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# ESG IN REAL ESTATE ISSUE 97

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## Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre Earns Top National Environmental Honour



Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre has secured the Prime Minister's Hibiscus Award for Exceptional Achievement in Environmental Performance, Malaysia's highest environmental recognition. As the national benchmark for environmental excellence, the award is reserved for organisations demonstrating sustained performance, strong governance and full transparency. Recipients undergo a rigorous submission process and independent jury led site audit, reinforcing the credibility of the accolade and its standing among corporate stakeholders.

For the business events industry, the recognition is significant. It affirms the Centre's leadership in delivering measurable and verifiable environmental outcomes at scale. According to General Manager John Burke, the award reflects years of disciplined investment and coordinated execution, while proving that large, high impact venues can operate responsibly and continue supporting world class events.

The journey has been structured and deliberate. After signing the Net Zero Carbon Events Pledge in 2022 and publishing its Net Zero Carbon Pathway in 2023, the Centre advanced renewable energy use, composted all organic waste, diverted over 75% of waste from landfill, sourced 70% local ingredients and adopted fully certified sustainable packaging.

## PH World and RHB Expand Green Home Financing in Johor



PH World Property has partnered with RHB Bank Berhad to enhance homeownership accessibility through the Green Home Financing Guarantee Programme, offering eligible buyers financing of up to 110%. D'Art Hills Residence in Bukit Seni Kulai is the inaugural Johor project under the scheme, subject to eligibility and credit assessment. The initiative aligns with PH World's strategy to deliver innovative, well designed and high quality developments that strengthen local communities.

The programme provides up to 100% financing of the property price, plus an additional 10% for mortgage insurance, thereby reducing upfront costs while promoting sustainable living. It applies to certified projects such as the GreenRE certified D'Art Hills Courtyard Home series, upcoming D'Art Nature in Iskandar Puteri, and the GBI Silver rated D'Hub 360°, alongside other future developments.

Leadership reaffirmed sustainability as a core pillar across PH World's divisions, guided by ESG policies and a Net Zero Carbon goal. With over 500 acres of land bank and 10,000 units planned in Iskandar Malaysia, the partnership strengthens inclusive, purpose driven green homeownership.

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## OSK Property and RHB Advance Green Home Financing Access



OSK Property Holdings Bhd has partnered with RHB Banking Group to introduce an enhanced green financing scheme that supports environmentally responsible homeownership in Malaysia. Under the RHB Green Home Financing Guarantee Programme, eligible buyers of OSK Property's green certified residential projects can secure financing of up to 110% to 100% of the property value, plus an additional 10% margin for mortgage insurance. The structure improves affordability while preserving financial flexibility.

The programme applies to developments certified under recognised green building standards. Participating projects include Nara at OSK Shorea Park in Puchong, Hana Hills in Taman Melawati, Bayu at OSK Mori Park in Shah Alam, and OSK Areca in Nilai. As such, the initiative links sustainable design with structured financing solutions.

OSK Property's chief executive officer Ong Ghee Bin emphasised sustainability as a core development pillar, translating commitment into tangible buyer value. Meanwhile, RHB's Jeffrey Ng highlighted disciplined, customer centric innovation aligned with its purpose led banking strategy. Together, the collaboration advances financial accessibility and Malaysia's broader sustainability agenda.

## Paragon Globe Partners GreenRE to Elevate Sustainable Development Standards



Paragon Globe Bhd, listed on Bursa Malaysia's Main Market, has formalised a collaboration with GreenRE Sdn Bhd to strengthen its commitment to environmentally responsible development. The agreement was signed by executive chairman Datuk Sri Edwin Tan Pei Seng and GreenRE executive director Ir Ashwin Thurairajah. Through this partnership, PGB will embed sustainability considerations across the full project lifecycle, from design and construction to ongoing operations.

The collaboration enables PGB to certify future developments under GreenRE's recognised rating tools, with emphasis on energy efficiency, resource conservation and environmental accountability. GreenRE, established by Rehda, supports the industry through certification frameworks, training and research, and will provide dedicated guidance to PGB and its subsidiaries in achieving green building credentials aligned with global sustainability expectations.

Early progress is evident. Paragon Platinum Sdn Bhd secured Bronze Provisional GreenRE Certification for Desa 27 Plot 3 and Plot 4, while Paragon Bizhub Sdn Bhd obtained Silver Provisional Certification for PGB Hostel at Pekan Nenas Industrial Park. Collectively, the initiative advances practical, responsible and value driven development.

## Johor Data Center Expansion Faces Rising Community Scrutiny



Malaysia's rapid data center expansion linked to AI demand faced its first public protest, as more than 50 residents gathered near a construction site in Gelang Patah, Johor. Representing nearly 1,000 residents across four housing estates, they cited dust pollution, potential health risks and concerns over water supply. The project, located less than one kilometer from homes, is being developed for China's Zdata Technologies. Construction began in early 2025, although a two week stop work order was later issued for poor standards.

