

NOTHING BUT NET ZERO

This Month in Net Zero: October Edition

October underscored the maturity and momentum of the clean energy transition, even as political and regional divergence continued to shape outcomes. In Europe, a wave of grid and storage investment redefines energy security with Central Europe accelerating solar and battery deployment. The European Central Bank highlighted how recent energy shocks have reshaped investment and R&D priorities, while new grid upgrades promise to strengthen power system stability.

In the U.S. the focus is technology, trade, and leadership. Energy storage developers link growth to rising data-centre demand, positioning storage as a bridge to a low-carbon grid. Fresh trade deals between the U.S. and SEA creates momentum for biofuels, and analysts note the global transition advancing despite a signalled slowdown in ambition from Washington.

The Middle East reinforced its position as a rising clean energy hub. JPMorgan highlighted the region's investment appeal as Gulf states accelerate diversification, while Abunayyan Holding and Nextracker announced a new joint venture to scale solar and digital infrastructure.

In Asia, fresh capital flows fuel growth. GE Vernova described a "generational shift" as data centres reshape power consumption patterns, and new funding commitments in SEA expand access to clean energy infrastructure. In China, the 10th anniversary of power market reform sparks renewed debate about their next five-year plan balancing growth with net-zero.

The picture is one of consolidation and transition. Momentum holds firm but hinges on investment discipline, grid resilience, and leadership turning volatility into advantage.



EUROPE

Central Europe (Austria, Hungary, Romania, Poland) accelerates solar + battery storage deployment

In Central Europe, solar and battery investments are helping countries like Austria and Hungary reduce fossil-fuel use and build greater energy independence.

[Read the full article here](#)

Europe's road to renewables: ECB research shows firms cut capex & R&D in response to energy shocks

European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde argued that Europe must prioritise secure, sustainable and affordable energy by accelerating investment in renewables and infrastructure in the wake of the Ukraine war.

[Read the full article here](#)

Grid investment can mark a turning point for Europe's power system stability and energy security

A report from the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) warns that Europe's power-system stability and energy-security hinge on grid investments to match growing renewables expansion.

[Read the full article here](#)





MENA

The Middle East's rapidly growing renewable energy shift

The Middle East is ramping up its net-zero pivot, but beyond high-profile renewables and hydrogen, less visible sectors like advanced waste-treatment systems and lubricants are quietly undergoing transformation.

[Read the full article here](#)

Follow the money: JPMorgan pitches 'compelling' Middle East energy pivot to clients

JPMorgan is promoting a compelling energy-pivot narrative to its Middle-East clients, highlighting investment flows into clean-energy infrastructure in the region.

[Read the full article here](#)

Abunayyan Holding and Nextracker enter into agreement to form joint venture to accelerate energy transition in Saudi Arabia and MENA region

Abunayyan Holding and Nextracker have agreed to form a joint venture to accelerate the energy transition across Saudi Arabia and the MENA region.

[Read the full article here](#)

US

US energy storage industry sees data-centre load growth as bridge to low-carbon energy transition

The U.S. energy-storage industry sees booming demand from data-centre load growth, using battery systems as a bridge toward a low-carbon transition.

[Read the full article here](#)

New trade deals between the U.S. and Southeast Asian countries boost market for biofuels

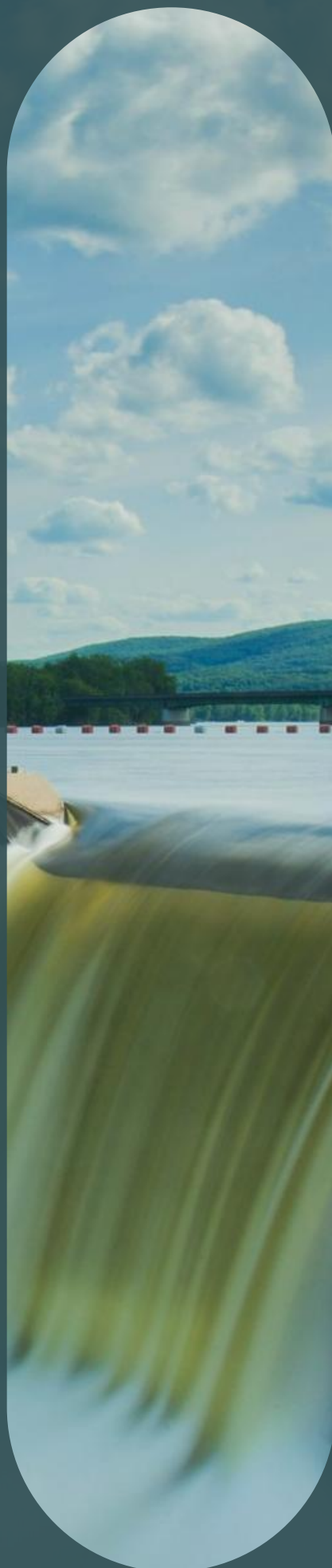
The bio-fuel group Growth Energy welcomed new U.S. trade agreements with four Southeast Asian countries, viewing them as a growth opportunity for American ethanol producers.

