



# THE GREEN CLOCK

## *ESG MATTERS*

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

**March 2026**  
**Volume 3, Issue 03**

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## Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Third Edition, Vol. 3 of our newsletter, The Green Clock: ESG Matters. Sustainability governance is becoming more structured and complex, with growing emphasis on regulatory compliance, transparency and data-driven ESG practices. Global developments from evolving disclosure frameworks to industrial decarbonisation and circular economy strategies highlight a shift toward measurable and accountable climate action.

In this edition, we explore key developments from both global and Indian perspectives. Internationally, trends in carbon removal, ESG regulation and low-carbon industrial policy reflect accelerating climate action, while in India, developments in renewable energy, grid regulation, clean mobility and international cooperation highlight a balanced approach to growth and sustainability.

Together, these trends underscore how ESG is shaping business strategy, investment decisions and long-term competitiveness.

We hope you find this edition informative as ESG continues to guide responsible development and market resilience.

Warm regards,  
[Abhilasha Nayal]

## ESG Regulation Tracking: Navigating the New Compliance Landscape

ESG governance is becoming increasingly complex as regulatory frameworks expand across jurisdictions, creating a dynamic compliance environment for companies. The launch of Datamaran's ESG regulation monitoring solution reflects a growing need for tools that help businesses track, interpret and respond to evolving sustainability regulations. As ESG requirements become more detailed and jurisdiction-specific, regulatory awareness is becoming an essential component of corporate risk management.

In recent years, ESG regulation has shifted from fragmented voluntary standards to multi-layered, binding frameworks spanning climate disclosure, supply chain due diligence, biodiversity and corporate governance. Companies are now required to monitor regulatory developments across regions such as the European Union, the United States and Asia, where timelines, scope and enforcement mechanisms vary significantly. This increasing complexity is driving demand for structured systems that provide visibility into regulatory changes and their operational implications.

Corporate preparedness is becoming more important in this evolving landscape. Organisations are strengthening ESG governance structures, compliance functions and internal monitoring systems to keep pace with regulatory expectations. The ability to track regulatory developments and align internal processes accordingly is particularly relevant for multinational companies operating across multiple jurisdictions. ESG compliance is increasingly being integrated into enterprise risk management and corporate decision-making processes.

Technology is playing a central role in enabling this shift. Platforms such as Datamaran use AI-driven analytics to identify, map and prioritise regulatory developments relevant to a company's operations. These tools support continuous monitoring and help translate regulatory changes into actionable insights, allowing companies to respond more efficiently to evolving compliance requirements.

Regulatory developments are also influencing financial and operational risk assessments. Companies that are unable to track and respond to ESG regulations may face compliance gaps, penalties and increased scrutiny from regulators and stakeholders. At the same time, structured monitoring systems can support more consistent disclosures and reduce uncertainty in reporting, which is increasingly relevant in regulated markets.

Despite these advancements, challenges remain. The pace of regulatory change, differences across jurisdictions and evolving definitions of ESG metrics create uncertainty for businesses. Companies must navigate overlapping requirements while maintaining consistency in compliance and reporting practices, which can be resource-intensive, particularly for smaller firms.

For ESG professionals, the emergence of regulatory monitoring tools reflects a shift toward continuous compliance and forward-looking governance. ESG management is moving beyond periodic reporting to ongoing tracking of regulatory developments and their business implications, requiring organisations to remain adaptive in a rapidly evolving policy environment.



## News from Global

### Google Backs Carbon Removal Deal Targeting Methane Emissions from Waste

Google has signed a multi-year agreement with AMP, an AI-driven waste management technology company, to purchase 200,000 tonnes of carbon removal credits by 2030. The deal focuses on reducing emissions from landfill waste while advancing scalable carbon removal solutions.

The project uses AI-powered sorting technology to recover organic material from municipal solid waste before it decomposes. Instead of releasing methane in landfills, the waste is converted into biochar, a stable material that stores carbon for long periods.

Methane from landfills is a significant contributor to near-term global warming, making waste management a critical intervention point. By diverting organic waste early, the initiative addresses both methane avoidance and long-term carbon sequestration in a single process.

The agreement will support deployment at large-scale waste processing infrastructure in the United States, with the potential to convert millions of tonnes of organic waste into biochar over time. It also aims to establish measurement frameworks for quantifying combined methane reduction and carbon removal impacts.