Johor has been the main beneficiary of Malaysia's data center boom, approving RM164.45 billion in investments as of mid 2025, making it Southeast Asia's fastest growing hub. Global players including Oracle, Amazon, Alibaba and ByteDance are expanding in the state, drawn by cost advantages and infrastructure strength. Most facilities are built on industrial land, though this project sits near residential areas.

Water usage remains a central concern, as Johor previously halted approvals for high consumption Tier 1 and 2 facilities. Zdata's tier classification has not been disclosed. The company, headquartered in Beijing and serving major Chinese technology firms, positions Malaysia as its sole overseas base and highlights energy efficiency and renewable adoption. Globally, similar community resistance has delayed substantial data center investments, reinforcing the need for proactive stakeholder engagement.

## Malaysia and China Deepen Strategic Green Economic Collaboration



Malaysia regards China not only as its largest trading partner but also as a strategic collaborator in advancing sustainable and resilient regional development, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof. He welcomed deeper engagement in green investments, innovation and technology transfer that support climate action while generating meaningful economic opportunities. Cooperation in renewable energy, electric mobility, energy efficiency and green technology has therefore become a central pillar of bilateral ties as both nations pursue low carbon growth.

Economic relations continue to expand in both scale and quality, with greater emphasis on future oriented and high value sectors that will shape long term sustainable growth. Beyond trade, collaboration increasingly targets innovation driven industries aligned with shared development priorities.

Tourism and people to people exchanges remain equally vital, particularly as Malaysia prepares for Visit Malaysia Year 2026. Emphasising mutual respect and trust, Fadillah reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment to working closely with China to promote regional stability, multilateral cooperation and shared prosperity across Asean.

## Sirim Accelerates ESG Adoption Across Malaysia Industrial Ecosystem



Sirim Bhd has launched its ESG Readiness Roadshow, Personnel Certification Programme and Sustainability Report Advisory Services under the Madani Sustainability Roadmap to strengthen ESG adoption across Malaysian industries. Aligned with the New Industrial Master Plan 2030 and the Madani agenda, the initiative targets Mid Tier Companies and SMEs, particularly in manufacturing and global supply chains. It aims to advance sustainable industrial development while enhancing long term competitiveness.

The programme delivers technical guidance, capacity building and certification to embed ESG into core operations. Sirim positions ESG not merely as compliance, but as a driver of efficient and profitable growth. Its structured, cost effective framework addresses limited in house expertise and high consultancy costs, while supporting sustainability reporting aligned with Global Reporting Initiative standards to strengthen investor confidence and supply chain credibility.

Eligible firms may access the ESG NIMP Grant Programme, which provides 80% government funding with 20% company contribution. The grant supports exporters and high emission sectors in achieving formal ESG ready status through specialised training and advisory support.

## Renewable Energy Sector Poised for Sustained Growth Into 2026



Research houses remain constructive on Malaysia's renewable energy sector heading into 2026, supported by sustained project awards from Tenaga Nasional Bhd, rising electricity demand from data centres and supportive policy catalysts. Rakuten Trade noted that TNB's contract rollouts anchor earnings visibility for developers and EPCC players, in line with Malaysia's target to lift renewable capacity to 70% by 2050 from 25% currently. Data centre electricity demand could reach 12.9GW by 2030, reinforcing the need for grid upgrades and expanded clean energy capacity. TNB's 2026 grid capital expenditure of RM3 billion to RM3.5 billion is expected to sustain a steady project pipeline.

Kenanga Research anticipates a catalyst rich first quarter, driven by Large Scale Solar 6 bids, execution of LSS5+ projects, Solar Atap rooftop adoption and an additional 300MW Feed in Tariff quota. The Corporate Renewable Energy Supply Scheme, with 1.3GW committed capacity, strengthens long term power offtake visibility.

Sector earnings are projected to expand about 26% in FY26, with valuations of 20 to 30 times earnings, while potential climate legislation may further enhance policy clarity and investor confidence.

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## Kuala Lumpur Launches Open Data Initiative for Green Spaces



A total of 494 gazetted green and open spaces in Kuala Lumpur are now publicly accessible through a new open data initiative. Announced by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Hannah Yeoh, the reform enhances transparency and public participation in safeguarding urban green assets. The full list is available via the MyHijau icon on the Federal Territories Land and Mines Office website, marking the first time such data has been consolidated and published online.

The initiative aligns with long standing calls from civil society and residents' associations following engagement sessions in January. Beyond recreation, these spaces strengthen community connectivity, support healthier lifestyles and improve urban climate resilience. Importantly, public access enables residents to verify gazetted sites and formally object to any proposed land use changes.

In addition, 256 sites remain in various stages of gazettement. A dedicated task force has been established to address technical issues, enhance inter agency coordination and expedite approvals, reinforcing governance and long term environmental stewardship.

