

MONTHLY ENERGY WRAP-UP

# NOTHING BUT NET ZERO

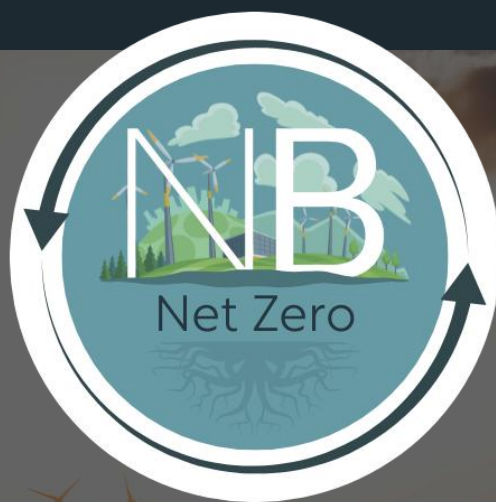
## This Month in Net Zero AUGUST EDITION

August highlighted both the momentum and fragility of the global energy transition. In the U.S., policy uncertainty deepened as President Trump announced a federal ban on new wind and solar projects, sparking investor concern. At the same time, data centre operators including Google, Amazon, and Microsoft urged the Treasury to maintain renewable subsidies, warning that up to 60 GW of solar projects could be lost. With AI-driven demand surging, data centres are now central to debates over energy security and grid resilience.

Progress accelerated across Asia-Pacific. Japan reduced fossil fuel generation below 60% for the first time, while China surpassed 1,000 GW of installed solar capacity - a global record. In Busan, the APAC Re-Sourcing Forum stressed the growing role of corporate procurement and policy alignment in scaling renewables.

The Middle East advanced its own agenda, with Stonepeak launching WahajPeak, a new renewables platform targeting large-scale solar, wind, and storage. Sinopec secured the contract for ACWA Power's vast Yanbu hydrogen project, while Saudi Arabia deepened partnerships with Europe on clean energy trade.

In Europe, solar became the EU's largest power source, though Portugal's €466m grid upgrade highlights resilience challenges. The picture remains one of record-breaking ambition tested by political and structural headwinds.



# EUROPE

## **EU clean energy investment hits \$494bn**

European clean energy investment for 2025 expected to reach \$494bn - double a decade ago, though Chinese supply-chain dependence is a risk.

[Read the full article here](#)

---

## **Solar becomes EU's largest electricity source in June**

Solar power reached 22.1% of EU generation, with the Netherlands hitting 40.5% and Greece 35.1%.

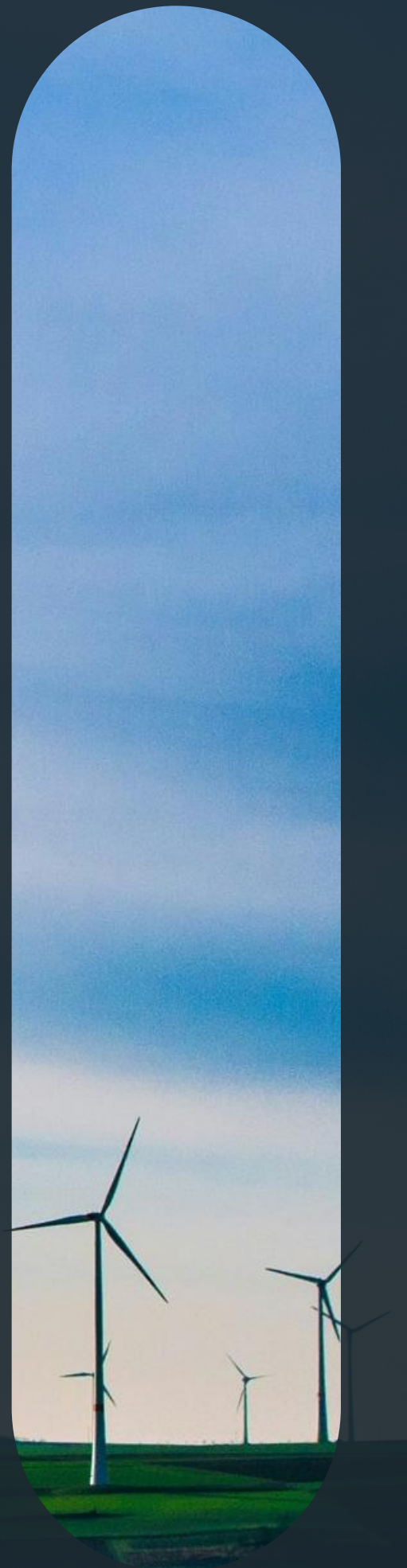
[Read the full article here](#)

---

## **Portugal unveils €400m grid resilience plan after blackout**

Post-July blackout, Portugal is investing in 750 MW storage, grid-forming tech, and black-start capacity to strengthen resilience.

[Read the full article here](#)







# MENA

## **Stonepeak's new Middle Eastern platform**

Stonepeak has launched WahajPeak - its first-ever renewable energy platform in the Middle East - targeting utility-scale solar, wind, and battery storage projects across the Gulf Cooperation Council and wider region, leveraging strong regional policy momentum around decarbonization, energy diversification, and grid modernisation.

[Read the full article here](#)

## **Sinopec wins Saudi green hydrogen mega-project design contract**

Sinopec secured the FEED contract for ACWA Power's Yanbu facility, designed to produce 400,000 tpa hydrogen and 2.8 Mtpa ammonia.