For climate technology developers and investors, the deal signals growing corporate demand for high-integrity carbon removal solutions beyond traditional offsets. It also highlights the role of waste-to-carbon technologies in advancing circular economy models and scalable climate mitigation pathways.

### EU Proposes Industrial Accelerator Act to Boost Low-Carbon Manufacturing

The European Commission has proposed the Industrial Accelerator Act, a legislative initiative aimed at strengthening low-carbon manufacturing and industrial competitiveness across the region. The proposal focuses on expanding demand for clean technologies and decarbonised industrial products across key sectors.

The Act introduces “Made in EU” and low-carbon requirements in public procurement and public funding schemes. These measures are designed to create market demand for European-manufactured products such as steel, cement, aluminium and clean energy technologies.

It also seeks to streamline permitting processes and accelerate investment in industrial projects, reducing regulatory delays and improving project timelines. In addition, targeted conditions for foreign investments aim to ensure that strategic projects generate local economic value and strengthen domestic supply chains.

The proposal reflects a broader shift toward industrial policy-led decarbonisation, combining climate objectives with economic security and competitiveness goals. It is expected to support cleaner production, boost innovation and create lead markets for low-carbon products across Europe.

For global industries and exporters, the Act signals increasing preference for low-carbon and locally produced goods in major markets. It also highlights the need for companies to align manufacturing processes with stringent emissions standards and evolving trade-linked climate regulations.



### **Ireland Launches Circular Economy Strategy to Reduce Emissions and Waste**

Ireland has launched its Circular Economy Strategy 2026-2028, outlining a whole-of-government plan to transition from a linear “take-make-waste” model to a more sustainable, circular system. The strategy positions circularity as a key pillar of climate action, industrial competitiveness and supply chain resilience.

The framework aims to increase Ireland’s circular material use rate to 12% by 2030, reducing reliance on virgin raw materials and improving resource productivity. Policymakers expect this shift to strengthen resource security while lowering emissions embedded in production and consumption systems.

Key measures include the introduction of repair incentives and Digital Product Passports, encouraging consumers to extend product lifecycles and make informed sustainability choices. Sector-specific roadmaps across construction, agriculture, retail, textiles and electronics will drive targeted action across high-impact industries.



The strategy integrates circular economy principles with broader climate and industrial policy goals, supporting innovation, green enterprise development and domestic manufacturing resilience. It also aims to reduce exposure to volatile global supply chains and material costs.

For businesses and investors, the plan signals growing regulatory emphasis on resource efficiency, product lifecycle management and circular business models. It also highlights emerging opportunities in repair, recycling, sustainable design and materials innovation aligned with Europe’s transition to a low-carbon economy.

## **SEC Seeks Public Input on Climate Disclosure Rules Amid Rising ESG Data Demand**

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has initiated a review of its climate disclosure framework, inviting public input on potential updates to reporting requirements. The move reflects growing investor demand for consistent, comparable and decision-useful ESG data.

The review will examine possible revisions to existing disclosure regulations, including updates to Regulation S-K and S-X, which govern corporate reporting. Regulators are assessing how climate-related risks, emissions and sustainability metrics should be incorporated into financial disclosures.

The consultation comes amid ongoing uncertainty around earlier SEC climate disclosure rules, which faced legal and political challenges. This has led to a fragmented regulatory landscape, increasing the need for clearer and more standardised reporting frameworks.

The initiative signals a renewed effort to align disclosure practices with investor expectations and evolving global standards. It also reflects broader regulatory momentum toward improving transparency and accountability in corporate climate reporting.

For companies and investors, the development highlights the increasing importance of robust ESG data systems and governance frameworks. It also suggests that future disclosure requirements may evolve through stakeholder consultation, shaping how climate risks and sustainability performance are reported in financial markets.



## News from India

### ReNew Secures Funding to Expand Corporate Renewable Energy Platform in India

ReNew Energy Global has secured a USD 95 million equity investment to expand its commercial and industrial (C&I) renewable energy platform, ReNew Green Energy Solutions. The funding round is led by LeapFrog Investments, with additional backing from Emerging Market Climate Action Fund and Carlyle AlInvest.

The investment will support the expansion of renewable energy supply to corporate and industrial consumers through long-term offtake agreements. The platform currently operates a 2.5 GW portfolio, with over 2 GW commissioned and significant capacity contracted with global companies such as Microsoft, Amazon and Google.

India's commercial and industrial sector accounts for nearly 50% of total electricity consumption but relies minimally on renewable sources. This gap is driving strong demand for clean energy procurement as companies seek to meet decarbonisation and Scope 2 emissions targets.