## Selangor Launches RM1 Billion Large Scale Floating Solar Project



Selangor has commenced construction of one of Southeast Asia's largest floating solar farms, a RM1 billion Large Scale Solar 5 project in Bestari Jaya with a 300 megawatt capacity. The project was awarded to Bestari Solar Sdn Bhd, a consortium led by Edra Power Holdings alongside Worldwide Holdings Berhad and Rotaka Engineering Services. Spanning approximately 430 hectares of state owned land, the site will be leased for 21 years. The Power Purchase Agreement was signed in March 2025, with completion targeted for July 2027 to supply stable renewable energy to the national grid.

More than 80% of the installation will utilise floating solar panels on existing raw water storage ponds, including systems linked to Hybrid Off River Augmentation Storage. The remaining portion will be land based, thereby limiting extensive land use. Advanced technology incorporating oxygenation and algae control will safeguard water quality.

Strategically, the project supports redevelopment of former mining land, strengthens local renewable capabilities and is expected to catalyse investment, while reinforcing Selangor's clean energy leadership.

## Kinergy and Safran Sign 21-Year Renewable VPPA Deal



Kinergy Advancement Bhd has entered into a long term virtual power purchase agreement with Safran Landing Systems Malaysia, a unit of France based Safran Group. The agreement aims to neutralise the electricity consumption of Safran's manufacturing plant in Negeri Sembilan. Under the VPPA structure, Kinergy supplies renewable electricity into the national grid, while Safran secures the associated environmental attributes and a financial hedge linked to renewable generation.

Safran will purchase between 80 and 108 gigawatt hours of renewable electricity annually over 21 years from commercial operation date, with an option to extend subject to approvals and mutual agreement. The agreement, signed via Kinergy's wholly owned subsidiary KAB Energy Holdings, involves hydropower generated supply, introducing a dispatchable and reliable renewable source within the VPPA framework.

Safran's facility in Sendayan Techvalley already integrates Malaysia's only Organic Rankine Cycle waste heat recovery system operated by Kinergy since 2020. The VPPA strengthens Kinergy's capability to structure complex renewable solutions and supports multinational decarbonisation strategies.

## EVE Energy Enters Malaysia Infrastructure with KLIA Solar Storage



EVE Energy Co., Ltd. has formally entered Malaysia's critical infrastructure sector through a solar plus storage project at Kuala Lumpur International Airport, witnessed by Deputy Prime Minister Fadillah Yusof. The company signed an energy storage procurement contract with partners, marking its first AC DC integrated deployment in the country. The 10MW and 36MWh ground mounted solar PV and battery energy storage system will utilise EVE's 628Ah batteries and a 5MWh storage architecture.

The system supports renewable grid connection, peak shaving and frequency regulation, and will operate alongside a 36MWp solar farm to supply stable green power to KLIA's main terminal from 2027. As Southeast Asia's second busiest airport handling six million passengers annually, KLIA represents a strategic clean energy benchmark.

Aligned with Malaysia's National Energy Transition Roadmap, the project is expected to reduce approximately 42,006 tons of carbon emissions annually. EVE Energy aims to deepen regional partnerships and advance Southeast Asia's sustainable energy ecosystem.

## Sunview Acquires 100MW Solar Assets to Drive Recurring Income



Sunview Group Bhd plans to acquire two 50MWac solar power plants for a total of RM125 million, marking a strategic transition from pure EPCC contractor to long term asset owner and operator. The proposed diversification into solar power generation is designed to secure stable and recurring income streams. The acquisitions comprise a 50MWac plant in Pekan, Pahang from PKNP Reneuco Suria, currently in receivership, for RM70 million, and the full equity of JAKS Solar Nibong Tebal Sdn Bhd for RM55 million, including RM15 million cash and settlement of up to RM40 million in shareholder advances. The Penang asset operates under a 25 year power purchase agreement with the national grid.

By expanding into generation, Sunview aims to reduce earnings volatility linked to project based EPCC activities. The segment is projected to contribute more than 25% of future net profits and net assets, supporting Malaysia's net zero 2050 roadmap.

Experienced management will oversee implementation, subject to shareholder approval, while regulatory and tariff risks remain manageable within the broader growth strategy.

## Malaysia Installs 5,624 EV Chargers, Reaches 56 Percent Target



Malaysia has installed 5,624 public electric vehicle charging units nationwide, achieving 56% of its 10,000 unit target, according to Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani. Of the total, 1,923 are DC fast chargers and 3,701 are AC chargers. Notably, DC installations have exceeded the original 1,500 unit target by 128%, while AC chargers have reached 40% of the 8,500 unit goal. The strong uptake of fast chargers reflects industry feedback that speed and accessibility are critical to consumer confidence in EV adoption.

The government also encourages home charger installations, given lower charging costs compared with public DC facilities. Nevertheless, infrastructure rollout faces challenges, including high DC installation costs of about RM210,000 per unit and complex approvals involving local authorities, the Energy Commission and Tenaga Nasional.

In the northern region, 45 DC chargers operate across 21 key locations, supported by major charging point operators. Further expansion will align with demand, feasibility and long term sustainability considerations.