[Read the full article here](#)

The global energy transition rolls on - even as the U.S. hits reverse

Despite policy back-peddalling in the U.S, the global energy transition continues apace with electricity generation projected to nearly double by 2060 and renewables expanding strongly.

[Read the full article here](#)





ASIA

Amid global headwinds threatening climate and development goals, new funding is being mobilised to accelerate Southeast Asia's clean energy shift

The clean-energy firm GE APP is mobilising US\$17 billion to power Southeast Asia's shift to renewables, targeting rapid growth across the region's installed capacity.

[Read the full article here](#)

'A generational shift': GE Vernova on how data centres are rewriting the rules on power consumption in Asia

GE Vernova explains how data centres are re-writing power-consumption rules in Asia, driving demand for modular power systems and flexible grid solutions.

[Read the full article here](#)

As China marks the 10th anniversary of its power market reforms and prepares its 15th Five-Year Plan, the country' faces critical choices that will shape its path to net zero

A new insight piece shows China's energy transition is at a crossroads - while investments and deployment in renewables surge, structural challenges and fossil-fuel inertia still weigh heavily.

[Read the full article here](#)

ARTICLE

Resilience: The Next Competitive Advantage in the Energy Transition

Why the winners of Net Zero 2.0 will be those who can absorb shocks, not just scale technology

The global energy transition is shifting from expansion to endurance. After a decade of record installations, heavy investment, and ambitious net zero targets, the limits of continuous growth are becoming clear. Subsidies are being reduced, grids are under strain, and policy signals are diverging. The key question for leaders is no longer how fast they can grow, but how well they can withstand disruption.

Volatility is now a constant feature of the landscape. Political changes, fragile supply chains, tighter credit, and extreme weather are reshaping the operating environment. The transition itself is generating turbulence and exposing weaknesses in systems that were designed for stability rather than flexibility.

In this new phase, progress depends on resilience: the capacity to absorb shocks without losing momentum. It requires redundancy in supply chains, flexibility in capital structures, and strategies that preserve optionality. Success will be measured less by megawatts installed and more by the durability of systems, balance sheets, and business models.

Investors are beginning to recognise a resilience premium. Projects and organisations that deliver consistent performance through uncertainty are commanding higher trust, lower risk, and stronger long-term value.

Technology will continue to play a critical role, but leadership will determine who succeeds. The next generation of leaders will combine strategic foresight with operational discipline, balancing speed with stability and collaboration with accountability. The next stage of the transition will not be won by those who build the most. It will be won by those who build what lasts.

[**READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE**](#)

George Richardson

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PODCAST

The Purposeful Strategist: Leading the Net Zero Transition

Mark Horsley, Chief Executive Officer of Northern Gas Networks, returns to share how his organisation is tackling one of the most pressing challenges of our time: building a secure, sustainable, and fair energy future. Serving 6.8 million people across Northern England, NGN has become a leader in the UK's net-zero transition under Mark's guidance.

Since our last conversation in 2021, Mark has pushed bold initiatives forward—from investing £25 million in a hydrogen development fund with JCB, to projects like East Coast Hydrogen, part of a wider industry collaboration to secure the UK's energy resilience.

In this episode, Mark shares why hydrogen remains central to industrial energy, how electrification is reshaping government priorities, and why pragmatism is essential to balancing decarbonisation with affordability. Beyond infrastructure, Mark highlights NGN's citizen-led accountability model, new consultation panels to engage young people, and training their teams not just in technical skills but also in social listening to better serve vulnerable households.

At the heart of his leadership is a question that continues to drive NGN's purpose: Can we do more than simply operate a network? For Mark, the answer lies in putting people first—customers, communities, and colleagues—and building an energy system that supports them all.

THE PURPOSEFUL STRATEGIST



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