy, potentially creating opportunities for industrial infrastructure, engineering, carbon management and storage-related investment. Its eventual impact will depend on the regulatory framework, project economics, infrastructure requirements and ability to attract private-sector participation. The roadmap itself has not yet been released, so specific project locations, investment commitments and implementation targets remain unconfirmed.

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HLGY eyes further renewable energy projects in Kedah Rubber City



HLGY Energy Sdn Bhd is exploring opportunities to expand its renewable energy developments within Kedah Rubber City, following its collaboration with the Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA). The announcement was made on November 17 during a strategic partnership signing ceremony, where the company outlined its plans to develop additional renewable energy capacity alongside its existing solar project.

The company's flagship Kedah Rubber City Solar Power Plant is expected to involve an investment of nearly RM500 million across approximately 300 acres. Targeted for completion in June 2028, the facility is expected to generate approximately 224 gigawatt-hours of electricity annually. Separately, HLGY is developing a 119.7MW solar plant in Padang Terap, Kedah, under the Corporate Renewable Energy Supply Scheme (CRESS). This project will include a 240.72MWh battery energy storage system and has Bridge Data Centres Malaysia IV identified as its current electricity buyer. It is supported by RM360 million in term financing from AmBank Islamic.

The projects demonstrate how renewable energy infrastructure can support industrial development and the growing electricity requirements of data centres. HLGY's collaboration with NCIA could also encourage further investment in the Northern Corridor, although additional projects remain at the exploratory stage.

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Solarvest reports record earnings as energy farms and new projects generate more income



Solarvest Holdings Bhd reported record quarterly earnings for the three months ended September 30, 2026, supported by higher contributions from its energy farms and associate companies. Net profit increased 35% year-on-year to RM25.25 million, compared with RM18.73 million in the corresponding quarter last year. Revenue rose 51% to RM255.16 million, reflecting continued growth in the company's renewable energy operations.

For the first half of its financial year, Solarvest recorded net profit of RM44.27 million, up 28%, while revenue increased 34% to RM411.09 million. The group reported an outstanding order book of RM2.18 billion, with projects expected to contribute progressively to earnings through FY2027 and FY2028. It has also secured several corporate power purchase agreements that are expected to generate RM49 million in annual revenue once fully completed over the next 12 to 18 months.

Solarvest intends to pursue further opportunities through the government's sixth round of the Large Scale Solar programme, CRESS and the Solar Accelerated Transition Action Programme. Its results illustrate the growing commercial opportunities within Malaysia's renewable energy sector, supported by increasing corporate demand for cleaner electricity.

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MBPP smart city study outlines building upgrades and flood monitoring

The Penang Island City Council (MBPP) has outlined a series of proposed sustainability and infrastructure improvements under its Smart City Action Plan 2030. The study identifies building efficiency, climate resilience, transport management and integrated urban data as key areas for improving municipal services and environmental performance. The plan was launched alongside Penang's wider Smart City Blueprint 2040 on November 10.

For buildings, the proposals include smart energy and water meters, indoor air-quality monitoring, accessibility improvements and refurbishment works. The study suggests introducing smart metering requirements for new buildings by Q4 2026, followed by retrofits to public buildings by Q4 2028. It also proposes installing flood and climate sensors by Q2 2027, developing a real-time risk dashboard by Q2 2028 and introducing early-warning alerts by Q1 2029. Other initiatives include solar installations on public buildings, EV charging infrastructure and adaptive traffic signals.

The proposals could influence future development standards on Penang Island by encouraging more efficient buildings and stronger climate resilience. They also highlight potential opportunities for companies involved in smart building systems, environmental monitoring, renewable energy and urban infrastructure. However, these are proposed implementation milestones from the study report, not confirmation that all measures have been formally adopted, funded or implemented.

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