[Read the full article here](#)

## **Saudi Arabia and Europe expand green hydrogen export ties**

Late July agreements signed with European energy majors to boost hydrogen and renewable energy exports.

[Read the full article here](#)



# US

## **Data center owners urge US Treasury to keep renewable energy subsidy rules**

Tougher rules on how projects can qualify for federal clean energy tax credits could slow development of new electricity generation at a time of surging power demand driven by artificial intelligence and the digital economy.

[Read the full article here](#)

## **President Trump declared war on renewable energy, vowing the federal government will block new wind and solar projects while electricity bills across America skyrocket at twice the rate of inflation**

A coalition of major data center operators, including Google, Amazon, and Microsoft, urged the U.S. Treasury to preserve existing renewable energy subsidy rules amid proposed changes that could curb tax credits.

[Read the full article here](#)

## **Where are renewables in the data center power conversation?**

“Any state that has built and relied on windmills and solar for power are seeing record breaking increases in electricity and energy costs. the scam of the century!” - Trump wrote in a truth social post.

[Read the full article here](#)





# ASIA

## **Japan's utilities cut fossil fuel electricity share to new lows**

Fossil fuel generation fell below 60% for the first time as renewables and nuclear surged; clean power rose 47% since 2019.

[Read the full article here](#)

---

## **China surpasses 1,000 GW of solar capacity**

China became the first country to install over 1 TW of solar, adding 210 GW in six months and reducing emissions by 1% despite rising demand.

[Read the full article here](#)

---

## **APAC Re-Sourcing Forum drives clean energy leadership**

Forum in Busan launched with Clean Energy Ministerial to advance corporate sourcing and policy reform for renewables.

[Read the full article here](#)



# ARTICLE

## Storage:

# The Silent Accelerator of the Energy Transition



### THE NEW MEASURE OF PROGRESS

The clean energy transition has been defined by how much solar and wind capacity we can install. But in 2025, a different measure is emerging as the critical marker of progress: how much of that energy we can store. Storage isn't a supporting act anymore. It's the hinge point of the entire system.



### FROM ABUNDANCE TO BOTTLENECKS

Renewables are no longer marginal players. In some markets, they already supply over 40 percent of power demand. But without storage, their volatility creates systemic risk. The result is curtailment, grid strain, and price spikes that erode confidence in the transition. India is a case in point. The country has met its non-fossil capacity target five years early, but its storage base sits at just 6 GW. By 2030, it needs 61 GW to avoid bottlenecks. Without it, the promise of cheap, abundant clean energy risks turning into instability and stranded assets.



### THE ECONOMICS OF STORED POWER

Storage isn't just an engineering fix. It's an economic multiplier. In markets like California, large-scale batteries are cutting peak costs and reducing reliance on gas. Modelling shows that every gigawatt of

added storage can save billions in avoided curtailment and system balancing. For investors, storage turns intermittent renewables into bankable infrastructure. The private capital shift is already underway. Brookfield, KKR, and Macquarie are all scaling into storage-linked platforms, treating it as core infrastructure rather than an optional add-on.



### BEYOND LITHIUM

Lithium-ion dominates grid-scale projects today, but its limitations are clear - cost, supply chain exposure, and duration. Long-duration storage technologies are moving from pilot to pipeline: solid-state, sodium-ion, thermal, and flow batteries are all advancing. Leaders now face a strategic choice. Do they double down on the proven, or place early bets on what could define the next decade? Getting that balance wrong risks technological lock-in or wasted capital.



## A TEST OF VISION AND LEADERSHIP

Until now, storage has largely been treated as a technical story, an engineering challenge of chemistry, capacity, and cost curves. That view is no longer sufficient. Scaling storage is not just a technical challenge. It is a test of vision and leadership. Boards must allocate capital decisively in a fragmented technology landscape. Executives must navigate supply chain volatility while forging cross-sector partnerships; from utilities to hyperscalers to industrials. And critically, leaders must ensure storage is integrated into national energy strategies, not treated as an afterthought to generation.

ability of boards and executives to make decisive choices, to navigate volatility, and to build organisations capable of sustaining momentum over decades. This is where executive search, succession planning, and leadership development play a quiet but fundamental role. By helping organisations identify and empower the right people, we can ensure that ambition is matched by execution.

Progress will not come from a single breakthrough. It will come from the vision, investment, and leadership to weave together storage, renewables, grids, and governance into a resilient global energy system



## THE MAIN ACT OF THE TRANSITION

Storage rarely makes headlines. But it is the quiet force determining how far and how fast the energy transition can go. With it, renewables can scale to dominance. Without it, the transition will stall. The winners of the next decade will not be those who simply build more wind and solar. They will be those who unlock stored power - stable, scalable, and investable.



## FINAL THOUGHT

There is no silver bullet to the energy transition. Storage is a vital element that will allow us to decarbonise successfully, but it is not going to happen overnight. It must be scaled alongside renewables, reinforced grid infrastructure, and a rethinking of how we balance reliability, cost, and equity. Capital must flow into both proven and emerging technologies, policymakers must create the frameworks for long-duration solutions, and leaders must bridge the gap between ambition and delivery.

That final point is critical. Technology and capital alone cannot deliver the transition. Success depends on leadership - the



**George Richardson**

Director, Global Energy Practice  
**Norman Broadbent Plc**