The funding reflects growing investor interest in scalable clean energy solutions targeting corporate demand in emerging markets. It also highlights the role of structured renewable procurement models in enabling cost-competitive and reliable power for businesses.

For industry stakeholders and investors, the development signals accelerating momentum in India's corporate renewable energy market. It underscores expanding opportunities in

distributed clean energy, industrial decarbonisation and climate-aligned infrastructure investment.

### India and Finland Renew Environmental Cooperation to Advance Climate and Circular Economy Goals

India and Finland have renewed their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Environmental Cooperation, strengthening bilateral collaboration on climate and sustainability priorities. The agreement builds on the earlier MoU signed in 2020 and expands cooperation across multiple environmental domains.

The renewed framework will support joint efforts in pollution prevention and control, waste management, circular economy and low-carbon solutions. It also includes collaboration on climate change mitigation and adaptation, forest and natural resource management, and environmental monitoring systems.

The partnership emphasises knowledge exchange, technology cooperation and capacity building between the two countries. Areas such as hazardous waste management, recycling, waste-to-energy and integrated water resource management are expected to benefit from shared expertise.

The agreement reflects a broader push to strengthen international cooperation on sustainability and climate action. It also aligns with global efforts to accelerate circular economy practices and improve environmental governance frameworks.

For industry stakeholders and policymakers, the MoU signals growing opportunities for collaboration in clean technologies, sustainable resource management and environmental services. It also highlights the role of international partnerships in advancing climate solutions and supporting long-term sustainable development.



### **India Launches Indigenous EV Drive System to Strengthen Domestic Supply Chain**

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched an indigenously developed 30 kW integrated drive system for electric vehicles. The system is designed to reduce reliance on imported powertrain components and strengthen India's domestic EV manufacturing ecosystem.

Developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) in collaboration with IIT Madras and Lucas TVS, the system integrates the electric motor and inverter into a single compact unit. This design improves efficiency, reduces size and replaces conventional separate motor-drive configurations in EVs.

The 30-kW power class is particularly suited for India's growing electric passenger vehicle segment, including compact cars and fleet mobility platforms. It addresses the current dependence on imported semiconductor-based EV powertrain systems and supports localisation under initiatives such as the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme.



The technology has been successfully validated and is now ready for commercialisation and large-scale deployment. Its adoption is expected to create opportunities for MSMEs in power electronics, thermal systems and control hardware manufacturing.

The initiative reflects India's broader push toward self-reliance in advanced electronics and electric mobility technologies. It also signals a shift from technology import dependence toward domestic innovation and high-value manufacturing.

For industry stakeholders and investors, the development highlights growing opportunities in EV supply chains, semiconductor-based mobility solutions and localisation-driven manufacturing. It also reinforces the role of policy-led innovation in accelerating India's clean mobility transition.

## **India Considers Easing Grid Penalties to Support Renewable Energy Investment**

The Government of India is considering easing proposed grid-supply penalties for renewable energy producers under revised regulatory norms. The move follows concerns from industry stakeholders that stricter compliance requirements could impact project viability and slow clean energy investment.

The draft rules, issued by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), aim to tighten scheduling and forecasting obligations for wind and solar producers. They seek to reduce the gap between committed and actual electricity generation, with financial penalties for deviations.

However, developers have raised concerns that such penalties could lead to significant revenue losses, particularly for projects commissioned under earlier regulatory frameworks. Industry participants have also warned that increased compliance risks could affect financing and investor confidence in the sector.

In response, the government has asked the regulator to review the proposed penalty structure and consider adjustments. The implementation of stricter rules has already been deferred to allow developers time to improve forecasting accuracy and operational readiness.

The development reflects the broader challenge of balancing grid stability with the rapid expansion of renewable energy capacity. As India targets 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030, regulatory flexibility remains critical to sustaining investment momentum.



For industry stakeholders and investors, the potential policy shift signals a more pragmatic approach to renewable integration and risk management. It underscores the importance of aligning regulatory frameworks with sector realities to support long-term clean energy growth and capital deployment.

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## **Upcoming International Climate Change Events (20 March – 20 April 2026)**

- Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition (MIECF) (March 26–28): Located in Macao, China; hosted by the Government of the Macao, this international platform brings together policymakers, industry leaders and experts to advance low-carbon development, circular economy solutions and global environmental cooperation.

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