

ZERIN HABITAT

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WEEKLY UPDATES

ESG IN REAL ESTATE



ASEAN Advances Towards Resilient and Sustainable Green Growth

ASEAN must invest in resilient infrastructure and green growth to face climate change and natural disasters, said Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim at the ASEAN Investment Conference 2025. He stressed that both physical and financial readiness are key to protecting vulnerable communities.

Anwar called green growth a strategic necessity, highlighting technologies like carbon capture and circular production. He also noted the need for stronger digital infrastructure, literacy, and governance to ensure inclusive progress.

To support small businesses, Anwar launched the ASEAN Simplified ESG Disclosure Guide for SMEs, helping them meet global sustainability standards with fewer barriers.

Despite global uncertainties, Anwar remains confident in ASEAN's adaptability and strength. He urged deeper regional integration, referencing initiatives like the ASEAN power grid and regional payment systems. He believes ASEAN's steady, pragmatic approach can lead the way in a world that needs unity more than ever. [READ MORE](#)



Collaborating to Build a More Sustainable and Greener Kuala Lumpur for the Future

Kuala Lumpur's Mayor, Datuk Seri Dr Maimunah Mohd Sharif, has called on the private sector and property developers to collaborate with DBKL to support sustainable urban infrastructure. Partnerships are seen as vital to creating a cleaner, more liveable city.

A key example is the solar-powered, 350-metre covered walkway linking Taman Melati LRT Station to TAR UMT, built in collaboration with Radium Development Berhad. Completed in November, the RM600,000 project offers pedestrians shelter and safety, while easing traffic and promoting walking.

The mayor urged more developers to follow Radium's lead by building similar "green connectors" that enhance pedestrian mobility and reduce the city's carbon footprint.

"This initiative shows how thoughtful design and strategic collaboration can transform public infrastructure," said Maimunah. She encouraged stakeholders to engage with DBKL to scale up efforts that make Kuala Lumpur more walkable, sustainable, and loved by its people. [READ MORE](#)



Northern Solar Sets Sights on Expanding into Large-Scale Solar Projects

Northern Solar Holdings Bhd is pivoting from rooftop solar to large-scale solar (LSS) projects through a new partnership with China's Northwest Electric Power Design Institute (NWEPTDI), a unit of a major Chinese state-owned energy group.

The move follows an MoU signed between the two firms to jointly bid for EPC contracts under Malaysia's LSS Petra and LSS Petra 5+ programmes, which offer a combined capacity of 4,000MW.

If successful, both parties will form a joint project company, with Northern Solar holding a 51% stake. The agreement is valid for two years and will be governed by Singapore law with arbitration via the Singapore International Arbitration Centre.

Northern Solar's tender book stood at RM1.8 billion as of November 2024. Its shares rose 6.8% to 55 sen on Tuesday, though still down 12.7% from its February listing price. The company sees this strategic shift as a key growth opportunity. [READ MORE](#)



Malaysia Ramps Up Climate Action and Sustainability Reporting

Malaysia is strengthening its climate efforts through new policies, global partnerships, and business support. At the National Climate Governance Summit, Minister Nik Nazmi shared updates on joining the Climate Club, the upcoming Climate Change Bill, and plans for a roadmap to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

Larger companies must now follow global sustainability reporting standards. While SMEs are exempt, many still need to provide data to bigger partners. The Companies Commission aims to include ESG reporting in all company reports under the Companies Act.

The Securities Commission launched the PACE programme to help businesses report better. It's training auditors, working with trade groups, and helping companies access key data like utility bills.

Transition finance is also a major focus. KWAP has pledged RM20 billion to support greener projects. With institutional investors managing RM2.6 trillion, their influence—along with a new proxy voting system—will help drive Malaysia's shift to a low-carbon future. [READ MORE](#)



Tariffs Threaten Malaysia's Renewable Energy Momentum

Malaysia's US\$3.8 billion renewable energy sector faces a major blow as US President Donald Trump reintroduces steep tariffs, withdraws climate financing, and abandons global climate pacts—a “triple whammy” that could stall Southeast Asia's green transition.

Malaysia ranked as the world's third-largest solar photovoltaic (PV) component producer in 2022 and is a key polysilicon supplier. Alongside Vietnam, Thailand, and Cambodia, these nations supplied over 80% of US solar PV imports in early 2024.

The new 24% tariff on Malaysian solar products is expected to increase costs for US buyers, putting intense pressure on Southeast Asia's solar industry. Analysts warn that it may slow investment, reduce exports, and delay progress in regional renewable energy goals.

Southeast Asia's major economies have integrated clean energy into their growth strategies. Although US policy shifts could disrupt momentum, Malaysia remains determined to pursue sustainability and build resilience in the face of global headwinds. [READ MORE](#)



MUFG Strengthens Support for Sarawak's Long-Term Green Growth Vision

MUFG Bank (Malaysia) Bhd recently hosted its annual MUFG NOW (Net Zero World) conference in Kuching, gathering over 100 business leaders, policymakers, and partners to advance sustainable development in Asia.

MUFG Malaysia CEO Motohide Okuda reaffirmed the bank's alignment with Sarawak's Sustainability Vision 2030, highlighting plans to leverage Japanese technology and ESG financing to support green innovation and growth across the region.

MIDA CEO Datuk Sikh Shamsul Ibrahim echoed the urgency of Malaysia's green transformation, stressing the role of partnerships—like those with Sarawak Economic Development Corporation and Sarawak Energy—in addressing energy affordability, security, and sustainability.

With nearly 70 years of presence in Malaysia, MUFG continues to lead in green finance. Its recent MOU with Affin Bank further strengthens Malaysia-Japan ties and green development efforts, reinforcing its commitment to inclusive, forward-looking progress in Malaysia and Asia. [READ MORE](#)



Accelerating the Green Shift in Asia Through Strategic Transition Finance

Transition finance is key to Malaysia's move toward a low-carbon economy, said Bursa Malaysia chairman Tan Sri Abdul Wahid Omar. It helps high-emission industries like steel, cement, and chemicals adopt sustainable practices without losing their economic role.

These sectors, vital but polluting, contribute 32% of Malaysia's emissions. In 2019, metals released 23 million tonnes of CO₂-equivalent emissions. Chemicals and cement added another nine million and 18 million pounds. Waste contributed 57 million pounds.

Without strong transition finance, these industries may struggle to decarbonise. ASEAN needs US\$29.4 trillion for its energy shift by 2050, according to IRENA. Natural disasters linked to climate change have already displaced 75 million people in Southeast Asia over the past decade.

Abdul Wahid called for clearer frameworks, incentives, and collaboration between governments, businesses, and financiers to overcome challenges in funding the transition. Clear direction will speed up investment, paving the way to a sustainable future. [READ MORE](#)

